

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H. F. 2205

**DATE:** May 10, 2001

**Version:** Third engrossment

**Authors:** Pawlenty and others

**Subject:** Changing legislative sessions, fiscal biennium

**Analyst:** Tom Todd, 651-296-5048

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### Overview

The bill: (1) proposes a constitutional amendment changing the period of the constitutional fiscal biennium (used only for certificates of indebtedness); and (2) shifts, by law, the long legislative session from the first to the second (even-numbered) year of the legislative biennium.

### Section

- 1 **Constitutional amendment.** Proposes an amendment to the constitution changing the beginning and ending date of the constitutional fiscal biennium from the odd-numbered year to the even-numbered year, to coordinate with the change in the legislative session that would result from the enactment of section 3 of the bill. (The constitutional fiscal biennium is used only as the period for issuing and redeeming certificates of indebtedness, which the state is authorized by the constitution to use to fund short-term operating deficits.)
- 2 **Submission to voters.** States the question for the voters on the constitutional amendment proposed by section 1.
- 3 **Sessions.** Limits the regular legislative session in the odd-numbered year to an organizational session not exceeding 30 days, and requires the legislature to reconvene the regular session in the even-numbered year on a day in the first week in January. (The length of the session in the even-numbered year would be limited by existing constitutional requirements -- i.e., a limit of 120 legislative days for the biennium, and adjournment by the late-May deadline.) The legislature would be allowed to reconvene the regular session in the odd-numbered year on extraordinary occasions by written agreement of the speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate or by petition of a majority of the members of each house. (Also, the governor has authority under existing law to call the legislature into a special session on extraordinary occasions.)
- 4 **Implementing legislation.** Requires the LCC or a bicameral committee appointed by the LCC to prepare legislation and other recommendations for the 2002 session to implement section 3.

- 5      **Effective date.** Makes section 3 effective for the legislature convening in January, 2005, and thereafter. Makes section 1, if it is ratified by the voters, effective commencing with the fiscal biennium beginning in 2006.