

Introduced by

Representative M. Nelson

1 A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of North
2 Dakota, relating to the convening of the legislative assembly for a special session to amend
3 state laws to comply with changes to federal laws or to adjust budgets as necessary.

4 **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

5 This measure would allow the legislative assembly to convene in special session, for a
6 maximum of five days each biennium, to amend state laws to comply with changes to federal
7 laws and to adjust budgets as necessary. This measure would exclude any day spent in the
8 special session from counting toward the eighty-day regular session limitation.

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
10 **SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

11 That the following proposed amendment to section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of
12 North Dakota is agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of North Dakota at the
13 general election to be held in 2020, in accordance with section 16 of article IV of the
14 Constitution of North Dakota.

15 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **Section 7.** The terms of members of the legislative assembly begin on the first day of
18 December following their election.

19 The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of December
20 following the election of the members thereof for organizational and orientation purposes as
21 provided by law and shall thereafter recess until twelve noon on the first Tuesday after the third
22 day in January or at such other time as may be prescribed by law but not later than the eleventh
23 day of January.

24 No regular session of the legislative assembly may exceed eighty natural days during the
25 biennium. The legislative assembly may convene in special session, not to exceed five natural

1 | days each biennium, to amend state laws to comply with changes to federal laws and/or to
2 | adjust budgets as necessary. The organizational meeting of the legislative assembly ~~may not be~~
3 | ~~counted as part of those eighty natural days, nor may, a special session to amend state laws to~~
4 | comply with changes to federal laws or to adjust budgets, and days spent in session at the call
5 | of the governor or while engaged in impeachment proceedings; may not be counted as part of
6 | the eighty natural days. Days spent in regular session need not be consecutive, and the
7 | legislative assembly may authorize its committees to meet at any time during the biennium. As
8 | used in this section, a "natural day" means a period of twenty-four consecutive hours.
9 | Neither house may recess ~~nor~~ adjourn for more than three days without consent of the
10 | other house.