

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 SENATE JOINT
4 RESOLUTION 37

By: Brecheen

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State
9 to refer to the people for their approval or
10 rejection a proposed amendment to Sections 21 and 26
11 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution; providing
12 for regular legislative sessions in odd-numbered
13 years for certain time period; stating legislative
14 intent; providing for noncodification; providing
15 ballot title; and directing filing.

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 2ND SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
19 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

20 It is the intent of the Legislature to present a question to the
21 people for a vote, which would require the Legislature to meet every
22 other year rather than annually, and which would further require
23 that legislative salaries be reduced accordingly. The Legislature
24 finds that these changes will operate to reduce costs and expenses
of state government by even more than the amount of the salary
reduction, in the form of lower costs for legislative operations and

1 utilities, and further finds that these changes will significantly
2 reduce the costs of maintenance and renovation of the State Capitol
3 building, which will be able to be accomplished in the more lengthy
4 legislative interim.

5 SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
6 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
7 the following proposed amendments to Sections 21 and 26 of Article V
8 of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

9 Section 21. A. The Legislature shall enact laws to prohibit
10 members of the Legislature from engaging in activities or having
11 interests which conflict with the proper discharge of their duties
12 and responsibilities.

13 B. The Board on Legislative Compensation is hereby created.
14 ~~Said~~ The Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the
15 Governor, two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
16 Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives. The members appointed by the Governor shall be
18 from religious organizations, communications media, nonstate-
19 supported educational institutions, labor organizations, and retail
20 business; the members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
21 Senate shall be from agricultural and civic organizations; and the
22 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
23 shall be from manufacturing and from professional fields not
24 otherwise specified. No member of the Legislature may be appointed

1 to or serve on the Board. In addition to the members above provided
2 for, the ~~Chairman~~ Chair of the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the
3 Director of State Finance shall serve as ex officio nonvoting
4 members of ~~said~~ the Board. The ~~Chairman~~ Chair of ~~said~~ the Board
5 shall be designated by the Governor. Members of the Legislature
6 shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Board on
7 Legislative Compensation. If a member of the Legislature is
8 incarcerated due to being charged with a criminal offense and
9 subsequently is found guilty of the offense or pleads guilty or nolo
10 contendere to the offense, the legislator shall return to the state
11 any compensation the legislator received from the state while the
12 legislator was incarcerated prior to the guilty verdict or plea or
13 nolo contendere plea and shall not receive any compensation from the
14 state during any incarceration following such verdict or plea. ~~Said~~
15 The Board shall each two years review the compensation paid to the
16 members of the Legislature and shall be empowered to change such
17 compensation; such change to become effective on the fifteenth day
18 following the succeeding general election; provided, the amount of
19 such compensation set by the Board at its first meeting after
20 November of 2014 shall not exceed one-half the amount set by the
21 Board at its previous meeting. The members of the Board shall serve
22 without compensation, but shall be entitled to receive necessary
23 travel and subsistence expense as provided by law for other state
24 officers.

1 Section 26. The Legislature shall meet in regular session at
2 the seat of government at twelve o'clock noon on the first Monday in
3 February of each odd-numbered year and the regular session shall be
4 finally adjourned sine die not later than five o'clock p.m. on the
5 last Friday in May of ~~each~~ that same year.

6 The Legislature shall also meet in regular session at the seat
7 of government on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January
8 of each odd-numbered year, beginning at twelve o'clock noon for the
9 purposes only of performing the duties as required by Section 5 of
10 Article VI of the Constitution and organizing pursuant to the
11 provisions of this Article and shall recess not later than five
12 o'clock p.m. of that same day until the following first Monday in
13 February of the same year, beginning at twelve o'clock noon.

14 SECTION 3. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional
15 amendment as set forth in SECTION 2 of this resolution shall be in
16 the following form:

17 BALLOT TITLE

18 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

19 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

20 This measure amends Sections 21 and 26 of Article 5 of the State
21 Constitution. It would require the Legislature to meet in
22 regular sessions in odd-numbered years. The dates and times for
23 meeting and adjourning would not change. It would also require
24

1 the Board on Legislative Compensation to cut the amount of
2 legislators' pay. It could not exceed half the previous amount.

3 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

4 FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES _____

5 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO _____

6 SECTION 4. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,
7 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file
8 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 3
9 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
10 General.

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