



2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 63

September 21, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives BARCA, HEBL, SINICKI, KOLSTE, DOYLE, WACHS, MASON, POPE, BOWEN, SARGENT, MILROY, OHNSTAD, RIEMER, SPREITZER, GOYKE, SHANKLAND, JOHNSON, SUBECK, BERCEAU, JORGENSEN and ZAMARRIPA, cosponsored by Senators VINEHOUT, CARPENTER, WIRCH, LASSA, RISSER and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations.

1 **To renumber** section 10 of article IV; and **to create** section 10 (2) of article IV of the
2 constitution; **relating to:** requiring the legislature to enact laws requiring
3 reasonable notice of and public access to meetings of governmental bodies,
4 including legislative committees, and making members of the legislature
5 subject to citations and civil penalties for violations of such laws (first
6 consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2015 legislature on first consideration, requires the legislature to enact laws requiring reasonable notice of and public access to meetings of governmental bodies, including legislative committees, and makes members of the legislature subject to citations and civil penalties for violations of such laws. Currently, the constitution exempts members from civil process during the legislative session and for 15 days before and after the session.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

7 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:***

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 10 of article IV of the constitution is renumbered section 10
2 (1) of article IV.

3 **SECTION 2.** Section 10 (2) of article IV of the constitution is created to read:

4 [Article IV] Section 10 (2) The legislature shall enact laws requiring
5 governmental bodies to conduct business in meetings that are held with reasonable
6 prior notice and accessible to the public and make these laws applicable to legislative
7 committees. Notwithstanding section 8 of this article, courts of law may apply these
8 laws to senate, assembly, and other legislative committees. Notwithstanding section
9 15 of this article, members of the legislature are subject to citation and civil penalties
10 during a legislative session for violations of such laws.

11 **SECTION 3. Numbering of new provisions.** If another constitutional
12 amendment ratified by the people creates the number of any provision created in this
13 joint resolution, the chief of the legislative reference bureau shall determine the
14 sequencing and the numbering of the provisions whose numbers conflict.

15 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the
16 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for three
17 months previous to the time of holding such election.

18 **(END)**