

A **concurrent resolution** is used when both houses of the Legislative Assembly join to:

- Address matters affecting the operations and procedures of the Legislative Assembly, such as joint sessions, appointments of joint committees and adjournments.
- Express legislative congratulations, commendation or sympathy.

Deadlines for Filing Measures

Members of the Senate who will be serving during the 2001 session may file measures from November 13 to January 2, 2001. Members of the House may file measures from November 20 to December 31, 2000. When and how many measures a member may introduce during the 2001 session will depend upon the rules each chamber adopts for the session.

Committee Process

Oregon's legislative process is dominated by legislative committees, where most of the work to shape legislation and public policy is done. Unlike many state legislatures, Oregon does not amend measures during floor debate. Committees are made up of small groups of legislators from both political parties who deal with related issues such as transportation, revenue, education, labor, and economic development. An average of 3,000 bills is introduced each session, approximately one-third of which becomes law.

House and Senate committee members, committee chairpersons and vice-chairpersons are appointed by their respective presiding officers. The committee chairperson has the power to determine which measures will be on the committee's agenda. The chair presides over the committee deliberations. In some instances, the committee chair may also appoint subcommittees.

The process begins when a measure is introduced and referred to committee. Committee members consider the testimony of Oregon citizens; lobbyists; and business, education, and government agency representatives during **public hearings** on a measure. The number of public hearings held on a measure depends on the complexity of the issue.

The fate of a measure is determined during **work sessions**, when the committee debates and votes on measures. The committee chair decides if and when measures will be scheduled for hearings and work sessions. During a work session, the committee may or may not choose to amend a measure. If they decide to report a measure out of committee, they may attach a recommendation to the body of "do pass," "do pass with amendments," or "no recommendation." A committee may also choose to table a piece of legislation, whereby postponing its consideration until a motion is adopted to take from the table.

After a measure is referred out of committee, the full House or Senate considers the measure by a vote. If the measure is approved, it moves to the next chamber, and the committee process is repeated. Once a measure is approved by both chambers in the same form, it is sent to the Governor for signature. In some cases, a measure may be referred to the people for a vote, thus bypassing the Governor.

The Oregon Constitution and state law require that deliberations of the Legislative Assembly and its committees be open to the public. The law also requires that public notice be given to interested persons and the public. These practices ensure a legislative process open to public scrutiny.

Effective Date of Legislation

The regular effective date of a measure is January 1 of the year following passage of the measure. Some measures may contain a provision, such as an emergency clause, that specifies an earlier effective date.

Note: During session, the Governor has five days to sign bills (excluding Saturdays and Sundays). Following session, the Governor has 30 days to sign bills after they reach the Governor's Office. There are no time limits for the Senate President and House Speaker to sign bills.