

Legislative Analysis



REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR BILLS CONSIDERED AFTER AN EVEN-YEAR NOVEMBER ELECTION

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Joint Resolution A as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Ann Bollin
Committee: Government Operations
Complete to 2-11-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Joint Resolution A would amend section 26 of Article IV of the state constitution to provide that a bill passed by the legislature after the November election in an even-numbered year cannot become law unless it has been approved by two-thirds of the members elected and serving in each house of the legislature.¹

The Michigan Legislature convenes in two-year cycles. November elections in even-numbered years determine who will constitute the legislature the following January.² The legislature that is headed toward its conclusion when the election is held can continue to conduct business after the election until the end of the year. This post-election period is often called a lame duck session. (In American political lingo, a “lame duck” is a person who is still in office but whose term is coming to an end.) House Joint Resolution A would require bills considered during a lame duck session to pass with a two-thirds majority in each house, instead of the simple majority (over 50%) that is otherwise generally required. This requirement would apply to votes that were taken before the November election if another relevant vote (for passage or concurrence) is taken after it.

To become effective, House Joint Resolution A would have to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of each house of the legislature and then be approved by voters at the immediately following even-year November election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Joint Resolution A would not have a direct fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ Specifically, the joint resolution would require two-thirds approval for any bill “considered during a session held after the November election in an even-numbered year.”

² State representatives are elected to two-year terms of office. State senators are elected to four-year terms in those even-numbered years that are *not* divisible by four (i.e., that are not presidential election years).