

The 2008 Session of the 2007 General Assembly (commonly known as the “Short Session)

The Constitution of the State of North Carolina provides that the General Assembly will convene every other year. Therefore, the General Assembly meets only every odd year in a “Regular” Session. The 2007 Session of the General Assembly was a Regular Session. In order to meet in even years, the General Assembly passes a joint resolution upon adjournment of the Regular Session, providing that the General Assembly will reconvene the following year. The joint resolution passed last August provided that, “When the Senate and the House of Representatives adjourn on Thursday, August 2, 2007, they stand adjourned to reconvene on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 12:00 noon.” What is commonly known as the “Short Session” is more properly called, “The 2008 Session of the 2007 General Assembly.”

The adjournment resolution limited the matters which can be considered during the Short Session. Only the following matters may be considered during the Short Session:

1. Budget bills
2. Bills containing constitutional amendments
3. Bills which passed one house but not the other
4. Study committee bills
5. Local bills
6. Appointment bills
7. Bills authorized by a joint resolution that passed by a two-thirds vote
8. Joint resolutions authorizing introduction of a bill
9. Pension or retirement bills
10. Joint resolutions, House resolutions, and Senate resolutions authorized for introduction under Senate Rule 40(b) or House Rule 31
11. Adjournment resolutions
12. Bills disapproving rules.

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina will be sending legislative updates and calls to action during the 2008 Session of the 2007 General Assembly. This is the first update of the session.