

## CHAPTER 763

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

*Proposing amendments to Sections 6, 11 and 13 of Article IV and Section 6 of Article V of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to legislative sessions, enactment of laws, effective dates of laws, presentation of bills to the Governor and veto powers.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 4, 1980

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 6, 1980

WHEREAS, proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia, hereinafter set forth, were agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses of the General Assembly at the session of nineteen hundred seventy-nine and referred to this, the next regular session held after the general election of members of the House of Delegates, as required by the Constitution of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, a majority of the members elected to each house agreeing, That the following amendments to the Constitution be, and the same hereby are, proposed in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

Amend Sections 6, 11 and 13 of Article IV and Section 6 of Article V of the Constitution as follows:

## Article IV.

## Section 6. Legislative sessions.

The General Assembly shall meet once each year on the second Wednesday in January. *Except as herein provided for reconvened sessions*, no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an even-numbered year shall continue longer than sixty days; no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an odd-numbered year shall continue longer than thirty days; but with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, any regular session may be extended for a period not exceeding thirty days. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn to another place, nor for more than three days.

The Governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly when, in his opinion, the interest of the Commonwealth may require and shall convene a special session upon the application of two-thirds of the members elected to each house.

*The General Assembly shall reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections. No other business shall be considered at a reconvened session. Such reconvened session shall not continue longer than three days unless the session be extended, for a period not exceeding seven additional days, upon the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house.*

## Section 11. Enactment of laws.

No law shall be enacted except by bill. A bill may originate in either house, may be approved or rejected by the other, or may be amended by either, with the concurrence of the other.

No bill shall become a law unless, prior to its passage:

- (a) it has been referred to a committee of each house, considered by such committee in session, and reported;
- (b) it has been printed by the house in which it originated prior to its passage therein;
- (c) it has been read by its title, or its title has been printed in a daily calendar, on three different calendar days in each house; and
- (d) upon its final passage a vote has been taken thereon in each house, the name of

each member voting for and against recorded in the journal, and a majority of those voting in each house, which majority shall include at least two-fifths of the members elected to that house, recorded in the affirmative.

Only in the manner required in subparagraph (d) of this section shall an amendment to a bill by one house be concurred in by the other, or a conference report be adopted by either house, or either house discharge a committee from the consideration of a bill and consider the same as if reported. The printing and reading, or either, required in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this section, may be dispensed with in a bill to codify the laws of the Commonwealth, and in the case of an emergency by a vote of four-fifths of the members voting in each house, the name of each member voting and how he voted to be recorded in the journal.

No bill which creates or establishes a new office, or which creates, continues, or revives a debt or charge, or which makes, continues, or revives any appropriation of public or trust money or property, or which releases, discharges, or commutes any claim or demand of the Commonwealth, or which imposes, continues, or revives a tax, shall be passed except by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members elected to each house, the name of each member voting and how he voted to be recorded in the journal.

Every law imposing, continuing, or reviving a tax shall specifically state such tax. However, any law by which taxes are imposed may define or specify the subject and provisions of such tax by reference to any provision of the laws of the United States as those laws may be or become effective at any time or from time to time, and may prescribe exceptions or modifications to any such provision.

The presiding officer of each house or upon his inability or failure to act a person designated by a majority of the members elected to each house shall, not later than ~~twenty three~~ *three* days after ~~adjournment~~ *each bill is enrolled*, sign ~~every~~ *each* bill that has been passed by both houses and duly enrolled. The fact of signing shall be recorded in the journal.

#### Section 13. Effective date of laws.

All laws ; ~~except~~ *enacted at a regular session, including laws which are enacted by reason of actions taken during the reconvened session following a regular session, but excluding a general appropriation law, shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month July following the month of adjournment of the session of the General Assembly at which it has been enacted ; ; and all laws enacted at a special session, including laws which are enacted by reason of actions taken during the reconvened session following a special session but excluding a general appropriation law, shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month following the month of adjournment of the special session; unless a subsequent date is specified or unless* in the case of an emergency (which emergency shall be expressed in the body of the bill) the General Assembly shall specify an earlier date by a vote of four-fifths of the members voting in each house, the name of each member voting and how he voted to be recorded in the journal , *or unless a subsequent date is specified in the body of the bill or by general law .*

#### Article V.

##### Section 6. Presentation of bills; veto powers of Governor.

Every bill which shall have passed the Senate and House of Delegates shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor. If he approve, he shall sign it; but, if not, he may return it with his objections to the house in which it originated, which shall enter the objections at large on its journal and proceed to reconsider the same. If, after such consideration, two-thirds of the members present, which two-thirds shall include a majority of the members elected to that house, shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of all the members present, which two-thirds shall include a majority of the members elected to that house, it shall become a law, notwithstanding the objections ; *provided, however, if the General Assembly has adjourned from a regular or special session pending a reconvened session, and the Governor has objections to any bill presented to him or has refused to sign such bill from such session, he shall return such bill to the Clerk of the House from which the bill originated pending the reconvened session, as provided by Article IV, Section 6, and such bill shall be considered by such*

*reconvened session .*

The Governor shall have the power to veto any particular item or items of an appropriation bill, but the veto shall not affect the item or items to which he does not object. The item or items objected to shall not take effect except in the manner heretofore provided in this section as to bills returned to the General Assembly without his approval.

If the Governor approve the general purpose of any bill but disapprove any part or parts thereof, he may return it, with recommendations for its amendment, to the house in which it originated, whereupon the same proceedings shall be had in both houses upon the bill and his recommendations in relation to its amendment as is above provided in relation to a bill which he shall have returned without his approval, and with his objections thereto; provided that, if after such reconsideration both houses, by a vote of a majority of the members present in each, shall agree to amend the bill in accordance with his recommendation in relation thereto, or either house by such vote shall fail or refuse to so amend it, then and in either case the bill shall be again sent to him, and he may act upon it as if it were then before him for the first time ; *provided further, that if the Governor so return any bill to a reconvened session and (i) a majority of the members present in each house shall agree to amend the bill in accordance with his recommendation, the bill as amended shall become law or (ii) two-thirds of all the members present in each house, which two-thirds shall include a majority of the members elected to that house, shall agree to the bill in the form originally sent to the Governor, the bill shall become law .*

In all cases above set forth, the names of the members voting for and against the bill or item or items of an appropriation bill, shall be entered on the journal of each house.

If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within seven days after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly shall, by ~~that~~ adjournment *from a regular or special session, pending a reconvened session* , prevent such return; in which case it shall be a law if approved by the Governor, in the manner and to the extent above provided, within thirty days after such adjournment . *If the General Assembly in a reconvened session shall have been unable (i) by a majority of the members present in each house to agree to amend a bill returned by the Governor in accordance with his recommendation and (ii) by two-thirds of all the members present in each house, which two-thirds shall include a majority of the members elected to that house, to agree to the bill in the form originally sent to the Governor, it shall be returned to the Governor and shall become a law only if approved by the Governor, in the manner and to the extent above provided, within thirty days after adjournment of the reconvened session , but not otherwise.*

---

## CHAPTER 764

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

*Proposing an amendment to Section 10 of Article VII of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to local debt.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 4, 1980

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 6, 1980

WHEREAS, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, hereinafter set forth, was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses of the General Assembly at the session of nineteen hundred seventy-nine and referred to this, the next regular session held after the general election of members of the House of Delegates, as required by the Constitution of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, a majority of the members elected to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution