

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

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BILL: SPB 7076

INTRODUCER: For consideration by the Ethics and Elections Committee

SUBJECT: Legislature

DATE: February 11, 2016      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

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ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Carlton	Roberts	EE	<b>Pre-meeting</b>

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**I. Summary:**

SPB 7076 requires the Legislature to convene in Regular Session on January 9, 2018.

**II. Present Situation:**

The time to convene the 60-day Regular Session<sup>1</sup> of the Legislature is prescribed by the State Constitution. Specifically, Subsection (b) of Section 3 of Article III of the State Constitution provides:

A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, or such other date as may be fixed by law, of each even-numbered year.<sup>2</sup>

Currently, there is no law fixing the date for the Regular Session to convene in even numbered years. Rather, Chapter 2014-106, Laws of Florida, set January 12, 2016, as the date to convene the 2016 Regular Session. That law applies only to the 2016 Regular Session. The 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature would begin on March 6, 2018, unless changed by law.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SPB 7076 requires the Legislature to convene in Regular Session on January 9, 2018.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

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<sup>1</sup> The length of the Regular Session is prescribed in Article III, s. 3(d), Florida Constitution.

<sup>2</sup> Article III, s. 3(b), Florida Constitution.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill would require the Legislature to enact the state budget 8 weeks earlier than otherwise would be required. Staff has been unable to find any statutory conflict with this earlier start date. However, the Governor is required to submit a copy of his or her recommended balanced budget<sup>3</sup> for the state at least 30 days before the scheduled annual legislative session, unless a later date is requested and approved in writing by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This bill will require the submission of the Governor's budget several weeks earlier than usual. Additionally, revenue estimates for the projected budget would be based on data further removed from the beginning of the fiscal year.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 216.162(1), F.S.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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