Legislative Support Services'

Legislative Process Class

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Structure of Washington Government

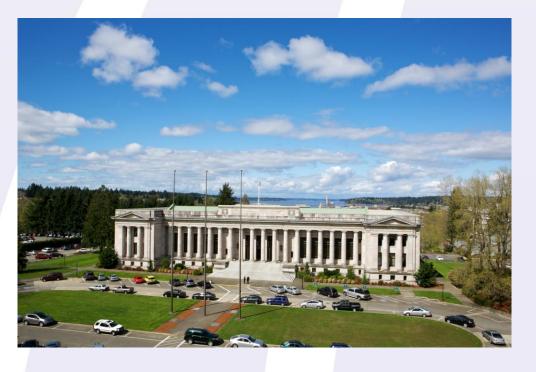
The First Among Equals

Legislative

Executive

Judicial







Biennium

➤ Bills not passed into law in the first session are carried over to the next session(s) within the biennium.

Regular Sessions

- > Convenes second Monday in January
- ➤ Long -105 days (odd numbered years) -budget year
- ➤ Short -60 days (even numbered years) -supplemental budgets

Special Sessions

- > Called by Governor
- > Up to 30 days long
- > Can have multiple special sessions



Elected Legislature

- ➤ 49 Districts equal in population
- ➤ Independent Redistricting Commission

Bicameral

- > Senate
 - > Each district has 1 Senator
 - Serve four-year terms
- **►** House of Representatives
 - > Each district has 2 Representatives
 - > Serve two-year terms

Elections of Members

- Even numbered years
 - ► Half the Senate
 - All the House of Representatives

Chamber Structure

- **Caucuses**
- **▶**Legislative Committees
 - **≻**Policy
 - **≻**Fiscal
 - **≻**Rules



The Constitution states:

- ➤ Laws will be made by an elected Legislature.
- Laws can be made directly by people through the initiative process

Initiatives

> The direct power of the voters to enact new or change existing laws

Referendums

> To give voters an opportunity to approve or reject laws either proposed or enacted by the Legislature

Advisory Votes

Non binding measures that let the People say whether the Legislature should repeal or maintain revenue-generating bills that passed the Legislature (RCW 43.135.041 from Initiative 960)

Bills

Proposed legislation by members.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Code Reviser's Office

- > Official bill drafting arm of the legislature.
- > Draft Bill
- **>** Sponsors
- ➤ Draft → Bill
 - ► HB 1000-3999
 - > SB 5000-7999
- > Companion Bills
- > Prefile Bills
 - > First Monday in December

First Reading

- > Introduction of Bill
- Read in Pro Forma Floor Session
- Assigned to a Standing Committee

Committee Meetings

- > Public Hearing
 - > Testimony Taken
- ➤ Work Session
 - No Testimony Taken
- > Executive Session
 - > Committee Action on a Bill
 - > Offer Substitute Bill
 - > Refer to another Committee
 - > Take no action
 - > Refer to Rules Committee



Rules Committee

> Process by which bills are made eligible to be placed on the Floor Calendar for a Second Reading

Senate House

- ➤ Rules White ➤ Rules Review
- ➤ Rules Green ➤ Rules Consideration
- ➤ Rules X File ➤ Rules X File

Second Reading

- > Committee Substitutes may be offered
- > Floor Amendments may be offered
 - Page and Line
 - > Striker
 - > Engrossed Bills
 - > A Bill becomes Engrossed if floor amendments are adopted in the house of origin



Third Reading

- ➤ Bill moves to Opposite House
- > Goes through the same Legislative Process as it did in House of Origin
 - > Opposite House can <u>propose</u> changes

Back to House of Origin

➤ House of Origin <u>must</u> agree with proposed changes from Opposite House

Placed on Calendar

- ➤ Suspension (House) / Consent (Senate)
- > Concurrence*
- ➤ Dispute*
- Conference

*Concur/Do Not Concur/Recede from Position



Governor's Action & Effective Dates

Governor's Actions

- > Sign the Bill
- > Veto
 - > Full Bill
 - > Full Sections
 - Line items (budget Bills only)
- > Do nothing
 - > Bill becomes a law with or without the Governor's Signature

Timeline

- > Monday-Saturday including state holidays (Sundays are not counted)
- > 5 days to sign
 - > If delivered to the Governor prior to the last 5 days of session
- > 20 days to sign
 - > If delivered to the Governor within the last 5 days of session

Effective Dates

- > 90 days after the last day of session
- > Unless specified in the bill
- > Bills can have multiple effect dates
- > Emergency Clause Bill takes effect immediately
 - > Not subject to Referendum or Advisory Vote



Legislative Cutoff Calendar

Cutoff Calendar

- > Related calendar dates to legislative days and notes session deadlines for committee and floor action.
- ➤ Bills necessary to implement the budget (NTIB) are <u>not</u> subject to cutoff dates

Order of Cutoff

- **→** Out of Policy Committee
- > Out of Fiscal Committee
- > Out of House of Origin
 - > Out of Opposite House Policy Committee
 - > Out of Opposite House Fiscal Committee
- ➤ Back to House of Origin
- **►** Last day of session (Sine Die)



Legislative Support Services'

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