Overview

The bill proposes a constitutional amendment that would, if ratified, lengthen the terms of legislators commencing, effectively, with the 2002 election. Representatives would serve terms of four years, except that all representatives would stand for election after each apportionment. Between apportionments, senators would serve terms first of four years and then six years. The bill also proposes, a constitutional amendment that would, if ratified, restrict the Senate, commencing in 2003, to meeting in regular session only in the first year after the state general election and to acting only on revenue and appropriation bills. If this partial unicameral amendment were ratified, the bill would also amend the law that prescribes the size of the legislature, reducing the number of senators to 48 and the number of representatives to 96, at the election in 2002.

Article 1

Length of Terms

Section

1 Constitutional amendment. Proposes amendments to the state constitution that would: (a) lengthen the terms of representatives from two years to four years, with all representatives standing for election at the first general election after each apportionment; and (b) set the initial term of senators after each apportionment at four years and the subsequent term at six years.

2 Question. States the question for the voters at the 2000 election: Shall the constitution be amended to provide longer terms for state legislators?

3 Effective date. Makes the proposed constitutional amendment, if ratified, effective upon ratification and applicable to the 2000 election.

Article 2
Partial Unicameral; Size

1 **Constitutional amendment.** Proposes amendments to the legislative article of the state constitution that would: (a) restrict the Senate to meeting in regular session only in the first year after each state general election and to acting only upon revenue and appropriation bills; (b) allow the House to enact nonfiscal bills without the Senate; (c) allow the House, by a two-thirds vote, to override a veto of a nonfiscal bill enacted by the House acting alone; and (d) allow the House to call a special session of the legislature in years when the Senate does not meet for purposes of enacting revenue or appropriation bills.

2 **Question.** States the question for the voters at the 2000 election: Shall the constitution be amended to limit the Senate to meeting only in the first year after the state general election and to acting only on revenue and appropriation bills?

3 **Number of members.** Amends the law that prescribes the size of the legislature, reducing the Senate from 67 to 48 members and the House from 134 to 96 members.

4 **Effective date; application.** Makes the proposed constitutional amendment, if ratified, effective for sessions of the legislature beginning in January, 2003. Makes the reduction in the number of legislators applicable commencing with the election in 2002, if the proposed constitutional amendment is ratified.