

Introduced by

Representatives Kempenich, Kasper, D. Ruby, Tveit

Senators Bekkedahl, Hogue

1 A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of North  
2 Dakota, relating to reconvening the legislative assembly to address an emergency or to  
3 consider a veto.

4 **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

5 This measure would allow the legislative assembly to reconvene for up to twenty days per  
6 biennium to address an emergency or consider a bill or item vetoed after adjournment of a  
7 regular or special legislative session. This measure would exclude any day spent in the  
8 reconvened session for these purposes from counting toward the eighty-day limitation on a  
9 regular session of the legislative assembly.

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

12 That the following proposed amendment to section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of  
13 North Dakota is agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of North Dakota at the  
14 general election to be held in 2022, in accordance with section 16 of article IV of the  
15 Constitution of North Dakota.

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

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

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

1        The legislative assembly may convene at a time designated by the legislative management  
2 | for up to twenty days per biennium to consider bills or items vetoed by the governor after the  
3 adjournment of a session or special session or to address an emergency or other urgent  
4 situation.

5        ~~Not~~ A regular session of the legislative assembly may not exceed eighty natural days during  
6 the biennium. The organizational meeting of the legislative assembly ~~may not be counted as~~  
7 ~~part of those eighty natural days, nor may; and~~ days spent in session at the call of the governor  
8 | or, in a reconvened session properly called by the legislative management under this section to  
9 consider a vetoed bill or item or to address an emergency or other urgent situation, or while  
10 engaged in impeachment proceedings; may not be counted as part of the eighty natural days.  
11 Days spent in regular session need not be consecutive, and the legislative assembly may  
12 authorize its committees to meet at any time during the biennium. As used in this section, a  
13 "natural day" means a period of twenty-four consecutive hours.

14        Neither house may recess nor adjourn for more than three days without consent of the  
15 other house.