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44 States with Annual Sessions (12 with one shortened session)
 6 States with Biennial Sessions (AR, MT, NV, ND, OR, TX)

Table 3.2
 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions			Special sessions			
	Year	Month	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Alabama	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues. (b)	30 L in 105 C	No	Yes (f)	12 L in 30 C
Alaska	Annual	Mar.	1st Tues. (c)(d)	121 C (h)	By 2/3 vote of members	Yes (i)	30 C
Arizona	Annual	Feb.	1st Tues. (e)	(i)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (i)	None
Arkansas	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	2nd Mon.	60 C (h)	No	Yes (f,k)	(k)
California	(l)	Jan.	3rd Mon. (g)	None	No	No	None
Colorado	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	120 C	By request, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (i)	None
Connecticut	Annual (m)	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(p)	Yes (g)	(q)	None (r)
Delaware	Annual	Feb.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (o)	June 30	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Florida	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (o)	60 C (h)	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses or by petition through Dept. of State, 3/5 members, both houses	Yes (f)	20 C (h)
Georgia	Annual	Mar.	2nd Tues. after 1st Mon. (d)				
Hawaii	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	40 L	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (i)	(s)
Hawaii	Annual	Jan.	3rd Wed.	60 L (h)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (h)
Idaho	Annual	Jan.	Mon. on or nearest 9th day	None	No	No	20 C
Illinois	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (i)	None
Indiana	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (d)(t)	odd-61 C or Apr. 29	No	Yes	30 L or 40 C
Iowa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(u)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kansas	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	Even-30 C or Mar. 13	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kentucky	Annual	Jan.	Tues after 1st Mon. (d)	Even-30 C or Mar. 13	No	No	None
Louisiana	Annual	Mar.	last Mon. (d)(n)	Even-30 C or Mar. 13	By petition, majority, each house	Yes (i)	30 C
Maine	(l, m)	Apr.	last Mon. (m)(o)	Even-60 L in 85 C	Joint call, presiding officers, with consent of majority of members of each political party, each house	Yes (i)	None
Maine		Dec.	1st Wed. (b)	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Maine		Jan.	Wed. after 1st Tues. (o)	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Maryland	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Massachusetts	Annual	Jan.	1st Wed.	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Michigan	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Minnesota	(y)	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (n)	Even-60 L in 75 C			
Minnesota		Jan.	120 L or 1st Mon. after 3rd Sat. in May (y)	Even-60 L in 75 C			

SOURCE: THE BOOK OF THE STATES - 2002
 34 call into session

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Regular sessions			Special sessions		
		Legislature convenes	Month	Day	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Mississippi	Annual	Tues. after 1st Mon.	Jan.		No	No	None
Missouri	Annual	Wed. after 1st Mon.	Jan.		By petition, 3/4 members, each house	Yes	30 C (aa)
Montana	Biennial-odd year	1st Mon.	Jan.		By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Nevada	Annual	Wed. after 1st Mon.	Jan.		By petition, 2/3 members	Yes	None
Nevada	Biennial-odd year	1st Mon.	Feb.		No	No	20 C
New Hampshire	Annual	Wed. after 1st Tues. (d)	Jan.		By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes	15 L (u)
New Jersey	Annual	2nd Tues.	Jan.		By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
New Mexico	Annual (m)	3rd Tues.	Jan.		By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (f)	30 C
New York	Annual	Wed. after 1st Mon.	Jan.		By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (f)	None
North Carolina	(y)	3rd Wed. after 2nd Mon. (n)	Jan.		By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes	None
North Dakota	Biennial-odd year	Tues. after Jan. 3, but not later than Jan. 11 (d)	Jan.		Yes (kk)	Yes	None
Ohio	Annual	1st Mon. (mm)	Jan.		Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Oklahoma	Annual	1st Mon. (cc)	Feb.		By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (f)	None
Oregon	Biennial-odd year	2nd Mon.	Jan.		By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Pennsylvania	Annual (l)	1st Tues.	Jan.		By petition, majority each house	No	None
Rhode Island	Annual	1st Tues.	Jan.		No	No	None
South Carolina	Annual	2nd Tues. (d)	Jan.		No	No	None
South Dakota	Annual	2nd Tues.	Jan.		No	Yes	None
Tennessee	Annual	(dd)	Jan.		By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Texas	Biennial-odd year	2nd Tues.	Jan.		No	Yes	30 L (u)
Utah	Annual	3rd Mon.	Jan.		No	No	30 C
Vermont	(y)	Wed. after 1st Mon. (n)	Jan.		No	No	30 C (cc)
Virginia	Annual	2nd Wed.	Jan.		By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Washington	Annual	2nd Mon.	Jan.		By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
West Virginia	Annual	2nd Wed. (c, d)	Feb.		By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes	30 C
Wisconsin	Annual (gg)	2nd Wed. (e)	Jan.		By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (ff)	None
Wisconsin	Annual (gg)	1st Mon. (n)	Jan.		By petition, vote, majority members each house, vote by majority, organization committee each house	No	None
Wyoming	Annual (m)	2nd Tues. (n)	Jan.		Yes	Yes	None
Wyoming	Annual (m)	3rd Mon. (o)	Feb.				None

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS - Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions			Special sessions			
	Year	Month	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Dist. of Columbia	(hh)	Jan.	2nd day	None	No	No	None
American Samoa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	45 L	No	No	None
Guam	Annual	July	2nd Mon.	45 L	No	No	None
No. Mariana Islands	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (ii)	None	Upon request of presiding officers, both houses	Yes (i)	None
Puerto Rico	Annual	(j)	(d, j)	90 L (ii)	No	No	10 C
U.S. Virgin Islands	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	No	No	20 C
		Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	No	No	None

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002 and state web sites.

Note: Some legislatures will also reconvene after normal session to consider bills vetoed by governor. Connecticut-if governor vetoes any bill, secretary of state must reconvene General Assembly on second Monday after the last day on which governor is either authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill with his objections, whichever occurs first; General Assembly must adjourn sine die not later than three days after its reconvening. Hawaii-legislature may reconvene on 45th day after adjournment sine die, in special session, without call. Louisiana-legislature meets in a maximum five-day session on the 40th day after final adjournment. Missouri-if governor returns any bill on or after the fifth day before the last day on which legislature may consider bills (in even-numbered years), legislature automatically reconvenes on first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for a maximum 10 C sessions. New Jersey-legislature meets in special session (with-out call or petition) to act on bills returned by governor on 45th day after sine die adjournment of the regular session; if the second year expires before the 45th day, the day preceding the end of the legislative year. Utah-if 2/3 of the members of each house favor reconvening to consider vetoed bills, a maximum five-day session is set by the presiding officers. Virginia-legislature reconvenes on sixth Wednesday after adjournment for a maximum three-day session (may be extended to seven days upon vote of majority of members elected to each house). Washington-upon petition of 2/3 of the members of each house, legislature meets 45 days after adjournment for a maximum five-day session.

Key:

C - Calendar day

L - Legislative day (in some states called a session day or workday; definition may vary slightly, however, generally refers to any day on which either house of legislature is in session).

(a) Applies to each year unless otherwise indicated.

(b) General election year (quadrennial election year).

(c) Year after quadrennial election.

(d) Legal provision for organizational session prior to stated convening date. Alabama-in the year after quadrennial election, second Tuesday in January for 10 C. California-in the even-numbered general election year, first Monday in December for an organizational session, recess until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year. Florida-in general election year, 14th day after election. Indiana-third Tuesday after first Monday in November. Kentucky-in odd-numbered year, Tuesday after first Monday in January for 10 L. Louisiana-in year after general election, second Monday in January, not to exceed 3 L. New Hampshire-in even-numbered year, first Wednesday in December. North Dakota-in December. South Carolina-in even-numbered year, Tuesday after certification of election of its members for a maximum three-day session. West Virginia-in year after general election, on second Wednesday in January. No. Mariana Islands-in year after general election, second Monday in January.

(c) Other years.

(f) By 2/3 vote each house.

(g) Following a gubernatorial election year.

(h) Session may be extended by vote of members in both houses. Alaska-2/3 vote for 10-day extension. Arkansas-2/3 vote. Florida-3/5 vote, session may be extended by vote of members in each house. Hawaii-petition of 2/3 membership for maximum 15-day extension. Kansas-2/3 vote. Maine-2/3 vote for maximum 10 L. Maryland-3/5 vote for maximum 30 C. Mississippi-2/3 vote for 30 C extension, no limit on number of extensions. Nebraska-4/5 vote. South Carolina-2/3 vote. Virginia-2/3 vote for 30 C extension. West Virginia-2/3 vote (or if budget bill has not been acted upon three days before session ends, governor issues proclamation extending session). Puerto Rico-joint resolution.

(i) Only if legislature convenes itself. Special sessions called by the legislature are unlimited in scope in Arizona, Georgia, Maine, and New Mexico.

(j) No constitutional or statutory provision; however, legislative rules require that regular sessions adjourn no later than Saturday of the week during which the 100th day of the session falls.

(k) After governor's business has been disposed of, members may remain in session up to 15 C by a 2/3 vote of both houses.

(l) Regular sessions begin after general election, in December of even-numbered year. In California, legislature meets in December for an organizational session, recesses until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year and continues in session until Nov. 30 of next even-numbered year. In Maine, session which begins in December of general election year runs into the following year (odd-numbered); second session begins in next even-numbered year.

(m) Second session limited to consideration of specific types of legislation. Connecticut-individual legislators may only introduce bills of a fiscal nature, emergency legislation and bills raised by committees. Louisiana-fiscal matters. Maine-budgetary matters; legislation in the governor's call; emergency legislation; Louisiana-governor's message; vetoed bills. New Mexico-budgets, appropriations and revenue bills; bills drawn pursuant to governor's message; vetoed bills. Wyoming-budget bills, other bills require a 2/3 vote for introduction.

(n) Odd-numbered years.

(o) Even-numbered years.

(p) Odd-numbered years-not later than Wednesday after first Monday in June; even-numbered-years not later than Wednesday after first Monday in May.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS — Continued

- (q) Constitution provides for regular session convening dates and allows that sessions may also be held "at such other times as the General Assembly shall judge necessary." Call by majority of legislators is implied.
- (r) Upon completion of business.
- (s) Limited to 40 L unless extended by 3/5 vote and approved by the governor, except in cases of impeachment proceedings.
- (t) Legislators may reconvene at any time after organizational meeting; however, second Monday in January is the final date by which regular session must be in process.
- (u) Indirect limitation; usually restrictions on legislator's pay, per diem, or daily allowance.
- (v) In even-numbered years, sessions may not extend beyond April 15 and in odd numbered years may not extend beyond March 30.
- (w) Legislative rules say formal business must be concluded by Nov. 15th of the 1st session in the biennium, or by July 31st of the 2nd session for the biennium.
- (x) Joint rules provide for the submission of a written statement requesting special session by a specified number of members of each chamber.
- (y) Legal provision for session in odd-numbered year; however, legislature may divide, and in practice has divided, to meet in even-numbered years as well.
- (z) 90 C sessions every year, except the first year of a gubernatorial administration during which the legislative session runs for 125 C.
- (aa) 30 C if called by legislature; 60 C if called by governor.
- (bb) No legislative day is shorter than a natural day.

- (cc) Odd number years will include a regular session commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January and recessing not later than the first Monday in February of that year. Limited constitutional duties can be performed.
- (dd) Commencement of regular session depends on concluding date of organizational session. Legislature meets, in odd-numbered year, on second Tuesday in January for a maximum 15 C organizational session, then returns on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the organizational session.
- (ee) Except in cases of impeachment.
- (ff) According to a 1955 attorney general's opinion, when the legislature has petitioned to the governor to be called into session, it may then act on any matter.
- (gg) The legislature, by joint resolution, establishes the session schedule of activity for the remainder of the biennium at the beginning of the odd-numbered year.
- (hh) Each Council period begins on January 2 of each odd-numbered year and ends on January 1 of the following odd-numbered year.
- (ii) Legislature meets on the first Monday of each month following its initial session in January.
- (jj) 60 L before April 1 and 30 L after July 31.
- (kk) Legislative Council may reconvene the Legislature assembly. However, a reconvened session may not exceed the number of days available (80) but not used by the last regular session.
- (ll) Sessions are 2 years and begin on the 1st Tuesday of January of the odd numbered year. Session ends on November 30 of the even numbered year. Each calendar year receives its own legislative number.
- (mm) Unless Monday is a legal holiday; in second year, the General Assembly convenes on the same date.