

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 156

Short Title: Session Limits. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hoyle; Apodaca, Brock, Dorsett, Goodall, Hunt, Jenkins, Jones, Kerr, Pittenger, Rand, and Snow.

Referred to: Ways and Means.

February 14, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE
LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"(1) Regular sessions.

(a) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session in 1973 and every two years thereafter on the day prescribed by law.

(b) Odd-numbered years. – Beginning with the regular session in 2009, during an odd-numbered year, the General Assembly shall remain in session for no more than 135 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by joint resolution once per regular session for not more than 10 calendar days. If the General Assembly, upon convening of the regular session, meets initially for not more than two consecutive calendar days and then adjourns for not less than 14 calendar days, that period of adjournment shall be excluded from the 135 calendar days.

(c) Even-numbered years. – If the regular session meets in even-numbered years, 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 calendar days.

(d) Any reconvened session called under Section 5 of Article III of this Constitution shall be excluded from the calculations of this section.

(e) Neither house shall proceed upon public business unless a majority of all of its members are actually present.

1 (f) No valid action, other than a resolution of adjournment, may be taken
2 by the General Assembly after the time limits prescribed in this section
3 have expired."

4 **SECTION 2.** The amendments set out in Section 1 of this act shall be
5 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next statewide election, primary or
6 otherwise, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in
7 the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163
8 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall
9 be:

10 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

11 Constitutional amendment limiting the length of the legislative session."

12 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
13 amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall
14 certify the amendments to the Secretary of State whereupon the amendments shall
15 become effective. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so certified
16 among the permanent records of that office.

17 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.