The bill proposes an amendment to the state constitution that, if adopted by the voters in the 2000 general election, would: (1) replace the House and Senate with a single legislative body called the Legislature, beginning in 2003; (2) provide a four-year term of office for members of the legislature, called senators; and (3) stagger, or overlap, legislative terms of office, so that about one-half of the members would stand for election in each of the general elections between decennial redistricting. If the proposed amendment is adopted, the bill also would amend the law that sets the number of legislators, replacing the current 201 legislators (67 senators and 134 representatives) with 135 senators.

1 **Constitutional amendments proposed.** Proposes amendments to various sections of the constitution, with four main substantive effects: (a) The legislature would consist of a single legislative body called the Legislature, whose members would be called senators.

   (b) The Legislature would have the same legislative powers and other powers (e.g., advice and consent, impeachment, etc.) possessed by the current bicameral legislature. (c) The term of office of senators would be four years. (d) Terms of office would be overlapped after each decennial redistricting, by having senators from odd-numbered districts serve an initial term of two years. The result would be that, until the next redistricting, about one-half of the senators would stand for election every two years.

2 **Ballot proposition.** States the question to be submitted to the voters at the 2000 general election: Should the constitution be amended to replace the House and Senate with a single legislative body called the Legislature, beginning in 2003?

3 **Number of members.** Sets the number of senators, by law, at 135 and eliminates references to representatives.

4 **Legislative districts.** Sets the number of senate districts, by law, at 135 and eliminates references to House districts.
Effective date. Makes the constitutional amendment and statutory changes effective for senators whose terms begin in 2003, if the amendment is adopted by the voters.