62nd Legislature

1	SENATE BILL NO. 261	
2	INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN, C. WILLIAMS, MCGILLVRAY, SESSO	
3		
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 TI	
6	LEGISLATURE SHALL MEET IN EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR IN A BUDGET SESSION AND IN EA	
7	EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR IN A REGULAR SESSION; LIMITING TO FOR NO MORE THAN 80 THE TO	
8	NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE DAYS THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAY MEET IN BUDGET AND REGULAR	
9	SESSIONS IN ANY 2-YEAR PERIOD IN ANNUAL SESSIONS; LIMITING TO APPROPRIATION AND REVENUE	
10	MATTERS THE LEGISLATURE'S CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION DURING A BUDGET SESSION; AND	
11	PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."	
12		
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:	
14		
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. The LEGISLATURE SHALL MEET IN ANNUAL SESSIONS AS	
18	PROVIDED BY LAW.	
19	(2) (a) The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular a budget session of not more than	
20	90 50 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. beginning	
21	on the date established by law.	
22	(b) Only a bill to increase or decrease an appropriation or to increase or decrease revenue by enacting,	
23	eliminating, increasing, or decreasing taxes, fees, or fines or by suspending or otherwise changing the allocation	
24	of revenues may be introduced during the budget session unless introduction of another bill is approved by a	
25	two-thirds vote of either house.	
26	(3) The legislature shall meet each even-numbered year in a regular session of not more than 30	
27	legislative days, beginning on the date established by law.	
28	(4)(2) The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of	
29	a majority of the members."	

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1	<u>NEW S</u>	SECTION. Section 2. Effective date applicability. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is
2	effective Janua	ry 1, 2013, and applies to budget sessions and regular sessions of the legislature beginning after
3	December 31,	2014.
4		
5	NEW S	SECTION. Section 3. Two-thirds vote required. Because [section 1] is a legislative proposal
6	to amend the c	onstitution, Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana constitution requires an affirmative roll call vote
7	of two-thirds of	all the members of the legislature, whether one or more bodies, for passage.
8		
9	NEW S	SECTION. Section 4. Submission to electorate. [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified
10	electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2012 by printing on the ballot the full title of	
11	[this act] and the following:	
12	0	FOR legislative budget sessions of 50 days or less in odd-numbered years and regular
13		legislative sessions of 30 days or less in even-numbered years <u>REDUCING TOTAL LEGISLATIVE DAYS</u>
14		FROM 90 TO 80 TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN ANNUAL SESSIONS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.
15	0	AGAINST legislative budget sessions of 50 days or less in odd-numbered years and regular
16		legislative sessions of 30 days or less in even-numbered years REDUCING TOTAL LEGISLATIVE DAYS
17		FROM 90 TO 80 TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN ANNUAL SESSIONS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.
18		- END -

