

Major Tasks Outlined for State **Legislature As 1961 Term Opens**

sion, which was the first under revised constitutional provisions, the tempo of our operations will be set by the requirement that a 30 day period elapse between introduction of a bill and final action on it. This means that our first few weeks will be devoted primarily to bill drafting and introductions. The several interim ductions. The several interim committees will also be ready-ing their reports and recom-

in budgeteering will appear.

THE DEPARTMENT of finance, instead of asking the various state agencies to submit their requests, has estimated the size of revenues available, then divided the total among them, and advised them to cut their demands to fit. Just how this will work out remains to be seen. Many are predicting that this will in-

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By the time you read this,
calendar pages will have been
flipped for the first few days
of our 1961 season. A few bills
have been introduced, but the
big bulk of the thousands of
measures expected will not hit
the hopper until later on.

Like our 1959 regular session, which was the first under
revised constitutional provi-

Matters educational will require a large amount of our at-tention. The split between committees will also be readying their reports and recommendations.

THE MAJOR tasks which will confront us are already pretty well defined. From here it seems probable that the session will be a very busy one, sometimes controversial, sometimes dramatic. All of us caught up in its workings, and that includes the many spokesmen for various segments of the great public, will find it intensely absorbing.

The first big job before us is the state budget for fiscal year 1961-62. Its size has already been estimated at \$2.7 billion, slightly over the one for the current year. It will be submitted to us before the end of January, but final action will probably not occur until the closing days of the session in June. This year a new wrinkle in budgeteering will appear.

cations that the problems will be really tough to solve.

Matters relating to youth will be prominent on our agenda. Better protection against the narcotics evil, more equitable treatment for minors in judicial or custodial cases, and improvement in aid to needy children will all get study and action. study and action.

Just how this will work out remains to be seen. Many are predicting that this will increase pressures on our legislative budget committees.

Taxation ties in logically with budgets. The state administration has indicated it will not request new taxes, but the Senate committee on transportation and public utilities will

