

STATE

CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT

**Drafting Number:** LLS 10-0892 **Date:** April 29, 2010  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Schwartz; King K. **Bill Status:** Senate SVMA  
 Rep. May; Scanlan **Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

**TITLE:** SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7 OF ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO DECREASING THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CALENDAR DAYS TO ONE HUNDRED CALENDAR DAYS IN A ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-CALENDAR-DAY PERIOD.

| Fiscal Impact Summary   | FY 2010-2011      | FY 2011-2012      |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>State Revenue</b>  |                   |                   |
| <b>State Expenditures</b><br>General Fund   | (up to \$500,000) | (up to \$500,000) |
| <b>FTE Position Change</b>  |                   |                   |
| <b>Effective Date:</b> Upon voter approval at the November 2010 general election. |                   |                   |
| <b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> None required.                     |                   |                   |
| <b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.   |                   |                   |

**Summary of Legislation**

The state constitution currently limits regular sessions of the General Assembly to 120 calendar days. This concurrent resolution submits a constitutional amendment to voters to prohibit the legislature from meeting in regular session for more than 100 calendar days within that 120-day period.

**Background**

Members of the Colorado General Assembly are currently eligible for per diem and expense reimbursement for all of the 120 days in which the legislature is in session. However, the legislature generally only meets for about 86 of those 120 days, since it usually only convenes on weekdays and only rarely on weekends. Under current law, the legislature may suspend the normal per diem and expense allowance for its members by adopting a resolution, but only for periods when the legislature is in recess for more than 3 days.

### **State Expenditures**

Reducing the length of regular sessions of the legislature from 120 days to 100 days in a 120-day period could reduce state expenditures by up to **\$500,000 per year**. But, any reduction in expenditures is contingent on a future action being taken by the legislature, in addition to voter approval. Therefore, the resolution is assessed as having a conditional fiscal impact.

Savings would accrue if the resolution causes the legislature to adjourn early or to suspend per diem and expense reimbursement for members, as allowed by current law. Per diem and expenses for the legislature cost \$11,055 per legislative day, or about \$220,000 for 20 days. Savings would also accrue if the need for session-only staff is reduced. Session-only staff support and legislative aides cost \$13,654 per day, or about \$273,000 for 20 days. These costs are paid from the General Fund.

### **Departments Contacted**

Governor

Legislature