

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOSLEY.

0031S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment repealing sections 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 16, 18, 20, 20(a), 20(b), 31, and 32 of article III of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting eleven new sections in lieu thereof relating to the general assembly.

*Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:*

That at the next general election to be held in the  
2 state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday  
3 in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by  
4 the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to  
5 the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or  
6 rejection, the following amendment to article III of the  
7 Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Sections 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 16, 18, 20, 20(a),  
2 20(b), 31, and 32, article III, Constitution of Missouri, are  
3 repealed and eleven new sections adopted in lieu thereof, to be  
4 known as sections 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 16, 18, 20, 20(a), 31, and 32,  
5 to read as follows:

Section 3. (a) The house of representatives shall  
2 consist of **[one hundred sixty-three]** members elected at each  
3 general election and redistricted as provided in this  
4 section.

(b) The **[house]** **general assembly** independent  
6 bipartisan citizens commission shall redistrict **each house**  
7 **of** the **[house of representatives]** **general assembly** using the  
8 following methods, listed in order of priority:

**EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

9           (1) Districts shall be as nearly equal as practicable  
10 in population, and shall be drawn on the basis of one  
11 person, one vote. Districts are as nearly equal as  
12 practicable in population if no district deviates by more  
13 than one percent from the ideal population of the district,  
14 as measured by dividing the number of districts into the  
15 statewide population data being used, except that a district  
16 may deviate by up to three percent if necessary to follow  
17 political subdivision lines consistent with subdivision (4)  
18 of this subsection;

19           (2) Districts shall be established in a manner so as  
20 to comply with all requirements of the United States  
21 Constitution and applicable federal laws, including, but not  
22 limited to, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (as amended). The  
23 following principles shall take precedence over any other  
24 part of this constitution: no district shall be drawn in a  
25 manner which results in a denial or abridgment of the right  
26 of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of  
27 race or color; and no district shall be drawn such that  
28 members of any community of citizens protected by the  
29 preceding clause have less opportunity than other members of  
30 the electorate to participate in the political process and  
31 to elect representatives of their choice;

32           (3) Subject to the requirements of subdivisions (1)  
33 and (2) of this subsection, districts shall be composed of  
34 contiguous territory as compact as may be. Areas which meet  
35 only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.  
36 In general, compact districts are those which are square,  
37 rectangular, or hexagonal in shape to the extent permitted  
38 by natural or political boundaries;

39           (4) To the extent consistent with subdivisions (1) to  
40 (3) of this subsection, communities shall be preserved.

41 Districts shall satisfy this requirement if district lines  
42 follow political subdivision lines to the extent possible,  
43 using the following criteria, in order of priority. First,  
44 each county shall wholly contain as many districts as its  
45 population allows. Second, if a county wholly contains one  
46 or more districts, the remaining population shall be wholly  
47 joined in a single district made up of population from  
48 outside the county. If a county does not wholly contain a  
49 district, then no more than two segments of a county shall  
50 be combined with an adjoining county. Third, split counties  
51 and county segments, defined as any part of the county that  
52 is in a district not wholly within that county, shall each  
53 be as few as possible. Fourth, as few municipal lines shall  
54 be crossed as possible. **Fifth, no house of representatives**  
55 **district shall cross a senate district line or be in more**  
56 **than one senate district;**

57 (5) Districts shall be drawn in a manner that achieves  
58 both partisan fairness and, secondarily, competitiveness,  
59 but the standards established by subdivisions (1) to (4) of  
60 this subsection shall take precedence over partisan fairness  
61 and competitiveness. "Partisan fairness" means that parties  
62 shall be able to translate their popular support into  
63 legislative representation with approximately equal  
64 efficiency. "Competitiveness" means that parties'  
65 legislative representation shall be substantially and  
66 similarly responsive to shifts in the electorate's  
67 preferences.

68 To this end, the average electoral performance of the  
69 two political parties receiving the most votes in the three  
70 preceding general elections for governor, for United States  
71 Senate, and for President of the United States shall be  
72 calculated. This index shall be defined as the total votes

73 received by each party in the three preceding general  
74 elections for governor, for United States Senate, and for  
75 President of the United States, divided by the total votes  
76 cast for both parties in these elections. Using this index,  
77 the total number of wasted votes for each party, summing  
78 across all of the districts in the plan shall be  
79 calculated. "Wasted votes" are votes cast for a losing  
80 candidate or for a winning candidate in excess of the  
81 threshold needed for victory. In any redistricting plan and  
82 map of the proposed districts, the difference between the  
83 two parties' total wasted votes, divided by the total votes  
84 cast for the two parties, shall not exceed fifteen percent.

85 To promote competitiveness, the electoral performance  
86 index shall be used to simulate elections in which the  
87 hypothetical statewide vote shifts by one percent, two  
88 percent, three percent, four percent, and five percent in  
89 favor of each party. The vote in each individual district  
90 shall be assumed to shift by the same amount as the  
91 statewide vote. In each of these simulated elections, the  
92 difference between the two parties' total wasted votes,  
93 divided by the total votes cast for the two parties, shall  
94 not exceed fifteen percent.

95 (c) Within sixty days after the **adoption of this**  
96 **section and within sixty days after the** population of this  
97 state is reported to the President for each decennial census  
98 of the United States or, in the event that a redistricting  
99 plan has been invalidated by a court of competent  
100 jurisdiction, within sixty days that such a ruling has been  
101 made, the state committee and the congressional district  
102 committees of each of the two political parties casting the  
103 highest vote for governor at the last preceding general  
104 election shall meet and the members of each committee shall

105 nominate, by a majority vote of the elected members of the  
106 committee present, provided that a majority of the elected  
107 members is present, members of their party, residents in  
108 that district, in the case of a congressional district  
109 committee, as nominees for the [house] **general assembly**  
110 independent bipartisan citizens commission. **Each member of**  
111 **the committee shall be entitled to only one vote**  
112 **notwithstanding the number of offices or titles that the**  
113 **member may have or the manner in which the member became a**  
114 **member of the committee.** No party shall select more than  
115 one nominee from any one state legislative district. The  
116 congressional district committees shall each submit to the  
117 governor their list of two elected nominees. The state  
118 committees shall each submit to the governor their list of  
119 five elected nominees. Within thirty days thereafter, the  
120 governor shall appoint a [house] **general assembly**  
121 independent bipartisan citizens commission consisting of one  
122 nominee from each list submitted by each congressional  
123 district committee and two nominees from each list submitted  
124 by each state committee to redistrict [the state into one  
125 hundred and sixty-three representative districts] **each house**  
126 **of the general assembly** and to establish the numbers and  
127 boundaries of said districts. [No person shall be appointed  
128 to both the house independent bipartisan citizens commission  
129 and the senate independent bipartisan citizens commission  
130 during the same redistricting cycle.]

131 If any committee fails to submit a list within such  
132 time, the governor shall appoint a member of his or her own  
133 choice from the political party of the committee failing to  
134 submit a list, provided that in the case of a congressional  
135 district committee failing to submit a list, the person

136 appointed to the commission by the governor shall reside in  
137 the congressional district of such committee.

138 Members of the commission shall be disqualified from  
139 holding office as members of the general assembly for four  
140 years following the date of the filing by the commission of  
141 its final redistricting plan.

142 For the purposes of this Article, the term  
143 congressional district committee or congressional district  
144 refers to the congressional district committee or the  
145 congressional district from which a congressman was last  
146 elected, or, in the event members of congress from this  
147 state have been elected at large, the term congressional  
148 district committee refers to those persons who last served  
149 as the congressional district committee for those districts  
150 from which congressmen were last elected, and the term  
151 congressional district refers to those districts from which  
152 congressmen were last elected. Any action pursuant to this  
153 section by the congressional district committee shall take  
154 place only at duly called meetings, shall be recorded in  
155 their official minutes and only members present in person  
156 shall be permitted to vote.

157 (d) The commissioners so selected shall, on the  
158 fifteenth day, excluding Sundays and state holidays, after  
159 all members have been appointed, meet in the capitol  
160 building and proceed to organize by electing from their  
161 number a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. The  
162 commission shall adopt an agenda establishing at least three  
163 hearing dates on which hearings open to the public shall be  
164 held to hear objections or testimony from interested  
165 persons. A copy of the agenda shall be filed with the clerk  
166 of the house of representatives **and the secretary of senate**  
167 within twenty-four hours after its adoption. Executive

168 meetings may be scheduled and held as often as the  
169 commission deems advisable.

170 (e) Not later than five months after the appointment  
171 of the commission, the commission shall file with the  
172 secretary of state a tentative redistricting plan and map of  
173 the proposed districts and during the ensuing fifteen days  
174 shall hold such public hearings as may be necessary to hear  
175 objections or testimony of interested persons. The  
176 commission shall make public the tentative redistricting  
177 plan and map of the proposed districts, as well as all  
178 demographic and partisan data used in the creation of the  
179 plan and map.

180 (f) Not later than six months after the appointment of  
181 the commission, the commission shall file with the secretary  
182 of state a final statement of the numbers and the boundaries  
183 of the districts together with a map of the districts, and  
184 no statement shall be valid unless approved by at least  
185 seven-tenths of the members.

186 (g) After the final statement is filed, members of  
187 [the house of representatives] **each house of the general**  
188 **assembly** shall be elected according to such districts until  
189 a new redistricting plan is made as provided in this  
190 section[, except that if the final statement is not filed  
191 within six months of the time fixed for the appointment of  
192 the commission, the commission shall stand discharged and  
193 the house of representatives shall be redistricted using the  
194 same methods and criteria as described in subsection (b) of  
195 this section by a commission of six members appointed from  
196 among the judges of the appellate courts of the state of  
197 Missouri by the state supreme court, a majority of whom  
198 shall sign and file its redistricting plan and map with the  
199 secretary of state within ninety days of the date of the

200 discharge of the house independent bipartisan citizens  
201 commission. The judicial commission shall make public the  
202 tentative redistricting plan and map of the proposed  
203 districts, as well as all demographic and partisan data used  
204 in the creation of the plan and map. Thereafter, members of  
205 the house of representatives shall be elected according to  
206 such districts until a redistricting plan is made as  
207 provided in this section].

208 (h) Each member of the commission shall receive as  
209 compensation fifteen dollars a day for each day the  
210 commission is in session but not more than one thousand  
211 dollars, **or such compensation as is otherwise provided by**  
212 **law**, and, in addition, shall be reimbursed for his or her  
213 actual and necessary expenses incurred while serving as a  
214 member of the commission.

215 [(i) No redistricting plan shall be subject to the  
216 referendum.]

217 (j) Any action expressly or implicitly alleging that a  
218 redistricting plan violates this Constitution, federal law,  
219 or the United States Constitution shall be filed in the  
220 circuit court of Cole County and shall name the body that  
221 approved the challenged redistricting plan as a defendant.  
222 Only an eligible Missouri voter who sustains an individual  
223 injury by virtue of residing in a district that exhibits the  
224 alleged violation, and whose injury is remedied by a  
225 differently drawn district, shall have standing. If the  
226 court renders a judgment in which it finds that a completed  
227 redistricting plan exhibits the alleged violation, its  
228 judgment shall adjust only those districts, and only those  
229 parts of district boundaries, necessary to bring the map  
230 into compliance. The supreme court shall have exclusive



231 appellate jurisdiction upon the filing of a notice of appeal  
232 within ten days after the judgment has become final.]

Section 5. The senate shall consist of thirty-four  
2 members elected by the qualified voters of the senatorial  
3 districts for a term of four years. Senatorial districts  
4 shall be [apportioned] **redistricted** as provided for in  
5 Article III, Section [7] 3.

Section 7. (a) [Within sixty days after the  
2 population of this state is reported to the President for  
3 each decennial census of the United States, or within sixty  
4 days after a redistricting plan has been invalidated by a  
5 court of competent jurisdiction, the state committee and the  
6 congressional district committees of each of the two  
7 political parties casting the highest vote for governor at  
8 the last preceding general election shall meet and the  
9 members of each committee shall nominate, by a majority vote  
10 of the elected members of the committee present, provided  
11 that a majority of the elected members is present, members  
12 of their party, residents in that district, in the case of a  
13 congressional district committee, as nominees for the senate  
14 independent bipartisan citizens commission. No party shall  
15 select more than one nominee from any one state legislative  
16 district. The congressional district committees shall each  
17 submit to the governor their list of two elected nominees.  
18 The state committees shall each submit to the governor their  
19 list of five elected nominees. Within thirty days  
20 thereafter the governor shall appoint a senate independent  
21 bipartisan citizens commission consisting of two nominees  
22 from each list submitted by each state committee and one  
23 nominee from each list submitted by each congressional  
24 district committee, to redistrict the thirty-four senatorial  
25 districts and to establish the numbers and boundaries of

26 said districts. No person shall be appointed to both the  
27 house independent bipartisan citizens commission and the  
28 senate independent bipartisan citizens commission during the  
29 same redistricting cycle.

30 If any committee fails to submit a list within such  
31 time, the governor shall appoint a member of his or her own  
32 choice from the political party of the committee failing to  
33 submit a list, provided that in the case of a congressional  
34 district committee failing to submit a list, the person  
35 appointed to the commission by the governor shall reside in  
36 the congressional district of such committee.

37 Members of the commission shall be disqualified from  
38 holding office as members of the general assembly for four  
39 years following the date of the filing by the commission of  
40 its final redistricting plan.

41 (b) The commissioners so selected shall, on the  
42 fifteenth day, excluding Sundays and state holidays, after  
43 all members have been appointed, meet in the capitol  
44 building and proceed to organize by electing from their  
45 number a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. The  
46 commission shall adopt an agenda establishing at least three  
47 hearing dates on which hearings open to the public shall be  
48 held to hear objections or testimony from interested  
49 persons. A copy of the agenda shall be filed with the  
50 secretary of the senate within twenty-four hours after its  
51 adoption. Executive meetings may be scheduled and held as  
52 often as the commission deems advisable.

53 (c) The senate independent bipartisan citizens  
54 commission shall redistrict the senate using the same  
55 methods and criteria as those required by subsection (b),  
56 section 3 of this Article for the redistricting of the house  
57 of representatives.

58 (d) Not later than five months after the appointment  
59 of the senate independent bipartisan citizens commission,  
60 the commission shall file with the secretary of state a  
61 tentative redistricting plan and map of the proposed  
62 districts and during the ensuing fifteen days shall hold  
63 such public hearings as may be necessary to hear objections  
64 or testimony of interested persons. The commission shall  
65 make public the tentative redistricting plan and map of the  
66 proposed districts, as well as all demographic and partisan  
67 data used in the creation of the plan and map.

68 (e) Not later than six months after the appointment of  
69 the commission, the commission shall file with the secretary  
70 of state a final statement of the numbers and the boundaries  
71 of the districts together with a map of the districts, and  
72 no statement shall be valid unless approved by at least  
73 seven-tenths of the members.

74 (f) After the final statement is filed, senators shall  
75 be elected according to such districts until a new  
76 redistricting plan is made as provided in this section,  
77 except that if the final statement is not filed within six  
78 months of the time fixed for the appointment of the  
79 commission, the commission shall stand discharged and the  
80 senate shall be redistricted using the same methods and  
81 criteria as described in subsection (b) of section 3 of this  
82 Article by a commission of six members appointed from among  
83 the judges of the appellate courts of the state of Missouri  
84 by the state supreme court, a majority of whom shall sign  
85 and file its redistricting plan and map with the secretary  
86 of state within ninety days of the date of the discharge of  
87 the senate independent bipartisan citizens commission. The  
88 judicial commission shall make public the tentative  
89 redistricting plan and map of the proposed districts, as

90 well as all demographic and partisan data used in the  
91 creation of the plan and map. Thereafter, senators shall be  
92 elected according to such districts until a redistricting  
93 plan is made as provided in this section.

94 (g) Each member of the commission shall receive as  
95 compensation fifteen dollars a day for each day the  
96 commission is in session, but not more than one thousand  
97 dollars, and, in addition, shall be reimbursed for his or  
98 her actual and necessary expenses incurred while serving as  
99 a member of the commission] **If the general assembly  
100 independent bipartisan citizens commission final statement  
101 is not filed within six months of the time fixed for the  
102 appointment of the commission, the commission shall stand  
103 discharged and the general assembly shall be redistricted  
104 using the same methods and criteria as described in  
105 subsection (b) of section 3 of Article III, by a commission  
106 of six members appointed equally from among the judges of  
107 each of the districts of the appellate courts of the state  
108 of Missouri by the presiding judge of the state supreme  
109 court, a majority of whom shall sign and file its tentative  
110 redistricting plan and map with the secretary of state  
111 within thirty days of the date of the discharge of the  
112 general assembly independent bipartisan citizens commission  
113 to which the public may submit objections or comments.  
114 Within sixty days of the date of discharge of the general  
115 assembly independent bipartisan citizens commission, the  
116 judicial commission shall submit to the secretary of state  
117 and make public the final redistricting plan and map of the  
118 proposed districts, as well as all demographic and partisan  
119 data used in the creation of the plan and map. Thereafter,  
120 members of each house of the general assembly shall be**

121 **elected according to such districts until a redistricting**  
 122 **plan is made as provided in Article III, Section 3.**

123 [(h)] (b) No redistricting plan shall be subject to  
 124 the referendum.

125 [(i)] (c) Any action expressly or implicitly alleging  
 126 that a redistricting plan violates this Constitution,  
 127 federal law, or the United States Constitution shall be  
 128 filed in the circuit court of Cole County and shall name the  
 129 body that approved the challenged redistricting plan as a  
 130 defendant. Only an eligible Missouri voter who sustains an  
 131 individual injury by virtue of residing in a district that  
 132 exhibits the alleged violation, and whose injury is remedied  
 133 by a differently drawn district, shall have standing. If  
 134 the court renders a judgment in which it finds that a  
 135 completed redistricting plan exhibits the alleged violation,  
 136 its judgment shall adjust only those districts, and only  
 137 those parts of district boundaries, necessary to bring the  
 138 map into compliance. The supreme court shall have exclusive  
 139 appellate jurisdiction upon the filing of a notice of appeal  
 140 within ten days after the judgment has become final.

Section 8. (a) No one shall be elected to serve [more  
 2 than] as a member of:

3 (1) **The house of representatives for two years after**  
 4 **servng eight consecutive years in such house;**

5 (2) **The senate for four years after serving eight**  
 6 **consecutive years [total] in [any one] such house [of the**  
 7 **General Assembly nor more than]; or**

8 (3) **Either house of the general assembly for four**  
 9 **years after serving sixteen consecutive years [total] in**  
 10 **both houses of the General Assembly.**

11 (b) In applying this section, service in the General  
 12 Assembly [resulting from an election prior to December 3,

13 1992, or service] of less than one year, in the case of a  
14 member of the house of representatives, or two years, in the  
15 case of a member of the senate, by a person elected after  
16 the effective date of this section to complete the term of  
17 another person, shall not be counted.

Section 9. Until the convening of the [seventy-fourth]  
2 **one hundred seventh** General Assembly the House of  
3 Representatives shall consist of one hundred sixty-three  
4 members elected from [the] one hundred sixty-three  
5 representative districts[, as they existed January 1,  
6 1965]. **Beginning with the one hundred seventh general**  
7 **assembly, the house of representatives shall consist of one**  
8 **hundred seventy members elected from one hundred seventy**  
9 **districts by the qualified voters of such districts for a**  
10 **term of two years. Representative districts shall be**  
11 **redistricted as provided for in Section 3 of this Article.**

Section 16. [Senators and representatives shall  
2 receive from the state treasury as salary such sums as are  
3 provided by law.] **Until otherwise provided by law,**  
4 **notwithstanding Section 13 of Article VII of this**  
5 **constitution to the contrary, beginning with the first**  
6 **regular session following the adoption of Section 20 of this**  
7 **Article, each senator or representative shall receive from**  
8 **the state treasury as salary three times the sum as is**  
9 **currently provided by law at the time of the passage of this**  
10 **amendment. Senators and representatives shall devote their**  
11 **full time, during their term of office, to their duties as**  
12 **members of the general assembly.** No law fixing the  
13 compensation of members of the general assembly shall become  
14 effective until the first day of the regular session of the  
15 general assembly next following the session at which the law  
16 was enacted. Upon certification by the president and

17 secretary of the senate and by the speaker and chief clerk  
18 of the house of representatives as to the respective members  
19 thereof, the state comptroller shall audit and the state  
20 treasurer shall pay such compensation without legislative  
21 enactment. [Until otherwise provided by law] Senators and  
22 representatives shall receive [one dollar for every ten  
23 miles] **such sum as is provided by law for each mile** traveled  
24 in going to and returning from their place of meeting while  
25 the legislature is in session, on the most usual route.

26 [Until otherwise provided by law,] Each senator or  
27 representative shall be reimbursed from the state treasury  
28 for the actual and necessary expenses incurred by him **or her**  
29 in attending sessions of the general assembly in [the] **such**  
30 sum [of ten dollars (\$10.00)] **as is provided by law** per day  
31 for each day on which the journal of the senate or house  
32 respectively shows the presence of such senator or  
33 representative. Upon certification by the president and  
34 secretary of the senate and by the speaker and chief clerk  
35 of the house of representatives as to the respective members  
36 thereof, the state comptroller shall approve and the state  
37 treasurer shall pay monthly such expense allowance without  
38 legislative enactment.

Section 18. Each house shall appoint its own officers;  
2 shall be sole judge of the qualifications, election and  
3 returns of its own members; **and** may determine the rules of  
4 its own proceedings, except as herein provided[;]. **The**  
5 **lieutenant governor shall cast the deciding vote on equal**  
6 **division in the house of representatives. Each house** may  
7 arrest and punish by fine not exceeding three hundred  
8 dollars, or imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding ten  
9 days, or both, any person not a member, who shall be guilty  
10 of disrespect to the house by any disorderly or contemptuous

11 behavior in its presence during its sessions; may punish its  
12 members for disorderly conduct; and, with the concurrence of  
13 two-thirds of all members elect, may expel a member; but no  
14 member shall be expelled a second time for the same cause.

Section 20. The general assembly shall [meet] **convene**  
2 on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January  
3 following each general election. The general assembly may  
4 provide by law for the introduction of bills, **to be**  
5 **considered in the session commencing the first Wednesday**  
6 **after the first Monday of January following each general**  
7 **election**, during the period between the first day of  
8 December **following each general election** and the first  
9 Wednesday after the first Monday of January **following each**  
10 **general election. The general assembly shall be a**  
11 **continuous body during the term for which members of the**  
12 **house of representatives are elected.**

13 [The general assembly shall reconvene on the first  
14 Wednesday after the first Monday of January after  
15 adjournment at midnight on May thirtieth of the preceding  
16 year.] A majority of the elected members of each house  
17 shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller  
18 number may adjourn from day to day, and may compel the  
19 attendance of absent members in such manner and under such  
20 penalties as each house may provide. The sessions of each  
21 house shall be held with open doors, except in cases which  
22 may require secrecy but not including the final vote on  
23 bills, resolutions and confirmations. Neither house shall,  
24 without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than ten  
25 days at any one time, nor to any other place than that in  
26 which the two houses may be sitting.

Section 20(a). The general assembly shall adjourn at  
2 midnight on [May thirtieth until the first Wednesday after



3 the first Monday of January of the following year] **December**  
4 **thirty-first after each general election**, unless it has  
5 adjourned prior thereto. All bills in either house  
6 remaining on the calendar after 6:00 p.m. on the [first  
7 Friday following the second Monday in May] **thirtieth day of**  
8 **November immediately following each general election** are  
9 tabled. **For any bills not enrolled, engrossed, signed and**  
10 **delivered to the governor, prior to the thirtieth day of**  
11 **November following the general election**, the period between  
12 the first [Friday following the second Monday in May and May  
13 thirtieth] **day in December following each general election**  
14 **and the tenth day of December following each general**  
15 **election** shall be devoted to the enrolling, engrossing, and  
16 the signing in open session by officers of the respective  
17 houses of bills passed prior to 6:00 p.m. on [the first  
18 Friday following the second Monday in May] **the thirtieth day**  
19 **of November following each general election.**

20 The general assembly shall automatically stand  
21 adjourned sine die at 6:00 p.m. on [the sixtieth calendar  
22 day after the date of its convening in special session] **the**  
23 **thirty-first day of December following each general**  
24 **election**, unless it has adjourned sine die prior thereto.

Section 31. Every bill which shall have passed the  
2 house of representatives and the senate shall be presented  
3 to and considered by the governor, and, within fifteen days  
4 after presentment, he shall return such bill to the house in  
5 which it originated endorsed with his approval or  
6 accompanied by his objections. If the bill be approved by  
7 the governor it shall become a law. [When the general  
8 assembly adjourns, or recesses for a period of thirty days  
9 or more, the governor shall return within forty-five days  
10 any bill to the office of the secretary of state with his

11 approval or reasons for disapproval.] If any bill shall not  
12 be returned by the governor within the time limits  
13 prescribed by this section it shall become law in like  
14 manner as if the governor had signed it.

Section 32. Every bill presented to the governor and  
2 returned with his objections shall stand as reconsidered in  
3 the house to which it is returned, **at any time the general**  
4 **assembly may be in session, in the sole discretion of the**  
5 **general assembly, but not later than thirty days after the**  
6 **bill is returned, with objections, by the governor.** If the  
7 governor returns any bill with his objections on or after  
8 the fifth day before the last day upon which a session of  
9 the general assembly may consider bills, the general  
10 assembly shall automatically reconvene on the [first  
11 Wednesday following the second Monday in September] **twenty-**  
12 **seventh day of December following each general election** for  
13 a period not to exceed [ten] **five** calendar days for the sole  
14 purpose of considering bills returned by the governor. The  
15 objections of the governor shall be entered upon the journal  
16 and the house shall proceed to consider the question  
17 pending, which shall be in this form: "Shall the bill pass,  
18 the objections of the governor thereto notwithstanding?" The  
19 vote upon this question shall be taken by yeas and nays and  
20 if two-thirds of the elected members of the house vote in  
21 the affirmative the presiding officer of that house shall  
22 certify that fact on the roll, attesting the same by his  
23 signature, and send the bill with the objections of the  
24 governor to the other house, in which like proceedings shall  
25 be had in relation thereto. The bill thus certified shall  
26 be deposited in the office of the secretary of state as an  
27 authentic act and shall become a law.

2 [Section 20(b). Upon the filing with the  
3 secretary of state of a petition stating the  
4 purpose for which the session is to be called  
5 and signed by three-fourths of the members of  
6 the senate and three-fourths of the members of  
7 the house of representatives, the president pro  
8 tem of the senate and the speaker of the house  
9 shall by joint proclamation convene the general  
10 assembly in special session. The proclamation  
11 shall state specifically each matter contained  
12 in the petition on which action is deemed  
13 necessary. No appropriation bill shall be  
14 considered in a special session convened  
15 pursuant to this section if in that year the  
16 general assembly has not passed the operating  
17 budget in compliance with Section 25 of this  
18 article.]

19 The general assembly shall automatically  
20 stand adjourned sine die at 6:00 p.m. on the  
21 thirtieth calendar day after the date of its  
22 convening in special session under this section  
unless it has adjourned sine die prior thereto.]

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