

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3020**

Introduced by

Representatives Kasper, Headland, Kempenich, Koppelman, Lefor, Louser, Rohr, D. Ruby
Senators Larsen, Paulson, Vedaa

1 A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the Constitution
2 of North Dakota, relating to sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective
3 date.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

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5 This measure would require the legislative assembly to meet in a regular session each
6 biennium for up to one hundred days and, upon a two-thirds vote of each house, a maximum of
7 one hundred twenty days and authorize the legislative assembly to reconvene for additional
8 days to override a veto. The amendment would become effective January 1, 2025.

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

11 That the following proposed amendments to sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the
12 Constitution of North Dakota are agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of
13 North Dakota at the general election to be held in 2024, in accordance with section 16 of
14 article IV of the 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~~The legislative
25 assembly shall meet for up to one hundred business days during the biennium. Upon a

1 two-thirds vote of each house, a regular session may be extended by up to twenty additional
2 days each biennium. The organizational meeting of the legislative assembly may not be
3 counted as part of those ~~eighty natural~~ one hundred business days, nor may days spent in
4 session at the call of the governor ~~or, while engaged in impeachment proceedings, or when~~
5 called by the legislative management to reconvene to reconsider a veto, be counted. Days
6 spent in regular session need not be consecutive, and the legislative assembly may authorize
7 its committees to meet at any time during the biennium. As used in this section, a
8 "~~natural~~business day" means a period of twenty-four consecutive hours on Monday through
9 Friday of each week.

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

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 13 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **Section 13.** Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and a recorded vote on any
15 question shall be taken at the request of one-sixth of those members present. No bill may
16 become law except by a recorded vote of a majority of the members elected to each house, and
17 the lieutenant governor is considered a member-elect of the senate when the lieutenant
18 governor votes.

19 No law may be enacted except by a bill passed by both houses, and no bill may be
20 amended on its passage through either house in a manner which changes its general subject
21 matter. No bill may embrace more than one subject, which must be expressed in its title; but a
22 law violating this provision is invalid only to the extent the subject is not so expressed.

23 Every bill must be read on two separate ~~natural~~business days, and the readings may be by
24 title only unless a reading at length is demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

25 No bill may be amended, extended, or incorporated in any other bill by reference to its title
26 only, except in the case of definitions and procedural provisions.

27 The presiding officer of each house shall sign all bills passed and resolutions adopted by
28 the legislative assembly, and the fact of signing shall be entered at once in the journal.

29 Every law, except as otherwise provided in this section, enacted by the legislative assembly
30 during its ~~eighty natural~~ meeting days takes effect on August first after its filing with the
31 secretary of state, or if filed on or after August first and before January first of the following year

1 ninety days after its filing, or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless, by a vote of
2 two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares it an
3 emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. Every appropriation measure for
4 support and maintenance of state departments and institutions and every tax measure that
5 changes tax rates enacted by the legislative assembly take effect on July first after its filing with
6 the secretary of state or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless, by a vote of
7 two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares it an
8 emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. An emergency measure takes
9 effect upon its filing with the secretary of state or on a date specified in the measure. Every law
10 enacted by a special session of the legislative assembly takes effect on a date specified in the
11 Act.

12 The legislative assembly shall enact all laws necessary to carry into effect the provisions of
13 this constitution. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no local or special laws may
14 be enacted, nor may the legislative assembly indirectly enact special or local laws by the partial
15 repeal of a general law but laws repealing local or special laws may be enacted.

16 **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** If approved by the electors, this measure becomes
17 effective on January 1, 2025.