

1 S.39

2 Representative Peterson of Clarendon moves that the House propose to the
3 Senate that the bill be amended by adding a reader assistance heading and a
4 new section to be Sec. 5a to read as follows:

5 * * * Length of Legislative Session * * *

6 Sec. 5a. 2 V.S.A. § 24 is added to read:

7 § 24. LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION

8 (a) The General Assembly shall convene on the first Wednesday next after
9 the first Monday of January in odd-numbered years, in accordance with
10 Chapter II, Section 7 of the Vermont Constitution, and on the first Tuesday
11 next after the first Monday of January in even-numbered years. The session
12 shall run for a total of not more than 12 weeks annually, not including the
13 week containing Town Meeting Day if the General Assembly elects not to
14 meet during that week, and not including the days of any veto session or of any
15 special session called by the Governor pursuant to Chapter II, Section 20 of the
16 Vermont Constitution.

17 (b) Notwithstanding the limit on the legislative session in subsection (a) of
18 this section, the General Assembly may meet for more than 12 weeks in a
19 calendar year in the event of unusual and unforeseen circumstances, such as a
20 state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 9. In
21 the event of such unforeseen circumstances, the legislative session may be

1 extended beyond 12 weeks as necessary to address the needs of the State and
2 of Vermont residents upon a vote of the majority of each chamber on a joint
3 resolution introduced by the Joint Committee on Rules for that purpose.