

Process Committee Recommendations on Bills/Measures, Amendments, Drafting Issues

Approved - 9/19/06

The Process Committee's recommendations focus on administrative processes related to drafting, introduction, and amendments for bills and other measures. There are two factors that affect the Committee's recommendations, one of its own doing. The first is that a new drafting information technology system will be installed and implemented for Legislative Counsel early in 2008, which will address spreading out and balancing the work load for drafters and other staff. The second is that the Committee's recommendations are part and parcel of the already-approved Session Structure recommendation which calls for the establishment of cut off dates for pre-session filing, introduction, and action on the majority of bills and measures.

While it is tempting to comment on some of the Political/Human processes, the Committee has refrained from developing recommendations on such items as putting limits on the number of bills that may be introduced or trying to manage multiple requests for bills addressing the same subject. The same can be said of Policy processes – the content of legislation – that were discussed by the committee. For example, one person's amendments are another's "gut and stuff". Instead, the Committee expects that the more structured approach for pre-session filing and the agreed upon deadlines for action throughout the session provide the necessary framework for the timely development of measures and responsible deliberation by members and committees.

Recommendations relating to Administrative Processes:

- 1. Establish deadlines and limits for bill introduction for new and returning members.**
- 2. Change House/Senate rules to allow members to sign onto bills prior to session so that they can be pre-session filed.**
- 3. Approve concurrent resolution establishing cutoff dates for cross-over of bills and legislative action. (similar to Washington State).**
- 4. Use the early part of the session (the ramping up) to consider pre-session filed agency, committee and member bills, and prepare bills for floor debate in first chamber.**