



NCSL

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Legislative Session Lengths

August 6, 2020

Legislative session length may be unrestricted, or it may be limited. Session length limitations are set in a variety of ways. The limits may be found in constitution, statute or chamber rule. They also may set indirectly by restricting the number of days for which a legislator receives compensation, per diem or mileage reimbursement.

In the early 1960s, 17 states did not place restrictions on the length of their legislative sessions. In another 10 states, the limits were indirect. Several states increased their session length. These were Colorado (from 120 to 160); Georgia (from 80 to 85); Kansas (from 90 to 120); Minnesota (from 90 to 120); and South Dakota (from 60 to 75).

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s, session limitations became more defined. Fewer states had unrestricted sessions, and the number of states with indirect session limits declined.

Since the late 1980s, several session lengths were shortened. Colorado's session was cut to 120 days in 1988. In 1992, Louisiana changed its constitution to shorten and limit the scope of its even-year session. In 1998, the citizens of Nevada adopted a constitutional amendment that restricts the legislative session to 120 days. In 2002, an amendment to the Louisiana Constitution changed the timing of its general and fiscal sessions and adjusted the length of the fiscal session; the changes went into effect January 2004. In 2006, Alaska voters passed an initiative establishing a 90 day session in statute, which took effect in 2008.

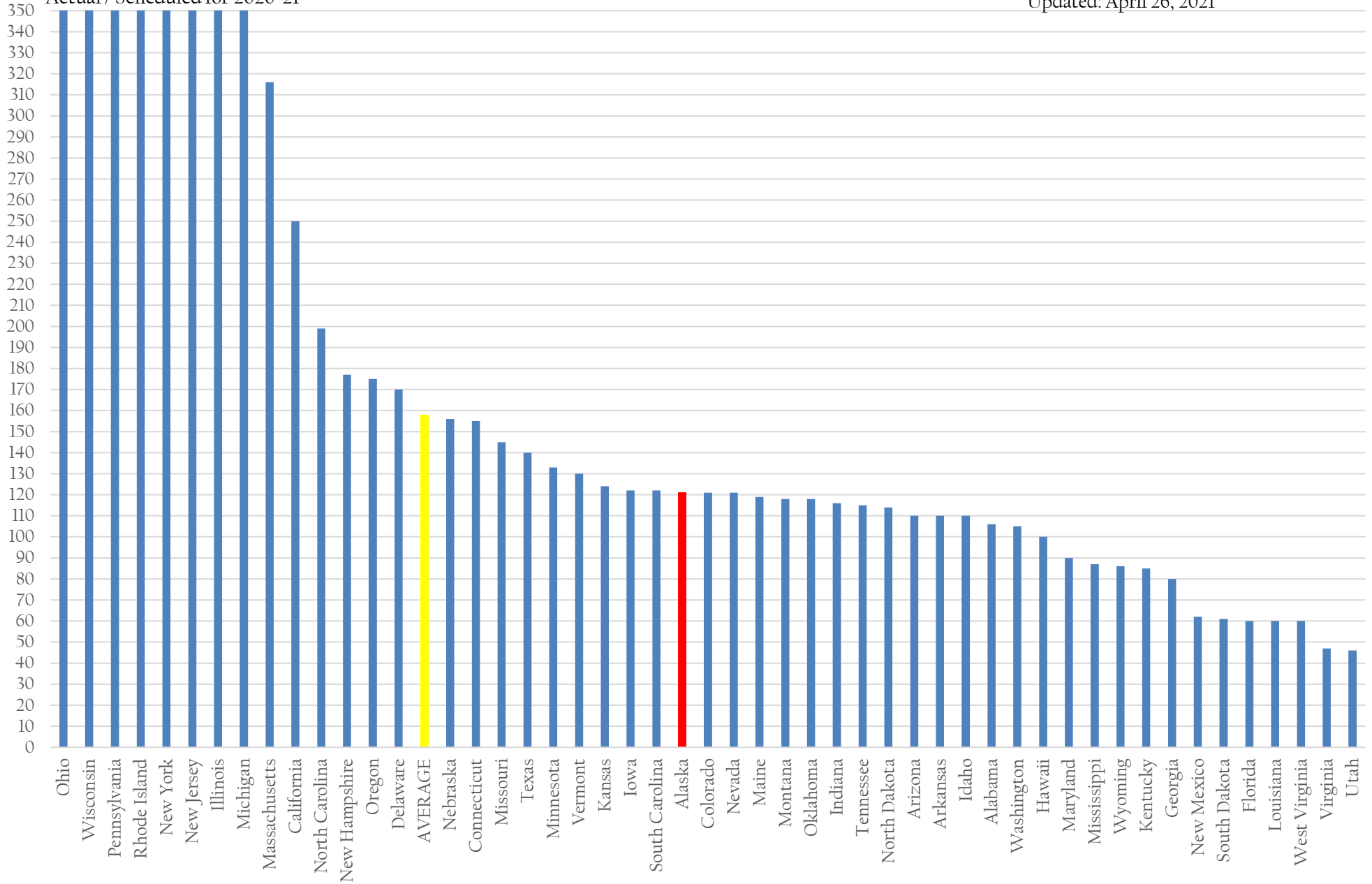
In November 2008, however, South Dakota voters approved a constitutional amendment that lengthened legislative sessions. The amendment equalized the length of session at 40 legislative days each year. Previously, session length was 40 legislative days in odd-numbered years, and 35 legislative days in even-numbered years.

Currently, only 11 states do not place a limit on the length of regular session. In the remaining 39, the limits are set by constitution, statute, chamber rule or indirect method.

Legislative Session Days by State

Actual / Scheduled for 2020-21

Source: www.NCSL.com
National Council of State Legislatures
Updated: April 26, 2021



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Actual/ Scheduled for 2020-2021:

State	Current Session Length Limit	Method of Setting	Convened	Adjourned	Days
Alabama	30 L in 105 C	Statute	2-Feb	18-May	106
Alaska	90 C	Statute	19-Jan	19-May	121
Arizona	Sat of week in which 100th C falls	Chamber rule	11-Jan	30-Apr	110
Arkansas	Odd-60 C	Constitution	11-Jan	30-Apr	110
	Even-30 C				
California	Odd-None	Constitution	4-Jan	10-Sep	250
	Even-Nov 30				
	Odd-Sept 12				
	Even-Aug 31	Chamber Rule			
Colorado	120 C	Constitution	13-Jan	13-May	121
Connecticut	Odd-Wed after 1st Mon in June	Constitution	6-Jan	9-Jun	155
	Even- Wed after 1st Mon in May				
Delaware	170 C	Constitution	12-Jan	30-Jun	170
Florida	60 C	Constitution	2-Mar	30-Apr	60
Georgia	40 L	Constitution	11-Jan	31-Mar	80
Hawaii	60 L	Constitution	20-Jan	29-Apr	100
Idaho	None	Not applicable	11-Jan	30-Apr	110
Illinois	None	Not applicable	13-Jan	31-Dec	353
Indiana	Odd-Apr 29	Statute	4-Jan	29-Apr	116
	Even-Mar 14				
Iowa	Odd-110 C	Indirect	11-Jan	12-May	122
	Even-100 C				
Kansas	Odd-None	Constitution	11-Jan	14-May	124
	Even-90 C				
Kentucky	Odd: 30 L or Mar 30	Constitution	5-Jan	30-Mar	85
	Even:60 L or Apr 15				
Louisiana	Odd-45 L in 60 C	Constitution	12-Apr	10-Jun	60
	Even-60 L in 85 C				
Maine	Odd-3rd Wed in June	Statute	2-Dec	30-Mar	119
	Even-3rd Wed in Apr				
Maryland	90 C	Constitution	13-Jan	12-Apr	90
Massachusetts	Formal sessions:	Chamber rule	6-Jan	17-Nov	316
	Odd-3rd Wed in November				
	Even-July 31				
	Informal sessions: None				
Michigan	None	Not applicable	13-Jan	31-Dec	353
Minnesota	120 L total within biennium or 1st Mon after 3rd Sat in May each year	Constitution	5-Jan	17-May	133
Mississippi	90 C except year after gubernatorial election, then 125 C	Constitution	5-Jan	1-Apr	87
Missouri	145 C	Constitution	6-Jan	30-May	145
Montana	Biennial session; 90 L	Constitution	4-Jan	1-May	118
Nebraska	Odd-90 L	Constitution	6-Jan	10-Jun	156
	Even-60 L				
Nevada	Biennial session ; 120 C	Constitution	1-Feb	1-Jun	121
New Hampshire	45 L or July 1	Indirect	6-Jan	1-Jul	177
New Jersey	None	Not applicable	12-Jan	31-Dec	354

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New Mexico	Odd-60 C	Constitution	19-Jan	20-Mar	62
	Even-30 C				
New York	None	Not applicable	6-Jan	31-Dec	360
North Carolina	None	Not applicable	13-Jan	30-Jul	199
North Dakota	Biennial session ; 80 L	Constitution	5-Jan	28-Apr	114
Ohio	None	Not applicable	4-Jan	31-Dec	362
Oklahoma	First Tues of Jan to Last Fri in May	Constitution	1-Feb	28-May	118
Oregon	Odd-160C	Constitution	21-Jan	11-Jul	175
	Even-35C				
Pennsylvania	None	Not applicable	5-Jan	31-Dec	361
Rhode Island	None	Not applicable	5-Jan	31-Dec	361
South Carolina	Convene 2nd Tues of Jan.	Constitution	12-Jan	13-May	122
	Adjourn mid-May	Statute			
South Dakota	40 L	Constitution	12-Jan	12-Mar	61
Tennessee	90 L	Indirect	12-Jan	6-May	115
Texas	Biennial session ; 140 C	Constitution	12-Jan	31-May	140
Utah	45 C	Constitution	19-Jan	5-Mar	46
Vermont	None		6-Jan	15-May	130
Virginia	Odd-30 C	Constitution	13-Jan	1-Mar	47
	Even-60 C				
Washington	Odd-105 C	Constitution	11-Jan	25-Apr	105
	Even-60 C				
West Virginia	60 C	Constitution	10-Feb	10-Apr	60
Wisconsin	None	Not applicable	4-Jan	31-Dec	362
Wyoming	Odd-40 L	Constitution	12-Jan	7-Apr	86
	Even-20 L				

Average: 158