

introduced on January 10 of 1995, at that time was referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for public hearing. There are committee amendments pending by the Government Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson, as the Chair of the Government Committee, you are recognized to speak on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment represents a combining of the original LR 17CA of Senator Lindsay's and LR 38 of Senator Wesely. Both of these proposed constitutional amendments deal with our legislative sessions. The committee amendment provides for alternating 75-day and 60-day legislative sessions. The 75-day session would start on the fifth Wednesday after the general election in each even-numbered year; and the 60-day session would begin on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year. I think there will be amendments to change the number of days, although I think the total would still be the 135. The terms of the members of the Legislature would commence on the first day of the 75-day session and the proceeding terms would end on that date. The idea behind this is to meet for a long session for about five days in December, to organize, elect chairs of committees, introduce bills and look at the rules. We would then adjourn until January. This would enable senators to complete their office moves, bills could be printed and hearings could begin much earlier in January. Also starting in December we could prevent some duplication in bill introduction. The senator has an opportunity to see that a bill he has, or she was considering has already been introduced, that bill would not have to be drafted or printed. There's one problem with the idea of starting the session in December, and that has to do with the fact that the Board of Governors meets only a few days before the proposed beginning of the session in order to certify the election results. I passed out a letter from Secretary of State...from the Secretary of State that better explains the problem. The Government Committee briefly discussed the problem last year, but decided to go forward with the general idea, and then if the body accepts the general proposal of starting early we can correct the logistical problems on Select File. And, as I said, there will be amendments addressing this problem. There