

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 71

Short Title: Convene Session Early. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Walend, McHenry, Rayfield (Primary Sponsors); Bowie, Frye, Gorman, Grady, Hilton, Lewis, Moore, Munford, Ray, and Sauls.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 25, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE
2 AN EARLIER CONVENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
3 ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSES, SO AS TO ALLOW INCREASED
4 EFFICIENCY.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

9 "(1) Regular sessions. The General Assembly shall meet in regular session in ~~1973~~
10 2004 and every two years thereafter on the ~~day prescribed by law~~ first Wednesday in
11 December. It shall meet for not more than three calendar days, and on the Friday after
12 convening shall adjourn until the seventh Wednesday after it convened, it being the
13 intent of this sentence to provide a three-day organizational session. Neither house shall
14 proceed upon public business unless a majority of all of its members are actually
15 present."

16 **SECTION 2.** Section 9 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads
17 as rewritten:

18 **"Sec. 9. Term of office.**

19 The term of office of Senators and Representatives shall commence on the first ~~day~~
20 of January ~~Wednesday in December~~ next after their election."

21 **SECTION 3.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be
22 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next statewide election, primary or
23 otherwise, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in
24 the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163
25 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall
26 be:

"[] FOR [] AGAINST

27

1 Constitutional Amendment providing a December organizational session of
2 the General Assembly, followed by adjournment for seven weeks."

3 **SECTION 4.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
4 amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall
5 certify the amendments to the Secretary of State whereupon the amendments shall
6 become effective. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so certified
7 among the permanent records of that office.

8 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 120-11.1 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 120-11.1. Time of meeting.**

10 The regular session of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be held
11 biennially beginning at 12:00 noon on the ~~third Wednesday after the second Monday in~~
12 ~~January~~ first Wednesday in December next after their election."

13 **SECTION 6.** Section 5 of this act shall take effect only upon approval of the
14 voters of the constitutional amendments set forth in Sections 1 and 2 of this act. If the
15 constitutional amendments proposed in Sections 1 and 2 of this act are approved by the
16 voters, Section 5 of this act shall become effective at the same time as the constitutional
17 amendments.

18 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.