

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Rules

BILL: HB 7045

INTRODUCER: Rules and Policy Committee and Representative Nuñez

SUBJECT: The Legislature/Date for Convening 2020 Regular Session

DATE: February 28, 2018

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. <u>Mackintosh</u>	<u>Phelps</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>Favorable</u>

I. Summary:

HB 7045 requires the 2020 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

II. Present Situation:

The State Constitution prescribes the date for convening the 60-day regular session of the Legislature. Specifically, the State Constitution provides that, in odd-numbered years, the regular session of the Legislature must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. For even-numbered years, the State Constitution permits the Legislature to fix by law the date for convening the regular legislative session.¹ If no date is fixed by law, the regular session in even-numbered years must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

Presently, the Legislature has not permanently fixed a specific date in law for even-numbered years. As such, the regular legislative session for even-numbered years typically convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.² However, in 2014, the Legislature enacted ch. 2014-106, Laws of Florida, to require the 2016 regular legislative session to begin on January 12, 2016. Also, in 2016, the Legislature enacted ch. 2016-218, Laws of Florida, to require the 2018 regular legislative session to begin on January 9, 2018. For subsequent even-numbered years, the regular legislative session will convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

HB 7045 requires the 2020 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

¹ Subsection 3(b), Article III, Florida Constitution.

² Traditionally, the Legislature fixes an early start date for the regular session in apportionment (redistricting) years. For example, in 2012, the regular legislative session started on January 10, 2012. See chapter 2010-91, L.O.F.

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:

Moving the start date of the regular legislative session in 2020 would result in the Legislature enacting the state budget approximately six weeks earlier than current practice. This change would provide state agencies with additional time prior to the start of the fiscal year to implement or react to any budgetary changes.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

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.

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