



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HC0004

Introduced 1/18/2011, by Rep. Chapin Rose - Bill Mitchell - Adam Brown - Jason Barickman, Michael G. Connelly, et al.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 4
ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5
ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 6
ILCON Art. V, Sec. 2

Proposes to amend the Legislature Article of the Illinois Constitution to provide that (i) the proclamation of results of each election of members of the General Assembly must take place as soon as practical after the general election, but in no case later than seven days prior to the date the General Assembly first convenes, (ii) the General Assembly shall convene each year on the first day of December (excluding Saturday and Sunday), and (iii) the General Assembly may not be in session in any general election year from the date of the general election until first day of December (excluding Saturday and Sunday), except to respond to an act of God, act of terrorism, or other imminent threat to the safety or security of the people of the State or the United States of America. Proposes to amend the Judiciary Article of the Illinois Constitution to provide that (i) the proclamation of results of each election of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor must take place as soon as practical after the general election, but in no case later than seven days prior to the date the General Assembly first convenes in accordance with specified provisions and (ii) the Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall hold office for four years beginning on first day of December (excluding Saturday and Sunday). Effective upon being declared adopted.

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the
6 electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general
7 election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of
8 this resolution a proposition to amend Sections 4, 5, and 6 of
9 Article IV and Section 2 of Article V of the Illinois
10 Constitution as follows:

11 ARTICLE IV
12 THE LEGISLATURE

13 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 4)

14 SECTION 4. ELECTION

15 (a) Members of the General Assembly shall be elected at the
16 general election in even-numbered years.

17 (b) The proclamation of results of each election of members
18 of the General Assembly must take place as soon as practical
19 after the general election, but in no case later than seven
20 days prior to the date the General Assembly first convenes
21 under subsection (b) of Section 6 of this Article.

22 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

1 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5)

2 SECTION 5. SESSIONS

3 (a) The General Assembly shall convene each year on the
4 first day of December (excluding Saturday and Sunday) ~~the~~
5 ~~second Wednesday of January.~~

6 The General Assembly shall be a continuous body during the
7 term for which members of the House of Representatives are
8 elected.

9 (b) The Governor may convene the General Assembly or the
10 Senate alone in special session by a proclamation stating the
11 purpose of the session; and only business encompassed by such
12 purpose, together with any impeachments or confirmation of
13 appointments shall be transacted. Special sessions of the
14 General Assembly may also be convened by joint proclamation of
15 the presiding officers of both houses, issued as provided by
16 law.

17 (c) Sessions of each house of the General Assembly and
18 meetings of committees, joint committees and legislative
19 commissions shall be open to the public. Sessions and committee
20 meetings of a house may be closed to the public if two-thirds
21 of the members elected to that house determine that the public
22 interest so requires; and meetings of joint committees and
23 legislative commissions may be so closed if two-thirds of the
24 members elected to each house so determine.

25 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section,
26 the General Assembly may not be in session in any general

1 election year from the date of the general election until the
2 first day of December (excluding Saturday and Sunday), except
3 to respond to an act of God, act of terrorism, or other
4 imminent threat to the safety or security of the people of the
5 State or the United States of America.

6 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

7 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 6)

8 SECTION 6. ORGANIZATION

9 (a) A majority of the members elected to each house
10 constitutes a quorum.

11 (b) On the first day of December (excluding Saturday and
12 Sunday) following a general election ~~the January session of the~~
13 ~~General Assembly in odd-numbered years,~~ the Secretary of State
14 shall convene the House of Representatives to elect from its
15 membership a Speaker of the House of Representatives as
16 presiding officer, and the Governor shall convene the Senate to
17 elect from its membership a President of the Senate as
18 presiding officer.

19 (c) For purposes of powers of appointment conferred by this
20 Constitution, the Minority Leader of either house is a member
21 of the numerically strongest political party other than the
22 party to which the Speaker or the President belongs, as the
23 case may be.

24 (d) Each house shall determine the rules of its
25 proceedings, judge the elections, returns and qualifications

1 of its members and choose its officers. No member shall be
2 expelled by either house, except by a vote of two-thirds of the
3 members elected to that house. A member may be expelled only
4 once for the same offense. Each house may punish by
5 imprisonment any person, not a member, guilty of disrespect to
6 the house by disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its
7 presence. Imprisonment shall not extend beyond twenty-four
8 hours at one time unless the person persists in disorderly or
9 contemptuous behavior.

10 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

11 ARTICLE V

12 THE EXECUTIVE

13 (ILCON Art. V, Sec. 2)

14 SECTION 2. TERMS

15 (a) The Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the
16 Comptroller, and the Treasurer ~~These elected officers of the~~
17 ~~Executive Branch~~ shall hold office for four years beginning on
18 the second Monday of January after their election and, ~~except~~
19 ~~in the case of the Lieutenant Governor,~~ until their successors
20 are qualified. The Governor shall hold office for four years
21 beginning on first day of December (excluding Saturday and
22 Sunday) after his or her election and until his or her
23 successor is qualified. The Lieutenant Governor shall hold
24 office for four years beginning on the first day of December

1 (excluding Saturday and Sunday) after his or her election.

2 All of the elected officers of the executive branch ~~They~~
3 shall be elected at the general election in 1978 and every four
4 years thereafter.

5 (b) The proclamation of results of each election of the
6 Governor and Lieutenant Governor must take place as soon as
7 practical after the general election, but in no case later than
8 seven days prior to the date the General Assembly first
9 convenes under subsection (b) of Section 6 of Article IV.

10 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

11 SCHEDULE

12 This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being
13 declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois
14 Constitutional Amendment Act.