

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 905

Select Committee on Session Limits Committee Substitute Adopted 4/30/97

Third Edition Engrossed 5/1/97

Corrected Copy 10/22/97

House Committee Substitute Favorable 8/13/98

Short Title: Session Length Limits.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 16, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Section 11(1) of Article II of the Constitution of North Carolina reads as rewritten:

"(1) **Regular sessions.** The General Assembly shall meet in regular session in 1973 and every two years thereafter on the day prescribed by law. Beginning with the regular session in 2001, during an odd-numbered year the General Assembly shall remain in session for no more than 120 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by joint resolution once per regular session for not more than 10 days. If the regular session meets in even-numbered years beginning in 2002, the General Assembly shall remain in session for no more than 60 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by joint resolution once per regular session for not more than 10 days. Any reconvened session called under Section 5 of Article III of this Constitution shall be excluded from the calculations of this section. Neither house shall proceed upon public business unless a majority of all of its members are actually present. No valid action, other than a

1 resolution of adjournment, may be taken by the General Assembly after the time limits
2 prescribed in this section have expired."

3 Section 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
4 the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 1998, which election
5 shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting
6 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.
7 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

8 **"[] FOR [] AGAINST**
9 **Constitutional amendment limiting the length of the legislative session."**

10 Section 3. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
11 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the
12 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment
13 so certified among the permanent records of that office.

14 Section 4. The Legislative Research Commission may study legislative
15 procedures, bill deadlines, committee operations, and other issues impacted by a limited
16 legislative session, including the strengthening of the legislature's interim oversight and
17 investigatory responsibilities and its confirmation procedures for gubernatorial
18 appointees. The Legislative Research Commission may report its findings and
19 recommendations to the 1999 General Assembly (2000 Regular Session).

20 Section 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.