

Article IV, Section I, Paragraph 3; Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14

New Jersey Constitution

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Changes the session of the Legislature to 2 years)

New Jersey Constitution: Article IV, Section I, Paragraph 3; Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14

BILL NO: SCR14

SPONSOR: Bateman, Tanzman, Sears, Crabiel, Musto, Hiering

DATE INTRODUCED: 1/9/1968

COMMITTEE: Assembly: --

Senate: --

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 4/22/1968

SENATE: 4/8/1968

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE: 4/27/1968

DATE OF ADOPTION: 11/5/1968

EFFECTIVE: 12/5/1968

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced bill enacted) Yes

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

974.90 Public hearing on Senate concurrent resolution no. 14 : proposing an amendment to Article IV, Section I, L514 Paragraph 3 and Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the state Constitution, changing the session of the 1968 Legislature to two years : before Senate Judiciary Committee.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

'Notice Two-Year Legislature Constitutional Amendment', *Evening Times, The*, 10/11/1968, pg 37

Bateman, Raymond H., 'Letters to the Editor: Fourth Question', *Evening Times, The*, 10/22/1968, pg 21

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 14

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1968 SESSION

By Senators BATEMAN, TANZMAN, SEARS and WOODCOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing to amend Article IV, Section I, paragraph 3 and Article V, Section I, paragraph 14, of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

1 BE IT RESOLVED *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey (the*
2 *Senate concurring):*

1 1. The following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State
2 of New Jersey are hereby agreed to:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

3 Amend Article IV, Section I, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

4 3. *Each Legislature shall be constituted for a term of 2 years begin-*
5 *ning at noon on the second Tuesday in January in each even numbered year,*
6 *at which time the Senate and General Assembly shall meet and organize sepa-*
7 *rately and the first annual session of the Legislature shall commence. Said*
8 *first annual session shall terminate at noon on the second Tuesday in January*
9 *next following, at which time the second annual session shall commence and*
10 *it shall terminate at noon on the second Tuesday in January then next follow-*
11 *ing but either session may be sooner terminated by adjournment sine die. All*
12 *business before either House or any of the committees thereof at the end of*
13 *the first annual session may be resumed in the second annual session. The leg-*
14 *islative year shall commence at noon on the second Tuesday in January of*
15 *each year [, at which time the legislative year shall commence].*

16 Amend Article V, Section I, paragraph 14, to read as follows:

17 14. (a) Every bill which shall have passed both houses shall be presented
18 to the Governor. If he approves he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it,
19 with his objections, to the house in which it shall have originated, which shall
20 enter the objections at large on its journal and proceed to reconsider it. If
21 upon reconsideration, on or after the third day following the return of the

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

22 bill, $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the members of the house of origin shall agree to pass the bill, it
 23 shall be sent, together with the objections of the Governor, to the other house,
 24 by which it shall be reconsidered and if approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the members of
 25 that house, it shall become a law; and in all such cases the votes of each house
 26 shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for
 27 and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively.
 28 If a bill shall not be returned by the Governor within 10 days, Sundays ex-
 29 cepted, after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall become a law
 30 on the tenth day, unless the house of origin shall on that day be in adjourn-
 31 ment. If on the tenth day the house of origin shall be in temporary adjourn-
 32 ment in the course of a regular or special session, the bill shall become a law
 33 on the day on which the house of origin shall reconvene, unless the Governor
 34 shall on that day return the bill to that house.

35 (b) If on the tenth day the Legislature is in adjournment sine die, the bill
 36 shall become a law if the Governor shall sign it within 45 days, Sundays ex-
 37 cepted, after such adjournment. On the said forty-fifth day the bill shall be-
 38 come a law, notwithstanding the failure of the Governor to sign it within the
 39 period last stated, unless at or before noon [of that day] he shall return it
 40 with his objections to the house of origin:

41 (1) on said forty-fifth day, if the House shall have again convened in reg-
 42 ular or special session and shall be meeting on said day, or

43 (2) on the day upon which the House shall reconvene, if it is in temporary
 44 adjournment in the course of a regular or special session on said forty-fifth
 45 day, or

46 (3) on said forty-fifth day, if the House is in adjournment sine die on
 47 said day, at a special session of the Legislature which shall convene on that
 48 day, without petition or call, for the sole purpose of acting pursuant to this
 49 paragraph upon bills returned by the Governor. At such special session a bill
 50 may be reconsidered [beginning] on or after the first day following return
 51 of the bill, in the manner provided in this paragraph for the reconsideration of
 52 bills, and if approved upon reconsideration by $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the members of each
 53 house, it shall become a law. The Governor, in returning with his objections a
 54 bill for reconsideration at any general or special session of the Legislature,
 55 may recommend that an amendment or amendments specified by him be made
 56 in the bill, and in such case the Legislature may amend and re-enact the bill.
 57 If a bill be so amended and re-enacted, it shall be presented again to the Gov-
 58 ernor, but shall become a law only if he shall sign it within 10 days after pres-
 59 entation; and no bill shall be returned by the Governor a second time. A
 60 special session of the Legislature shall not be convened pursuant to this para-
 61 graph whenever the forty-fifth day, Sundays excepted, after adjournment sine

62 die of a regular or special session shall fall on or after the last day of the
 63 legislative year *in which the second annual session was held* [in which such ad-
 64 journment shall have been taken]; in which event any bill not signed by the
 65 Governor within such 45-day period shall not become a law.

1 2. This amendment shall become effective at noon upon the second Tues-
 2 day in January of the first even numbered year following its adoption by the
 3 people.

1 3. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally agreed to,
 2 pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it shall be submitted
 3 to the people at the next general election occurring more than 3 months after
 4 such final agreement and shall be published at least once in at least one news-
 5 paper of each county designated by the President of the Senate and the
 6 Speaker of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than 3
 7 months prior to said general election.

1 4. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted to the
 2 people at said election in the following manner and form:

3 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at such general
 4 election, the following:

5 1. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a legend
 6 which shall immediately precede the question, as follows:

7 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (×), plus (+)
 8 or check (√) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are opposed
 9 thereto make a cross (×), plus (+) or check (√) in the square opposite the
 10 word "No."

11 2. In every municipality the following question:

	Yes.	Shall the amendment of Article IV, Section I, paragraph 3 and Article V, Section I, paragraph 14 of the Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature and providing for the constitution of the Legislature for terms of 2 years, for the holding of 2 annual sessions thereof and for action, in the second annual session, upon legislative measures pending and undetermined, before the Legislature or any of its committees or before the Governor, in the first annual session, be adopted?
	No.	

FISCAL DATA

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14; if enacted into law, would have for its purpose a change in the New Jersey Constitution providing for 2-year legislative sessions, instead of a 1-year session.

If the Legislature operates on a 2-year session basis, there would be no necessity of duplicating identical bills which represent more than 25% of the total number of bills introduced. It should also eliminate another approximately 25% of the bills which are reintroduced every year with slight changes. It is practically impossible to assign a dollar value to the amount that might be saved in view of the significant increase in legislators next year and the expected increase in the number of bills to be introduced.

The continuity of the procedural activities of the Legislature resulting from a 2-year session, rather than a 1-year session, would undoubtedly result in further savings, in that it would eliminate, as an example, public hearings being held annually on identical bills, eliminating the cost of printing of separate reports, in many instances, and the consumption of the time required for the reporting and transcribing of the same.

The dollar value of the saving in time, numbers of public hearings and other savings that would accrue can not be assessed. It is evident, however, that there are real savings to be gained.



SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 14

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 5, 1968

Amend page 2, section 1, line 42, after "session", insert "of the same 2-year Legislature".

Amend page 2, section 1, line 44, after "session", insert "of the same 2-year Legislature".

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

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12 *business before either House or any of the committees thereof at the end of*
13 *the first annual session may be resumed in the second annual session. The leg-*
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15 *each year [, at which time the legislative year shall commence].*

16 Amend Article V, Section I, paragraph 14, to read as follows:

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18 to the Governor. If he approves he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it,
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20 enter the objections at large on its journal and proceed to reconsider it. If
21 upon reconsideration, on or after the third day following the return of the

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 24 by which it shall be reconsidered and if approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the members of
 25 that house, it shall become a law; and in all such cases the votes of each house
 26 shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for
 27 and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively.
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35 (b) If on the tenth day the Legislature is in adjournment sine die, the bill
 36 shall become a law if the Governor shall sign it within 45 days, Sundays ex-
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 38 come a law, notwithstanding the failure of the Governor to sign it within the
 39 period last stated, unless at or before noon [of that day] he shall return it
 40 with his objections to the house of origin:

41 (1) *on said forty-fifth day, if the House shall have again convened in reg-*
 42 *ular or special session *of the same 2-year Legislature* and shall be meeting*
 42A *on said day, or*

43 (2) *on the day upon which the House shall reconvene, if it is in temporary*
 44 *adjournment in the course of a regular or special session *of the same 2-year*
 45 *Legislature* on said forty-fifth day, or*

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 47 *said day, at a special session of the Legislature which shall convene on that*
 48 *day, without petition or call, for the sole purpose of acting pursuant to this*
 49 *paragraph upon bills returned by the Governor. At such special session a bill*
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 54 *bill for reconsideration at any general or special session of the Legislature,*
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	No.	