2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: (Constitutional Amendment) Reduces the number of certain matters that may be filed in regular sessions in odd-numbered years

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to regular legislative sessions convening in odd-numbered years; to provide relative to the filing and consideration of matters at such sessions; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§2. Sessions

Section 2.(A) Annual Session.

* * *

(4)

* * *

(b) During any session convening in an odd-numbered year, no matter intended to have the effect of law, including any suspension of law, shall be introduced or considered unless its object is to enact the General Appropriation Bill; enact the comprehensive capital budget; make an appropriation; levy or authorize a new tax; increase an existing tax; levy, authorize, increase, decrease, or repeal a fee;

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dedicate revenue; legislate with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, reductions, repeals, or credits; or legislate with regard to the issuance of bonds. In addition, a matter intended to have the effect of law, including a measure proposing a suspension of law, which is not within the subject matter restrictions provided in this Subparagraph may be considered at any such session if:

(i) It is prefiled no later than the deadline provided in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, provided that the member shall not prefile more than ~~five~~ two such matters. ~~pursuant to this Subsubparagraph, or~~

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Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2016.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to reduce from five to two the number of matters that a legislator may file that are not within the otherwise applicable subject matter limitations of a regular session in an odd-numbered year? (Amends Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 156 Original 2016 Regular Session Richard

Abstract: Reduces from five to two the number of matters that a legislator may file that are not within the subject matter limitations of a regular session in an odd-numbered year.

Present constitution (Art. III, §2) provides for regular sessions of the legislature. Provides time limitations and procedures for filing bills.

Present constitution provides that regular sessions convening in even-numbered years are general in nature. Prohibits the introduction or enactment of any measure levying or

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authorizing a new tax by the state or by any statewide political subdivision whose boundaries are coterminous with the state; increasing an existing tax by the state or by any statewide political subdivision whose boundaries are coterminous with the state; or legislating with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, or credits during a regular session held in an even-numbered year.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution provides that during a regular session convening in an odd-numbered year, no matter intended to have the effect of law, including any suspension of law, shall be introduced or considered unless its object is to enact the General Appropriation Bill; enact the comprehensive capital budget; make an appropriation; levy or authorize a new tax; increase an existing tax; levy, authorize, increase, decrease, or repeal a fee; dedicate revenue; legislate with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, reductions, repeals, or credits; or legislate with regard to the issuance of bonds. However, provides that a matter not within these subject matter restrictions may be considered if its object is to enact a local or special law which is required to be and has been advertised in accordance with present constitution and which is not prohibited by the provisions of present constitution concerning prohibited local and special laws.

Present constitution provides additionally that a matter not within the above subject matter restrictions may be considered if it is prefiled. Limits the number of such matters that a member may prefile.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution provides that no member may prefile more than five such matters.

Proposed constitutional amendment reduces from five to two the number of such matters that a member may file.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2016.

(Amends Const. Art. III, § 2(A)(4)(b)(i))

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