#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

## CACR10

# Bill as Introduced

#### CACR 10 - AS INTRODUCED

#### 2023 SESSION

23-1060 10/07

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10

RELATING TO:

the general court.

PROVIDING THAT:

the general court convene on the same day as the governor's inauguration.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Rep.

Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 40

COMMITTEE:

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

#### **ANALYSIS**

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution provides for the legislature to convene on the same day in January as the governor's inauguration.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in-brackets and struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING CONSITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RELATING TO:

the general court.

PROVIDING THAT: the general court convene on the same day as the governor's inauguration.

Be it Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Constitution of New Hampshire be amended as follows:

I.(a) That article 3 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

[Art.] 3d. [General Court, When to Meet and Dissolve.] The senate and house shall assemble biennially on the first Wednesday [ef] in December for organizational purposes in even numbered years, and shall assemble annually on the first [Wednesday] Thursday following the first [Tuesday] Wednesday in January, and at such other times as they may judge necessary; and shall dissolve and be dissolved at 12:01 A.M. on the first Wednesday [ef] in December in even numbered years and shall be styled The General Court of New Hampshire.

- (b) That article 42 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:
- [Art.] 42. [Election of Governor; Return of Votes; Electors; If No Choice, Legislature to Elect One of Two Highest Candidates; Qualifications for Governor.] The governor shall be chosen biennially in the month of November; and the votes for governor shall be received, sorted, counted, certified and returned, in the same manner as the votes for senators; and the secretary shall lay the same before the senate and house of representatives, on the first [Wednesday] Thursday following the first [Tuesday of] Wednesday in January to be by them examined, and in case of an election by a plurality of votes through the state, the choice shall be by them declared and published, and on such day the governor shall be inaugurated. [And] The qualifications of electors of the governor shall be the same as those for senators; and if no person shall have a plurality of votes, the senate and house of representatives shall, by joint ballot elect one of the 2 persons, having the highest number of votes, who shall be declared governor. And no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of [his] the governor's election, [he] the governor shall have been an inhabitant of this state for 7 years next preceding, and unless [he] the governor shall be of the age of 30 years.
  - (c) That article 66 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:
- [Art.] 66 [Elections by Legislature may be Adjourned From Day to Day; Order Thereof.] And, whereas the elections, appointed to be made by this constitution, on the first *Thursday following* the first Wednesday of January biennially, by the two houses of the legislature, may not be completed on that day, the said elections may be adjourned from day to day, until the same be completed: and the order of the elections shall be as follows-the vacancies in the senate, if any, shall

#### CACR 10 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 2 -

be first filled up: The governor shall then be elected, provided there shall be no choice of him by the people: And afterwards, the two houses shall proceed to fill up the vacancy, if any, in the council.

- II. That the above amendments proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2024.
- III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to insert in their warrants for the said 2024 election an article to the following effect: To decide whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2023 session of the general court shall be approved.
- IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:

- "Are you in favor of amending articles 3, 42, and 66 of the second part of the constitution to read as follows:
  - [Art.] 3d. [General Court, When to Meet and Dissolve.] The senate and house shall assemble biennially on the first Wednesday in December for organizational purposes in even numbered years, and shall assemble annually on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday in January, and at such other times as they may judge necessary; and shall dissolve and be dissolved at 12:01 A.M. on the first Wednesday in December in even numbered years and shall be styled The General Court of New Hampshire.
  - [Art.] 42. [Election of Governor; Return of Votes; Electors; If No Choice, Legislature to Elect One of Two Highest Candidates; Qualifications for Governor.] The governor shall be chosen biennially in the month of November; and the votes for governor shall be received, sorted, counted, certified and returned, in the same manner as the votes for senators; and the secretary shall lay the same before the senate and house of representatives, on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday in January to be by them examined, and in case of an election by a plurality of votes through the state, the choice shall be by them declared and published, and on such day the governor shall be inaugurated. The qualifications of electors of the governor shall be the same as those for senators; and if no person shall have a plurality of votes, the senate and house of representatives shall, by joint ballot elect one of the 2 persons, having the highest number of votes, who shall be declared governor. And no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of the governor's election, the governor shall have been an inhabitant of this state for 7 years next preceding, and unless the governor shall be of the age of 30 years.
  - [Art.] 66 [Elections by Legislature may be Adjourned From Day to Day; Order Thereof.] And, whereas the elections, appointed to be made by this constitution, on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday of January biennially, by the two houses of the legislature, may not be completed on that day, the said elections may be adjourned from day to day, until the same be completed: and the order of the elections shall be as follows-the vacancies in the senate, if any, shall be first filled up: The governor shall then be elected, provided there shall be no choice of him by the people: And afterwards, the two houses shall proceed to fill up the vacancy, if any, in the council."

#### CACR 10 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 3 -

| V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot             |
|--|
| with other constitutional questions or on the official ballot. The ballot containing the question shall  |
| include 2 ovals next to the question allowing the voter to vote "Yes" or "No." If no oval is marked, the |
| ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall be the same as the regular  |
| official ballot except that the words "Questions Relating to Constitutional Amendments proposed by       |
| the 2023 General Court" shall be printed in bold type at the top of the ballot.                          |

VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.

VII. Voters' Guide.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, members of the senate and house of representatives convene on the first Wednesday following the first Tuesday in January. The date of the governor's inauguration is not mandated or designated.

IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, members of the senate and house of representatives would convene biennially on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday in January in even numbered years in order to convene on the same day as the governor's inauguration.

# Committee Minutes

## AMENDED SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair Sen Keith Murphy, Vice Chair Sen Daryl Abbas, Member Sen Donna Soucy, Member Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: February 16, 2023

#### **HEARINGS**

| Tuesday  Election Law and Municipal Affairs |         |  | 03/07/2023   |                       |  |
|---|---------|--|--|-----------------------|--|
|   |         |  | Legislative Office Building  | g 103 9:00 a.m.       |  |
| (Name of Committee)                         |         |  | (Place)  | (Time)                |  |
| 9:00 a.m.                                   | SB 271  | rela   | ative to the seating of delegates to nation  | al party conventions. |  |
| 9:15 a.m.                                   | SB 221  | enabling municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for child day care agencies. |  |                       |  |
| 9:30 a.m.                                   | CACR 9  | the  | relating to the New Hampshire presidential primary. Providing that the New Hampshire presidential primary will be the first presidential primary of a presidential election cycle. |                       |  |
| 9:45 a.m.                                   | CACR 10 | the  | the general court.   |                       |  |
|   |         | EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW   |  |                       |  |
| Sponsors:<br>SB 271                         |         |  |  |                       |  |
| Sen. Bradley                                |         | Sen. Innis   | Sen. Ward  | Sen. Birdsell         |  |
| Sen. Gray                                   |         | Sen. Carson  | Sen. Lang  | Sen. Avard            |  |
| Sen. Gannon                                 | •       | Sen. Gendreau  | Sen, Murphy  | Sen. Ricciardi        |  |
| Sen. Pearl                                  |         | Sen. Abbas   |  |                       |  |
| SB 221                                      |         |  |  | ~                     |  |
| Sen. Prentiss                               |         | Sen. D'Allesandro  | <b></b>  | Sen. Rosenwald        |  |
| Sen. Fenton                                 |         | Sen. Perkins Kwol  | •  | Sen. Altschiller      |  |
| Sen. Whitley                                |         | Sen. Chandley  | Rep. Ebel  | Rep. Morse            |  |
| Rep. Stavis CACR 9                          |         |  |  |                       |  |
| Sen. Abbas                                  | ÷       | San I ona  | Sen. Gendreau  | Sen. Bradley          |  |
| Sen. Ricciardi                              | _       | Sen. Lang<br>Sen. Gannon   | Sen, Genareau<br>Sen, Innis  | Sen. Avard            |  |
| Sen. Pearl                                  | •       | Sen. Murphy  | Sen. Carson  | Rep. Shurtleff        |  |
| Rep. S. Smith                               |         | Rep. Doucette  | Rep. Abare   | Rep. Sweeney          |  |
| CACR 10                                     |         | rep. Doucotto  | Kep. I soute   | resp. emocres         |  |
| Sen. Soucy                                  |         | Sen. Rosenwald   | Sen. Birdsell  | Sen. D'Allesandro     |  |
| 0 0 11                                      |         | a a  | D O'   | D . 11711 1           |  |

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

Sen. Carson

Sen. Bradley

<u>James P. Gray</u> Chairman Rep. Wilhelm

Rep. Simpson

#### Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Tricia Melillo 271-3077

CACR 10, the general court.

Hearing Date:

March 7, 2023

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Murphy, Abbas, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution provides for the legislature to convene on the same day in January as the governor's inauguration.

Sponsors:

Sen. Soucy Sen. D'Allesandro Sen. Rosenwald Sen. Bradlev Sen. Birdsell Sen. Carson

Rep. Simpson

Rep. Wilhelm

Who supports the bill: Senator Sharon Carson, Senator Bill Gannon, Senator Donna Soucy, Senator Cindy Rosenwald

Who opposes the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

#### Senator Donna Soucy

- CACR 10 attempts to solve a very simple problem.
- It deals with the meeting of the Legislature on the Wednesday before the Governor's Inauguration.
- The NH Constitution requires the Legislature to meet at that time to Canvas the Votes.
- That was drafted at a time when there were horse and buggies and ballots had to be delivered to Concord.
- Back then it took a considerable amount of time to do that and canvas the votes to ensure the results were correct.
- This CACR will consolidate the process of the honorary Canvasing of the Votes and the Governors Inauguration to Thursday.
- This will not preclude the House or Senate from meeting on Wednesday for other business should they choose to but it would eliminate the requirement.
- This modest change will be convenient for legislators and save the taxpayers some money.
- Senator Gray commented that oftentimes the Governors Inauguration is not well attended by the other political party and there may be some logistics to figure out and asked if she had contacted any of the past chiefs of staff for input.
  - o Senator Soucy replied that she has not contacted chiefs of staff specifically but she was a former chief of staff for the Senate. They had the same issue then, dealing with the logistics of bringing everyone in for an extra day. This only eliminates the constitutional requirement that both chambers meet two days in a row.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

ТЈМ

Date Hearing Report completed: March 9, 2023

# Speakers

### Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

**Date:** March 7, 2023

Time: 9:45 a.m.

CACR 10

A Resolution relating to the General Court.

PRIME: Senator Soucy

|   | Name/Representing (please print neatly) |            |        |           |       |                |
|---|---|------------|--------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| _ | Senator Sharon Carson                   | Support XI | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No.            |
|   | Senator Bill Gannon                     | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No.            |
| / | Sen Soucy                               | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes 🕢 | 05,            |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | N₀<br>□        |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | N <sub>0</sub> |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No<br>□        |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No<br>□        |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No<br>□_       |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |
|   |   | Support    | Oppose | Speaking? | Yes   | No             |

#### **Senate Remote Testify**

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill CACR10 on 20: Support: 1 Oppose: 0

NameTitleRepresentingPositionRosenwald, CindyAn Elected OfficialSD 13Support

intra01/senate/remoteComMgt/

# Testimony

#### Tricia Melillo

From:

Patti Anastasia <patti.anastasia@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 11:17 AM

To:

James Gray, Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia

Melillo

Subject:

Testimony for CACR10 and CACR9

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

#### Dear Committee Members,

Although my sign-in says that I am opposed to CACR10, I am NEUTRAL on it. The order of the bills in the sign-in sheet caused me to select the wrong bill; the bills are usually listed in the order of the hearings, but in this case, the list order was incorrect.

I am OPPOSED to CACR9. Although it has been a long tradition to have NH be the first in the nation primary, and NH counts on all the buzz, revenue, and notoriety around the FITN primary, I don't think this is something that should be legislated. NH does not "own" or run presidential primaries and has no legal right to claim FITN status. It is merely tradition. A tradition perhaps whose time to end has come. There are so many more important issues that the people of NH need our legislature to focus their attention on.

Regards,

Patricia Anastasia 50 Holstein Avenue Londonderry

# Voting Sheets

### **Senate Election Law** & Municipal Affairs Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

### 2023 Session

| Hearing date: 3/7 23             | <u> </u> |         | Bill CA  | CR 10      |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|--|------------|
| Executive Session date:          |          |         |  |            |
| Motion of:                       | OTP      |         | Vote   | : 5-0      |
| Committee Member                 | Present  | Made by | Second   |            |
| Sen. Gray, Chair                 |          |         |  |            |
| Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair          | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Abbas                       |          |         |  |            |
| Sen. Soucy<br>Sen. Perkins Kwoka | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Perkins Kwoka               |          |         | <u> </u>   |            |
| Motion of:                       |          |         | Vote   | : <u> </u> |
| Committee Member                 | Present  | Made by | Second   | Yes No     |
| Sen. Gray, Chair                 | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Murphy , Vice Chair         | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Abbas                       |          |         |  |            |
| Sen. Soucy                       | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Perkins Kwoka               | X        |         | - Promise and the second secon |            |
| Motion of:                       |          | `       | Vote   |            |
| Committee Member                 | Present  | Made by | Second   | Yes No     |
| Sen. Gray, Chair                 | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Murphy , Vice Chair         | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Abbas                       | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Soucy                       | X        |         |  |            |
| Sen. Perkins Kwoka               | X        |         |  | أدس        |
| Reported out by: Som. S          | Swey     |         | <u>.</u>   |            |
|                                  |          |         |  |            |

# Committee Report

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### SENATE

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs to which was referred CACR 10

A RESOLUTION

the general court.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Resolution

**OUGHT TO PASS** 

BY A VOTE OF:

5-0

Senator Donna Soucy For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

7/27/23, 3:43 PM Bill\_Status

#### General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

#### **Docket of CACR10**

**Docket Abbreviations** 

**Bill Title:** the general court. Providing that the general court convene on the same day as the governor's inauguration.

#### Official Docket of CACR10.:

| Date      | Body | Description  |
|-----------|------|--|
| 2/17/2023 | S    | Introduced 02/14/2023 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 8         |
| 2/22/2023 | S    | Hearing: 03/07/2023, Room 103, LOB, 09:45 am; SC 12                                    |
| 3/7/2023  | S    | Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 03/16/2023; SC 13                                     |
| 3/16/2023 | S    | Ought to Pass, <b>RC</b> 24Y-0N, MA, by Necessary 3/5; OT3rdg; 03/16/2023 <b>SJ 10</b> |
| 3/21/2023 | Н    | Introduced (in recess of) 03/16/2023 and referred to Legislative Administration        |
| 4/11/2023 | Н    | Public Hearing: 04/19/2023 09:00 am LOB 301-303  |
| 5/1/2023  | Н    | Executive Session: 05/17/2023 10:00 am LOB 301-303                                     |
| 5/19/2023 | Н    | Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate 05/17/2023 (Vote 9-0; CC)                   |
| 6/8/2023  | Н    | Inexpedient to Legislate: MA VV 06/08/2023 HJ 15                                       |

| NH House | NH Senate |
|----------|-----------|

## Other Referrals

#### Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

| Bill Number: <u>CACR 10</u> Senate Committee: <u>ELMA</u>  |
|--|
| Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside    |
| Final docket found on Bill Status  |
| Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}  |
| Bill version as it came to the committee   |
| All Calendar Notices   |
| Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)   |
| Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing   |
| Hearing Report   |
| PARevised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office   |
| Committee Action Documents: [Legislative Aides]  |
| All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):  |
| amendment # amendment #  |
| amendment # amendment #  |
| Executive Session Sheet  |
| Committee Report   |
| Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}   |
| All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):                             |
| amendment # amendment #  |
| amendment # amendment #  |
| Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}  |
| Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference): |
| Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)   |
| Governor's Veto Message  |
| All available versions of the bill: [Clerk's Office]   |
| as amended by the senate as amended by the house   |
| final version  |
| Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:   |
| Disciple 1/7/23 Committee Aide 7/7/23 Date   |
| Senate Clerk's Office  |