



Senate Joint Resolution 110

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Vote cast by the members of the 1979 Legislature on final passage:
HOUSE [98 members]: Yeas, 89; Nays, 7; Absent or not voting, 2.
SENATE [49 members]: Yeas, 40; Nays, 4; Absent or not voting, 5.

Statement for

LIMIT THE LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

SJR 110 will force the legislature to prepare the state budget and enact necessary laws within a fixed period of time each year. Currently, there is no time limit on the length of special sessions. A vote for SJR 110 is a vote for limits on the length of legislative sessions.

SJR 110 IS IN THE TAXPAYERS' INTEREST

By preventing marathon legislative sessions, like the 163-day session in 1977, SJR 110 will be a money saver. It costs more than \$55,000 for each day the legislature is in session.

OPENS UP THE LEGISLATURE

More qualified citizens will be willing to serve in the legislature if they know how long they will be required to be in Olympia. SJR 110 will accomplish this.

PREVENTS CONTROL BY PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS AND PROVIDES FOR CITIZENS' LEGISLATURE

Currently unscheduled and unlimited sessions make it difficult or impossible for many qualified citizens to run for the legislature. Unless SJR 110 is approved, our legislature will be run by full-time professional politicians who don't have any other employment.

SJR 110 PROVIDES FOR A MORE EFFICIENT LEGISLATURE

By providing scheduled and limited legislative sessions, SJR 110 will serve the public by improving the quality of legislation. It will provide for the orderly and systematic analysis of legislation.

VOTE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

It is in our best interest to vote for a citizens' legislature and against a legislature run by full-time professional politicians. It is in our best interest to vote for limiting legislative sessions. VOTE FOR SJR 110.

Official Ballot Title:

Shall the legislature meet in regular annual sessions, and shall special legislative sessions be authorized each with specific time limitations?

The law as it now exists:

At the present time the Constitution provides that the legislature shall hold regular biennial sessions, convening in January of each odd-numbered year. In addition, special sessions may be convened by the governor for any purpose, or by a two-thirds affirmative vote of

both houses of the legislature solely for the purpose of overriding governor's vetoes. Regular sessions may not last more than 60 days, but there is no time limit on the length of any special session called by the governor. Legislative committees may not conduct official business while the legislature is not in session.

The effect of SJR 110, if approved into law:

The amendment would require that a regular session of the legislature be convened each year. The regular session during each odd-numbered year may not last longer than 105 consecutive days, and, in even-numbered years, not more than sixty consecutive days.

The amendment would also allow for special legislative sessions. The governor, by proclamation, would be allowed to convene a special legislative session, which would be limited to thirty consecutive days. The governor could specify a purpose for convening the special session, but this specification would not be binding on the legislature.

Special sessions may also be convened by legislative resolution upon a two-thirds affirmative vote by each house. Any special session convened by the legislature would be limited to the purposes set

forth in the resolution convening the legislature, unless additional purposes were approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of each house during the special session.

The amendment would also allow standing and special legislative committees to meet and conduct official business, pursuant to such rules as the legislature might adopt.

NOTE: The ballot title and explanatory statement were written by the Attorney General as required by state law. The complete text of Senate Joint Resolution 110 begins on page 21.

Rebuttal of Statement against

SJR 110 WILL SAVE TAX DOLLARS. Except for one year, the legislature has had unlimited sessions each year during this decade. When all these years are considered, it is clear that SJR 110 will save millions. We need limits on legislative sessions. We need to keep the professional, full-time politicians out of Olympia. Don't be deceived. Vote for SJR 110.

Statement against

SJR 110 WILL COST TAXPAYERS MONEY

This very bad constitutional change will cost taxpayers huge sums of money by requiring expensive legislative sessions every year, and by permitting the legislature to call itself into special session whenever it pleases.

Our present constitution requires a legislative session only in odd-numbered years. Because there was no session in 1978, the legislature was unable to squander its several hundred million dollar budget surplus as it usually does. If SJR 110 should pass, a costly legislative session will be required every year, and taxpayers will never again have the chance to save money in the same way as in 1978-79 (over \$283 million).

LONGER SESSIONS MEAN MORE GOVERNMENT

By expanding legislative sessions to mandatory yearly sessions, and by permitting the legislature to call itself into session at whim, SJR 110 guarantees many more legislative session days. At a cost of over \$60,000 per day, and with lengthier sessions exerting more pressure for more government, taxpayers simply cannot afford SJR 110.

SJR 110 WILL DESTROY THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE

To obtain quality representation, we need common sense elected officials who understand citizens' concerns. In other words, we need a part-time citizen legislature consisting of taxpayers, wage earners, and small businessmen. A full-time legislature produces full-time politicians isolated from the public. Since SJR 110 contains no effective deadlines to encourage the legislature to conclude its business in a timely fashion, it fails miserably as a "legislative reform" measure.

VOTE "NO" ON SJR 110

A "no" vote will help keep government size within reasonable bounds, help prevent extravagant government expenditures, and help preserve the citizen legislature.

Rebuttal of Statement for

FACT: SJR 110 increases the number of regular legislative days per biennium from 60 to 165, a whopping increase of 175%. *FACT:* SJR 110 has absolutely no limit on the number of special sessions that can be called. *FACT:* Statewide taxpayer groups oppose SJR 110. *REMEMBER:* There is more than a grain of truth to the old adage which states, "Every person's life, liberty, and property are in jeopardy when the legislature is in session."

Voters' Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

GORDON WALGREN, State Senator; SAM GUESS, State Senator; PHYLLIS K. ERICKSON, State Representative.

Advisory Committee: JOE DAVIS, President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; JOLENE UNSOELD; MARILYN KNIGHT, League of Women Voters; JUDITH CLARK TURPIN, President, American Association of University Women; ANN QUANTOCK, President, Common Cause of Washington State.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

KENT PULLEN, State Senator; BOB EBERLE, State Representative; ERIC ROHRBACH, State Representative.

Advisory Committee, JACK SILVERS, Washington State Grange; HERB STREULI, Washington State Farm Bureau; WILLIAM FOSBRE, Over-taxed, Thurston County Chapter; GLADYS E. EDWARDS, Property Owners Protection Association; ORVILLE BARNES, Washington Taxpayers Association.

responsibility for new programs or increased levels of service under existing programs unless the costs thereof are paid by the state;

(d) Provide for adjustment of the limit when costs of a program are transferred between the state and another political entity; and

(e) Establish a procedure for exceeding this limit in emergency situations.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless otherwise required.

(1) "State tax revenue" means all state moneys received in the treasury from every source except those revenues excluded for the term "general state revenues" by Article VIII, section (1)(c) of the state Constitution other than the state property tax levied for the support of the common schools under RCW 84.52.065, as now or hereafter amended.

(2) "State personal income" means the dollar amount published as total personal income of persons of the state for the calendar year by the United States department of commerce or its successor agency.

(3) "State tax revenue limit" or "limit" means the state tax revenue limit created by this chapter.

(4) "Taxing district" means those districts included within the term "taxing district" under RCW 84.04.120, as now or hereafter amended.

(5) "State personal income ratio" for any calendar year means the quotient formed by dividing (a) state personal income for the calendar year under consideration by (b) the state personal income for the immediately preceding calendar year.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The state tax revenue limit for any fiscal year shall be the previous fiscal year's state tax revenue limit multiplied by the average state personal income ratio for the three calendar years immediately preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for which the limit is being computed.

(2) For purposes of computing the state tax revenue limit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1980, the phrase "the previous fiscal year's state tax revenue limit" means the state tax revenue collected in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1978, multiplied by the average state personal income ratio for the calendar years 1976, 1977, and 1978.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Except as provided in section 5 of this act, taxes, fees, and charges on persons, property, and activities shall be imposed, levied, or set by the legislature in such a manner that the estimated state tax revenue for each fiscal year of the next biennium will not exceed the state tax revenue limit for that fiscal year: PROVIDED, The legislature may at any time adjust such taxes, fees, and charges for the second fiscal year of the biennium.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The state tax revenue limit for any fiscal year may be exceeded in order to meet an emergency as declared by the legislature by two-thirds vote of each house. The legislature, by two-thirds vote of each house, shall set forth the circumstances constituting the emergency and the amount of state tax revenue in excess of the applicable state tax revenue limit necessary to meet the emergency.

(2) Any amount of state tax revenue authorized by subsection (1) of this section in excess of the state tax revenue limit shall be authorized only for the fiscal year in which the vote is taken and/or the next succeeding fiscal year, as directed by the legislature.

(3) Except where the emergency results from a court order, the amount of state tax revenue authorized under subsection (1) of this section in excess of the limit shall not be used in the revenue base used to compute the state tax revenue limit for subsequent years.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The legislature shall not impose responsibility for new programs or increased levels of service under existing programs on any taxing district unless the districts are reimbursed for the costs thereof by the state.

(2) That proportion of state tax revenue which consists of direct state appropriations to taxing districts taken as a group shall not be decreased below that proportion appropriated in the biennium

immediately preceding the effective date of this act: PROVIDED, This proportion shall be decreased in any fiscal year only if: (a) The legislature decreases the state tax revenue limit for that fiscal year by an amount equal to the dollar amount of any decrease in direct state appropriations to taxing districts taken as a whole; or (b) the state tax revenue limit has been increased under section 5(3) or 6(3) of this act and the decrease of the proportion is commensurate with the increase in the state tax revenue limit.

(3) If by order of any court, or legislative enactment, the costs of a federal or taxing district program are transferred to or from the state, the otherwise applicable state tax revenue limit shall be increased or decreased, as the case may be, by the dollar amount of the costs of the program.

(4) The legislature, in consultation with the office of financial management or its successor agency, shall determine the costs of any new programs or increased levels of service under existing programs imposed on any taxing district or transferred to or from the state.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The legislature shall, prior to any other appropriation, provide for the payment of the principal and interest of the indebtedness of the state. State tax revenue collected in any fiscal year in excess of the state tax revenue limit for that fiscal year shall be included as part of the state tax revenue for the succeeding fiscal year.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. This act shall take effect on January 1, 1980: PROVIDED, That the first fiscal year for which the state tax revenue limit shall be in effect is the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1980.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.



BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article II, section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Washington, to read as follows:


Article II, section 12. ~~((The first legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November, A.D., 1889. The second legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, A.D., 1891, and sessions of the legislature shall be held biennially thereafter, unless specially convened by the governor, but the times of meeting of subsequent sessions may be changed by the legislature. After the first legislature the sessions shall not be more than sixty days.))~~ (1) Regular Sessions. A regular session of the legislature shall be convened each year. Regular sessions shall convene on such day and at such times as the legislature shall determine by statute. During each odd-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than one hundred five consecutive days. During each even-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than sixty consecutive days.

(2) Special Legislative Sessions. Special legislative sessions may be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by proclamation of the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this

Constitution. Special legislative sessions may also be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by resolution of the legislature upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, which vote may be taken and resolution executed either while the legislature is in session or during any interim between sessions in accordance with such procedures as the legislature may provide by law or resolution. The resolution convening the legislature shall specify a purpose or purposes for the convening of a special session, and any special session convened by the resolution shall consider only measures germane to the purpose or purposes expressed in the resolution, unless by resolution adopted during the session upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, an additional purpose or purposes are expressed. The specification of purpose by the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this Constitution shall be considered by the legislature but shall not be mandatory.

(3) Committees of the Legislature. Standing and special committees of the legislature shall meet and conduct official business pursuant to such rules as the legislature may adopt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

 COMPLETE TEXT OF
**Senate Joint
Resolution 112**

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington by amending section 13 as follows:

Article II, Section 13. No member of the legislature, during the term for which he is elected, shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, which shall have been created ~~(, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased,)~~ during the term for which he was elected. Any member of the legislature who is appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, the emoluments of which have been increased during his legislative term of office, shall be compensated for the initial term of the civil office at the level designated prior to the increase in emoluments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

 COMPLETE TEXT OF
**Senate Joint
Resolution 120**

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their

approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to the state Constitution by adding a new section to Article VIII to read as follows:

Article VIII, section Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, until January 1, 1990 any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of energy to assist the owners of residential structures in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the residential structure benefited. Except as to contracts entered into prior thereto, this amendment to the state Constitution shall be null and void as of January 1, 1990 and shall have no further force or effect after that date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

NOTE: Senate Joint Resolution 120 expressly modifies another provision of the state Constitution. This affected provision is included here so that voters may readily compare it to the proposed change contained in SJR 120 and determine how the existing constitutional language would be affected.

Article VIII, Section 7

CREDIT NOT TO BE LOANED. No county, city, town or other municipal corporation shall hereafter give any money, or property, or loan its money, or credit to or in aid of any individual, association, company or corporation, except for the necessary support of the poor and infirm, or become directly or indirectly the owner of any stock in or bonds of any association, company or corporation.