
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE YEAR-ROUND LEGISLATURE MODELS OF CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND WISCONSIN TO CLARIFY THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULES, OPERATIONAL COSTS, LEGISLATIVE AND STAFF SALARIES, AND POLICIES REGARDING OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the constitutionally mandated length of a
2 legislative session is sixty working days per year, generally
3 stretching from the third Wednesday in January until early May;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, certain facets of community engagement, emergency
7 response, and other operational aspects of the Legislature could
8 be improved by requiring the Legislature to be in session
9 throughout the whole year; and

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11 WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature in Hawaii could provide a
12 more thorough understanding of public sentiment, as lawmakers
13 have increased opportunities to interact with their constituents
14 and stakeholders and analyze community needs in greater detail,
15 which enables them to have a more precise understanding of
16 public opinion on a wide range of social and economic issues;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, legislatures in the nation with longer legislative
20 sessions are more likely to establish policies that address
21 specific concerns of their state, rather than applying policies
22 from other states and national lobbying organizations; and

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24 WHEREAS, a year-round Legislature would also increase
25 transparency as it would provide lawmakers more time to address
26 statewide issues while also providing more opportunity for
27 public input and engagement; and
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1 WHEREAS, however, a year-long Legislature would require
2 increased staffing and resources; and

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4 WHEREAS, the costs associated with a year-long Legislature
5 have not been studied in depth and there is no understanding of
6 the potential financial burden on taxpayers if the Legislature
7 were to operate year-round; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2024, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
12 requested to study the year-round legislature models of
13 California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin to clarify the
14 similarities and differences in operations with respect to
15 legislative schedules, operational costs, legislative and staff
16 salaries, and policies regarding outside employment; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
19 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its study, including
20 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
21 Legislature no later than forty-five days prior to the convening
22 of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
26 Reference Bureau.

