



General Assembly

**House Joint Resolution  
No. 34**

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 6136



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO MAKE  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FULL TIME.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the  
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the  
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and  
4 purposes, become a part thereof:

5 Article third of the amendments to the Constitution is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 There shall be a regular session of the general assembly  
8 commencing on the Wednesday following the first Monday of January  
9 [in the odd-numbered years and on the Wednesday following the first  
10 Monday of February in the even-numbered years,] of each year and at  
11 such other times as the general assembly shall judge necessary; but the  
12 person administering the office of governor may, on special  
13 emergencies, convene the general assembly at any other time. The  
14 general assembly, by concurrent vote of both houses of the general

15 assembly, may take a recess or recesses amounting to not more than  
16 thirty days per recess. The general assembly shall adopt rules defining  
17 "recess" and the procedures applicable to any such recess. All regular  
18 and special sessions of the general assembly shall be held at Hartford,  
19 but the person administering the office of governor may, in case of  
20 special emergency, convene the assembly at any other place in the  
21 state. The general assembly shall adjourn each regular session [in the  
22 odd-numbered years] not later than the first Wednesday after the first  
23 Monday in [June and in the even-numbered years not later than the  
24 first Wednesday after the first Monday in May] December of each year  
25 and shall adjourn each special session upon completion of its business.  
26 If any bill passed by any regular or special session or any  
27 appropriation item described in Section 16 of Article Fourth has been  
28 disapproved by the governor prior to its adjournment, and has not  
29 been reconsidered by the assembly, or is so disapproved after such  
30 adjournment, the secretary of the state shall reconvene the general  
31 assembly on the second Monday after the last day on which the  
32 governor is authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill to the  
33 secretary with his objections pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of  
34 this constitution, whichever occurs first; provided if such Monday falls  
35 on a legal holiday the general assembly shall be reconvened on the  
36 next following day. The reconvened session shall be for the sole  
37 purpose of reconsidering and, if the assembly so desires, repassing  
38 such bills. The general assembly shall adjourn sine die not later than  
39 three days following its reconvening. In the even year regular session  
40 the general assembly shall consider no business other than budgetary,  
41 revenue and financial matters, bills and resolutions raised by  
42 committees of the general assembly and those matters certified in  
43 writing by the speaker of the house of representatives and president  
44 pro tempore of the senate to be of an emergency nature.

45 Except as provided in this section, neither the state nor any political  
46 subdivision of the state shall pay or grant to any elected official of the  
47 state or any political subdivision of the state, any compensation greater  
48 than the amount of compensation set at the beginning of such official's

49 term of office for the office which such official holds or increase the  
50 pay or compensation of any public contractor above the amount  
51 specified in the contract. The provisions of this section shall not apply  
52 to members of the general assembly holding office after the length of  
53 regular sessions has been increased pursuant to the adoption of an  
54 amendment to this constitution following the approval of the electors  
55 at the general election held in an even-numbered year voting on such  
56 amendment. The general assembly elected at the general election held  
57 immediately prior to the approval of such amendment may provide in  
58 appropriate legislation for an increase in salary for members of the  
59 general assembly commensurate with such increased length of session.  
60 The provisions of this section shall not apply to elected officials in  
61 towns in which the legislative body is the town meeting. The  
62 compensation of an elected official of a political subdivision of the  
63 state whose term of office is four years or more may be increased once  
64 after such official has completed two years of his term by the  
65 legislative body of such political subdivision. The term "compensation"  
66 means, with respect to an elected official, such official's salary,  
67 exclusive of reimbursement for necessary expenses or any other benefit  
68 to which his office would entitle him.

69 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
70 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
71 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, and  
72 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented  
73 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020,  
74 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the  
75 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed  
76 amendment to be used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the  
77 Constitution of the State be amended to (1) change the date of  
78 adjournment of regular sessions of the General Assembly from certain  
79 days in June in the odd-numbered year and May in the even-  
80 numbered year to December of each year with recesses permitted, and  
81 (2) to permit the General Assembly to increase the salary of current  
82 members of the General Assembly given the increased length of

83 session?"

Co-Sponsors: REP. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.

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