

SENATE BILL NO. 261

INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN
5 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 6, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE
6 LEGISLATURE SHALL MEET IN EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR IN A BUDGET SESSION AND IN EACH
7 EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR IN A REGULAR SESSION; LIMITING TO 80 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
8 LEGISLATIVE DAYS THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAY MEET IN BUDGET AND REGULAR SESSIONS IN ANY
9 2-YEAR PERIOD; LIMITING TO APPROPRIATION AND REVENUE MATTERS THE LEGISLATURE'S
10 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION DURING A BUDGET SESSION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
11 AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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15 **Section 1.** Article V, section 6, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

16 **"Section 6. Sessions.** (1) The legislature shall not meet for more than 80 legislative days during any
17 2-year period, except when called into special session.

18 (2) (a) The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular a budget session of not more than
19 90 50 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session, beginning
20 on the date established by law.

21 (b) Only a bill to increase or decrease an appropriation or to increase or decrease revenue by enacting,
22 eliminating, increasing, or decreasing taxes, fees, or fines or by suspending or otherwise changing the allocation
23 of revenues may be introduced during the budget session unless introduction of another bill is approved by a
24 two-thirds vote of either house.

25 (3) The legislature shall meet each even-numbered year in a regular session of not more than 30
26 legislative days, beginning on the date established by law.

27 (4) The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a
28 majority of the members."

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30 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date -- applicability. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is

1 effective January 1, 2013, and applies to budget sessions and regular sessions of the legislature beginning after
2 December 31, 2014.

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Two-thirds vote required.** Because [section 1] is a legislative proposal
5 to amend the constitution, Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana constitution requires an affirmative roll call vote
6 of two-thirds of all the members of the legislature, whether one or more bodies, for passage.

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8 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Submission to electorate.** [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified
9 electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2012 by printing on the ballot the full title of
10 [this act] and the following:

11 FOR legislative budget sessions of 50 days or less in odd-numbered years and regular
12 legislative sessions of 30 days or less in even-numbered years.

13 AGAINST legislative budget sessions of 50 days or less in odd-numbered years and regular
14 legislative sessions of 30 days or less in even-numbered years.

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