

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 280  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/9/01  
Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 8/28/01**

Short Title: Session Length Limits.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 28, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE  
2 LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN  
3 EARLIER CONVENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR  
4 ORGANIZATION.  
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 11(1) of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution  
8 reads as rewritten:

9 "(1) Regular sessions. The General Assembly shall meet in regular session in 1973  
10 and every two years thereafter on the day prescribed by law. Beginning with the regular  
11 session in 2003, during an odd-numbered year the General Assembly shall remain in  
12 session for no more than 135 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by  
13 joint resolution once per regular session for not more than 10 days. The month of  
14 December in each even-numbered year is also included in the calculation. If the General  
15 Assembly upon convening of the regular session meets for not more than two  
16 consecutive calendar days and then adjourns for not less than 30 days, that period of  
17 adjournment shall be excluded from the 135 days. If the regular session meets in even-  
18 numbered years, the General Assembly shall remain in session for no more than 60  
19 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by joint resolution once per  
20 regular session for not more than 10 days, but the month of December in each even-  
21 numbered year is excluded from the calculation. Any reconvened session called under  
22 Section 5 of Article III of this Constitution shall be excluded from the calculations of  
23 this section. Neither house shall proceed upon public business unless a majority of all of  
24 its members are actually present. No valid action, other than a resolution of  
25 adjournment, may be taken by the General Assembly after the time limits prescribed in  
26 this section have expired."

27 **SECTION 2.** Section 9 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads  
28 as rewritten:

1 **"Sec. 9. Term of office.**

2 The term of office of Senators and Representatives shall commence on the first day  
3 of ~~January~~ Wednesday in December next after their election."

4 **SECTION 3.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be  
5 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next statewide election, primary or  
6 otherwise, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in  
7 the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163  
8 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall  
9 be:

10 **"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST**

11 Constitutional amendment limiting the length of the legislative session and  
12 making conforming amendments concerning the beginning of the term."

13 **SECTION 4.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
14 amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall  
15 certify the amendments to the Secretary of State whereupon the amendments shall  
16 become effective. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so certified  
17 among the permanent records of that office.

18 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 120-11.1 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 120-11.1. Time of meeting.**

20 The regular session of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be held  
21 biennially beginning at 12:00 noon on the ~~third Wednesday after the second Monday in~~  
22 January ~~first Wednesday in December~~ next after their election."

23 **SECTION 6.** Section 5 of this act shall take effect only upon approval of the  
24 voters of the constitutional amendments set forth in Sections 1 and 2 of this act. If the  
25 constitutional amendments proposed in Sections 1 and 2 of this act are approved by the  
26 voters, Section 5 of this act shall become effective at the same time as the constitutional  
27 amendments.

28 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.