

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1615

By Committee on Ethics and Elections

1-22

1 A PROPOSITION to amend section 8 of article 2 of the constitution of
2 the state of Kansas, relating to annual sessions of the legislature.

3
4 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of*
5 *the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-*
6 *thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House*
7 *of Representatives concurring therein:*

8 Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of
9 the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state
10 for their approval or rejection: Section 8 of article 2 of the constitution of
11 the state of Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 "**§ 8. Organization and sessions.** The legislature shall meet
13 in regular session annually commencing on the second Monday in
14 January, and all sessions shall be held at the state capital. The
15 duration of regular sessions held *in odd-numbered years beginning*
16 *with the year 2015 shall not exceed 90 calendar days. Such*
17 *sessions may be extended beyond 90 calendar days by an*
18 *affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members elected to each house. The*
19 *duration of regular sessions held in even-numbered years shall not*
20 *exceed ~~ninety~~ 60 calendar days. Such sessions may be extended*
21 *beyond ~~ninety~~ 60 calendar days by an affirmative vote of ~~two-~~*
22 *~~thirds~~ 2/3 of the members elected to each house. Bills and*
23 *concurrent resolutions under consideration by the legislature upon*
24 *adjournment of a regular session held in an odd-numbered year*
25 *may be considered at the next succeeding regular session held in an*
26 *even-numbered year, as if there had been no such adjournment.*

27 The legislature shall be organized concurrently with the terms
28 of representatives except that the senate shall remain organized
29 during the terms of senators. The president of the senate shall
30 preside over the senate, and the speaker of the house of
31 representatives shall preside over the house of representatives. A
32 majority of the members then elected (or appointed) and qualified
33 of the house of representatives or the senate shall constitute a
34 quorum of that house. Neither house, without the consent of the
35 other, shall adjourn for more than two days, Sundays excepted.
36 Each house shall elect its presiding officer and determine the rules

1 of its proceedings, except that the two houses may adopt joint rules
2 on certain matters and provide for the manner of change thereof.
3 Each house shall provide for the expulsion or censure of members
4 in appropriate cases. Each house shall be the judge of elections,
5 returns and qualifications of its own members."

6 Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with
7 the amendment as a whole:

8 "*Explanatory statement.* This amendment would limit the length
9 of regular sessions of the legislature in even-numbered years
10 to 60 calendar days unless the session is extended beyond 60
11 days by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members elected to each house.
12 The length of regular sessions of the legislature in odd-
13 numbered years would remain at 90 calendar days unless the
14 session is extended beyond 90 days by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the
15 members elected to each house.

16 "A vote for this proposition would limit the length of the regular
17 sessions of the legislature in even-numbered years to 60
18 calendar days unless extended by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the
19 members of each house. The length of regular sessions of the
20 legislature in odd-numbered years would remain at 90
21 calendar days unless the session is extended beyond 90 days
22 by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members elected to each house.

23 "A vote against this proposition favors retaining current
24 constitutional provisions which provide for legislative
25 sessions each year of not to exceed 90 calendar days unless
26 such sessions are extended by an affirmative vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of
27 the members of each house."

28 Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members
29 elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate, and two-thirds of the
30 members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of
31 Representatives shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas
32 and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published
33 as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be
34 submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November
35 in the year 2014 unless a special election is called at a sooner date by
36 concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case it shall be
37 submitted to the electors of the state at the special election.