

Petitioning for a Special Session

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Issue

Summarize the law authorizing individual legislators to petition for a special session and provide information on special sessions convened under this authority.

Summary

The state constitution allows the General Assembly to meet in special session “at such...times as [it] shall judge necessary” ([Conn. Const. Art. III, § 2](#)).

Under [CGS § 2-6](#), individual legislators may notify the secretary of the state, in writing, that they judge it necessary to hold a special session. Notice by a member is valid for 30 days. If a majority of each chamber’s membership so notifies the secretary, the law requires her to notify all members that they must assemble on a date 10 to 15 days later. Once assembled, members must vote on a special session call. If the call passes, they must convene in special session and consider any matter properly before them.

The Legislative Library’s records indicate that from 1916 to 2019, the legislature convened five special sessions under [CGS § 2-6](#). The session calls covered a variety of issues, including the budget and taxes, the death penalty, and most recently, Medicare.

Special Sessions Convened by Petition

Table 1 lists the five special sessions convened under [CGS § 2-6](#). For each special session, it includes the dates and resolution number, and summarizes the call.

Table 1: Special Sessions Convened Under CGS § 2-6, 1916-2019

Year (Dates)	Resolution Number	Call of the Special Session
1986 (June 11-13)	HJ 104	Legislative action concerning the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. distributing a portion of the FY 86 projected General Fund surplus because of unanticipated increases in its size, 2. amending state law concerning eligibility for nomination to state and district offices, 3. amending state law concerning tax relief for elderly homeowners and renters, and 4. exercising municipal powers concerning solid waste disposal.
1986 (June 23-July 1)	HJ 501	Legislative action concerning the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. distributing a portion of the FY 86 projected General Fund surplus because of unanticipated increases in its size, 2. amending state laws concerning (a) the integrity of absentee voting and (b) eligibility for nomination to state and district office, 3. exercising municipal powers concerning solid waste disposal, and 4. amending state law concerning the death penalty. <p>The call also included any other matters certified as having an emergency nature by the Senate President Pro Tempore and House Speaker.</p>
1991 (Nov. 18-Dec. 19)	HJ 401	Legislative action concerning (1) the personal income tax and (2) revisions to the FY 92 budget.
2008 (June 11-Dec. 9)	SJ 100	Legislative action to extend the expiration date of the municipal real estate conveyance tax.
2017-18 (Dec. 29-Jan. 8)	HJ 401	Legislative action concerning eligibility for, and funding of, the Medicare Savings Program.

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