

## **SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AFFECTING OPERATIONS OF THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE**

- Reapportionment, SQ 416 (1964): The Senate was divided into 19 one-county districts and 29 two-county districts, and the House was divided into districts by dividing the state population by one hundred, and applying that ratio by county population. Every county was guaranteed to have at least one House member representing it. The federal courts shortly thereafter invalidated the system and required apportionment based on one-person, one-vote (Sections 9A and 10A of Article V).
- Annual sessions, SQ 435 (1966): Sessions were changed from odd-numbered years only to annual (Section 26 of Article V).
- Legislative salaries, SQ 329 (1948) and SQ 462 (1968): The first of these state questions set legislative salaries at \$100 per month, or in lieu thereof, per diem of \$15 per day for up to 75 days of the legislative session, plus 10 cents per mile. In 1968 this was changed to create the Board on Legislative Compensation, which sets compensation every two years (Section 21 of Article V).
- Special sessions, SQ 540 (1980): The Legislature was granted the power to call itself into special session, rather than only being called in by the Governor (Section 27A of Article V).
- Appropriations limitations, SQ 587 (1985): After several years of consecutive revenue failures, the budgeting formula was changed to limit appropriations to 95% of the estimate. This question also created the Constitutional Reserve Fund (aka the Rainy Day Fund), half of which could be appropriated for the upcoming fiscal year if revenues were estimated to be less than the current fiscal year, and half of which could be appropriated for the current fiscal year, upon the Governor's declaration of an emergency and a 2/3 vote, or a 3/4 vote without the Governor's declaration.
- Length of sessions, SQ 620 (1989): The legislative session was changed from a maximum of 90 legislative days, beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, to the first Monday in February through not later than the last Friday in May. An organizational day is scheduled in odd-numbered years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January. Prior to this change, the Legislature often met for less than four days per week and adjourned in June or July (Section 26 of Article V).
- Term limits, SQ 632 (1990): Limited the length of service of members of the Legislature to twelve years (combined Senate and House service). The measure took effect on January 1, 1991, and members serving on that date could complete their current terms and serve an additional twelve years. The first election cycle at which members were no longer eligible to serve due to term limits was in 2004 (Section 17A of Article V).
- Revenue bills, SQ 640 (1992): The Legislature's power to enact a revenue bill was limited by requiring it to either be submitted to the people for a vote, or be approved by a 3/4 vote in each house (Section 33 of Article V).

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