

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 49

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article III, Section 2(A)(3)(a) and (4)(a) of the Constitution of Louisiana and to add Article III, Section 2(A)(5) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to regular sessions of the legislature, to allow the legislature to extend a regular session for a limited time period for a specific purpose; 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)(3)(a) and (4)(a) of the Constitution of Louisiana and to add Article III, Section 2(A)(5) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§2. Sessions

Section 2.(A) Annual Session.

* * *

(3)(a) All regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall be general in nature and shall convene at noon on the second Monday in March. The legislature shall meet in such a session for not more than sixty legislative days ~~during a period of eighty-five calendar days~~. No such session shall continue beyond six o'clock in the evening of the eighty-fifth calendar day after convening except as provided in Subparagraph (5) of this Paragraph. No new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be introduced or received by either house after six o'clock in the

1 evening of the twenty-third calendar day. No matter intended to have the effect of
 2 law, except a measure proposing a suspension of law, shall be considered on third
 3 reading and final passage in either house after six o'clock in the evening of the fifty-
 4 seventh legislative day or the eighty-second calendar day, whichever occurs first,
 5 except by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each
 6 house.

7 * * *

8 (4)(a) All regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years shall convene
 9 at noon on the second Monday in April. The legislature shall meet in such a session
 10 for not more than forty-five legislative days ~~in a period of sixty calendar days~~. No
 11 such session shall continue beyond six o'clock in the evening of the sixtieth calendar
 12 day after convening except as provided in Subparagraph (5) of this Paragraph. No
 13 new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be introduced or received by
 14 either house after six o'clock in the evening of the tenth calendar day. No matter
 15 intended to have the effect of law, except a measure proposing a suspension of law,
 16 shall be considered on third reading and final passage in either house after six o'clock
 17 in the evening of the forty-second legislative day or fifty-seventh calendar day,
 18 whichever occurs first, except by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected
 19 members of each house.

20 * * *

21 (5) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of Subsubparagraphs (3)(a) and
 22 (4)(a) of this Paragraph and only if necessary to finally pass a bill appropriating
 23 money, the legislature, by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected
 24 members of each house, may extend a regular session in increments of two
 25 legislative or calendar days. During the time a regular session has been extended,
 26 the legislature shall not consider any matter having the effect of law other than those
 27 contained in a bill appropriating money. No regular session shall be extended more
 28 than six calendar days beyond the original time and day for the session to adjourn
 29 sine die.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
2 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on December 7,
3 2024.

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

8 Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to extend a regular
9 session in increments of two days up to a maximum of six days if necessary
10 to pass a bill appropriating money? (Amends Article III, Sections 2(A)(3)(a)
11 and (4)(a); Adds Article III, Section 2(A)(5))

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____