

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's come to order and move  
2 ahead, please.

3 We have lost some of our members temporarily  
4 to various other engagements and some will be back.  
5 Some have to leave at various other times this afternoon,  
6 so I would like to move along as briskly as possible.

7 DR. BARD: Length of legislative session.  
8 I would like to say we have had more deliberations on  
9 this particular item than almost any other one with  
10 one exception, the unicameralism versus bicameralism.  
11 So that, Mr. Chairman, while I would like to move ahead  
12 rapidly here, I do want to say this has created a good  
13 deal of discussion among Committee members.

14 As you know, the present constitution sets a  
15 target date of 70 days. At other times we have had 90-  
16 day sessions in odd years and 30-day sessions in even  
17 years. There has been a good deal of revision on this  
18 item from time to time. The model state constitution  
19 indicates a recommendation that the legislature be a  
20 continuous body during the term for which its members  
21 are elected. It shall meet in regular sessions annually