

advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Chairman Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the committee amendments do three things on LR 233CA. The first thing they do is they say that the five-day organizational session that's called for in LR 233 would start on the first Monday in December of even numbered years. The bill originally had called for them to start on the 1st day of December and had some language saying, well, unless that day fell on a Saturday or Sunday. We just decided it would be much easier to say the first Monday of December of the even numbered years. The second change made by the committee amendments is in dealing with the terms of the newly elected or the reelected senators in the 1992 election. And it says that after the '92 election and the sessions, their terms would begin on the first day of the organizational session in December rather than on the beginning of the session in January. And that was done because otherwise you would have senators that had possibly been defeated in the election, possibly didn't run for reelection, would be participating in an organizational session that they would have nothing to do with starting in January. And it also contains some language that says that there is a reference to Article III, Section 7, of the Constitution which would automatically shorten the terms of the people who are in office at that point. They would actually have one month less in office than they would have had under the original Constitution. So this is to deal with that situation. The other thing that the committee did was that the original bill called for two 60-day sessions. The committee amended that to call for two 70-day sessions rather than 60-day sessions, plus the five-day organizational session. What this does in effect is it says that right now we have the 90 and the 60-day sessions, we have 150 days over the two years. This would say that we would have two 70-day sessions, 140 days, plus a five-day organizational session, which would mean we would have 145 days instead of the 150 days that we have now. The committee felt that the two 60-day sessions were possibly too short and that's why we amended it to 70-day sessions. We also felt that there is a better possibility of the voters passing an issue like this, if we would agree to lessen the number of days that the Legislature is in session. I know some people feel safer when we're out of session than when we're in session, so we thought we would lessen those number...the number of days