

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado General Assembly

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jon Caldara and Hilleary Waters
FROM: Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services
DATE: March 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Proposed initiative measure 2023-2024 #25, concerning the limitation of regular sessions of the general assembly to 90 days

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Colorado Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado constitution. We hereby submit our comments to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments intended to aid proponents in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of knowledge of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intent and your objective in proposing the amendment. We hope that the statements and questions contained in this memorandum will provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal.

Purposes

The major purpose of the proposed amendment to the Colorado constitution appears to be to limit the length of a regular session of the general assembly to 90 consecutive calendar days.

Substantive Comments and Questions

The substance of the proposed initiative raises the following comments and questions:

1. Section 1 (5.5) of article V of the Colorado constitution requires all proposed initiatives to have a single subject. What is the single subject of the proposed initiative?
2. As a change to the Colorado constitution, the proposed initiative may only be amended by a subsequent amendment to the constitution. Is this the proponents' intent?
3. Section 2-2-307, C.R.S., specifies the amount of compensation that members of the general assembly receive. Do the proponents intend for the amount of compensation that members of the general assembly receive to be adjusted based on the proposed reduction of the maximum length of a regular session of the general assembly from 120 to 90 days?
4. Do the proponents intend that appropriations for the operation of the general assembly be reduced due to the reduction of the maximum length of a regular session of the general assembly from 120 to 90 days?
5. Given the amount of work that the general assembly ordinarily completes during the last 30 days of a regular session, do the proponents anticipate any issues with limiting the length of regular sessions to 90 days?

Technical Comments

The following comments address technical issues raised by the form of the proposed initiative. These comments will be read aloud at the public meeting only if the proponents so request. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about these comments at the review and comment meeting. Please consider revising the proposed initiative as suggested below.

1. It is standard drafting practice for the headnote following a section number to be in lower-case lettering and bold-face type.