

State	Current Session Length Limit	Method of Setting	Bill carryover	Limited Sessions	2012 Duration of Session	2013 Duration of Session
Alabama	30 L in 105 C	Statute	?		Feb 7- May 16	Feb 5 - May 20
Alaska	90 C	Statute	Y		Jan 17 - April 15	Jan 15 - April 14
Arizona	Sat of week in which 100th C falls	Chamber rule			Jan 19 - May 3	Jan 14 - June 14
Arkansas	Odd-60 C Even-30 C	Constitution	?	Y, even, approp, x	Feb 13-Mar 9	Jan 14 - May 17
California	Odd-None Even-Nov 30	Constitution	Y if certain deadlines are met		Dec 6-Nov 30	Dec 3, 12* - Sept 13
Colorado	Odd-Sept 12 Even-Aug 31 120 C	Chamber Rule Constitution			Jan 11- May 9	Jan 9 - May 8
Connecticut	Odd-Wed after 1st Mon in June Even- Wed after 1st Mon in May	Constitution		Y, even, fiscal, emerg, comm	Feb 8 - May 9	Jan 9 - June 15
Delaware	30-Jun	Constitution	Y		Jan 10 - Jul 1	Jan 8 - June 30
Florida	60 C	Constitution			Jan 10 - Mar 9	Mar 5 - May 2
Georgia	40 L	Constitution	Y		Jan 9 - Mar 29	Jan 14 - Mar 28
Hawaii	60 L	Constitution	Y		Jan 18 - May 3	Jan 16 - May 2
Idaho	None	Not applicable			Jan 9 - Mar 29	Jan 7 - Apr 4
Illinois	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 11, 2012-Jan 8, 2013	Jan 9 - May 31
Indiana	Odd-Apr 29 Even-Mar 14	Statute			Jan 4 - Mar 10	Jan 7 - Apr 29
Iowa	Odd-110 C Even-100 C	Indirect	Y		Jan 9 - May 9	Jan 14 - May 23
Kansas	Odd-None Even-90 C	Constitution	Y		Jan 19 - May 20	Jan 14 - June 20
Kentucky	Odd: 30 L or Mar 30 Even:60 L or Apr 15	Constitution			Jan 3 - Apr 12	Jan 8 - Mar 26

State	Current Session Length Limit	Method of Setting	Bill carryover	Limited Sessions Y, odd, fiscal, local, and ind. Legs 5 by prefile date	2012 Duration of Session	2013 Duration of Session
Louisiana	Odd-45 L in 60 C Even-60 L in 85 C	Constitution			Mar 12 - June 4	Apr 8 - June 6
Maine	Odd-3rd Wed in June Even-3rd Wed in Apr	Statute	Y	Y, even, budgetary, gov call, emerg, study comm	Jan 4 - Mar 31	Dec 5, 12* - Jun 19
Maryland	90 C	Constitution			Jan 11 - May 9	Jan 9 - Apr 8
Massachusetts	Formal sessions:  Odd-3rd Wed in November Even-July 31 Informal sessions: None	Chamber rule	Y		Jan 4 - Dec 31	Jan 2 *
Michigan	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 11 - Dec 14	Jan 9 *
Minnesota	120 L total within biennium or 1st Mon after 3rd Sat in May each year	Constitution	Y if certain conditions are met		Jan 24 - May 10	Jan 8 - May 20
Mississippi	90 C except year after gubernatorial election, then 125 C	Constitution			Jan 3 - May 3	Jan 8 -Apr 4
Missouri	30-May	Constitution			Jan 4 - May 30	Jan 9 - May 30
Montana	Biennial session; 90 L	Constitution	B		none	Jan 7 - Apr 24
Nebraska	Odd-90 L Even-60 L	Constitution	Y		Jan 4 - Apr 18	Jan 9 - Jun 5
Nevada	Biennial session ; 120 C	Constitution	B		none	Feb 4 - June 3
New Hampshire	45 L or July 1	Indirect	*		Jan 4 - June 27	Jan 2 Jul 1
New Jersey	None	Not applicable	*		Jan 10, 12 - Jan 8, 13	Jan 8 *

State	Current Session Length Limit	Method of Setting	Bill carryover	Limited Sessions Y, Even, budget, app, rev, gov message, vetoed bills	2012 Duration of Session	2013 Duration of Session
New Mexico	Odd-60 C Even-30 C	Constitution				Jan 15 - Mar 16
New York	None	Not applicable	*		Jan 10 - Feb 20 Jan 4 - Dec 31	Jan 9 *
				Y, Even, Budget and other as set in adjournment resolution		
North Carolina	None	Not applicable			May 16 - Jul 3	Jan 30 - July 26
North Dakota	Biennial session ; 80 L	Constitution	B		none	Jan 8 - Mar 28
Ohio	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 3 - Dec 20	Jan 7 *
Oklahoma	Last Fri in May	Constitution	Y		Feb 6 - May 25	
Oregon	Odd-160C Even-35C	Constitution	?		Feb 1 - Mar 5	Feb 4 - July 8
Pennsylvania	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 3 - Nov 30	Jan 1 *
Rhode Island	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 3 - Jun 13	Jan 1 - Jul 3
South Carolina	1st Thurs in June	Statute	Y		Jan 10 - Jun 18	Jan 8 - Jun 6
South Dakota	40 L	Constitution			Jan 10 - Mar 19	Jan 8 - Mar 25
Tennessee	90 L	Indirect	Y		Jan 10 - May 1	Jan 8 - Apr 19
Texas	Biennial session ; 140 C	Constitution	B		none	Jan 8 - May 27
Utah	45 C	Constitution			Jan 23 - Mar 8	Jan 28 - Mar 14
Vermont	None		Y		Jan 3 - May 5	Jan 9 - May 14
Virginia	Odd-30 C Even-60 C	Constitution	Y		Jan 1 - Mar 10	Jan 9 - Feb 23
Washington	Odd-105 C Even-60 C	Constitution	Y			Jan 14 - Apr 28
West Virginia	60 C	Constitution			Jan 9 - Mar 8 Jan 1 - Mar 16	Feb 13 - Apr 13
Wisconsin	None	Not applicable	Y		Jan 3, 11 - Mar 15, 12	Jan 7 *

State	Current Session Length Limit	Method of Setting	Bill carryover	Limited Sessions	2012 Duration of Session	2013 Duration of Session
Wyoming	Odd-40 L Even-20 L	Constitution		Y, Even, Budget, and by 2/3	Feb 13 - Mar 8	Jan 8 - Feb 27

## Legislative Session Length

Legislative session length may be unrestricted, or it may be limited. Session length limitations are set in a variety of ways. The limits may be found in constitution, statute or chamber rule. They also may set indirectly by restricting the number of days for which a legislator receives compensation, per diem or mileage reimbursement.

In the early 1960s, 17 states did not place restrictions on the length of their legislative sessions. In another 10 states, the limits were indirect. Several states increased their session length. These were Colorado (from 120 to 160); Georgia (from 80 to 85); Kansas (from 90 to 120); Minnesota (from 90 to 120); and South Dakota (from 60 to 75).

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s, session limitations became more defined. Fewer states had unrestricted sessions, and the number of states with indirect session limits declined.

Since the late 1980s, several session lengths were shortened. Colorado's session was cut to 120 days in 1988. In 1992, Louisiana changed its constitution to shorten and limit the scope of its even-year session. In 1998, the citizens of Nevada adopted a constitutional amendment that restricts the legislative session to 120 days. In 2002, an amendment to the Louisiana Constitution changed the timing of its general and fiscal sessions and adjusted the length of the fiscal session; the changes went into effect January 2004. In 2006, Alaska voters passed an initiative establishing a 90 day session in statute, which took effect in 2008.

In November 2008, however, South Dakota voters approved a constitutional amendment that lengthened legislative sessions. The amendment equalized the length of session at 40 legislative days each year. Previously, session length was 40 legislative days in odd-numbered years, and 35 legislative days in even-numbered years.

Currently, only 11 states do not place a limit on the length of regular session. In the remaining 39, the limits are set by constitution, statute, chamber rule or indirect method.

NCSL <http://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/legislative-session-length.aspx>  
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