



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

Deadlines almost past for lawmakers to take action to keep bills alive

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Lawmakers still haven't settled major budget decisions or reformed the state's tax system, but the end is looming for this year's regular legislative session. Deadlines for moving bills to a full vote in either the Oregon House of Representatives or the Senate have either passed or are nearing.

June 2 is the deadline for most committees to act on bills sent to them as a result of passage in another chamber. So, a bill passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate

Education Committee, for example, has to get approval by that committee by June 2, or will die.



Exceptions to the deadline apply to bills in joint committees and bills in each chamber assigned to "Rules" and "Revenue" committees. "Joint" committees are comprised of both senators and representatives. The legislature has more than 10 joint committees working on subjects from tax reform to marijuana regulation to transportation.

It's important to keep in mind, of course, that with more than a dozen committees excepted from the deadlines, it's always possible for a bill thought previously dead to become resurrected. This can happen, for example, when a bill in the House Committee on Business and Labor is forwarded to the House Committee on Rules just before the deadline in

hopes of later using the bill as a bargaining chip in getting some other bill passed. Should politicians work out a deal, the Rules committee would vote the bill out to a full vote of the House. Meanwhile, somewhere else, another bill would be getting similar treatment in this quid pro quo bargain.

Another looming deadline is the session's closure. This year's closing date is July 10, though legislators can agree by a two-thirds vote to extend the session by five days.

The July closing may be unimportant, however. Insiders already are talking about the possibility of legislators coming back for a special session to try for a bargain on approving a business sales tax. Legislators already have three days of meetings called "Legislative Days" set for Sept. 18 to 20. If a special session came, it might coincide with that period.



Senate Bill 181A update

With little notice, House Revenue Committee Chair Phil Barnhart (Eugene) on May 31 scheduled the nonprofit-unfriendly SB 181A for talks among committee members on June 1. This public session is in Hearing Room A of the capitol at 1 p.m. Please help continue our opposition by emailing your comments to: lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Please email me if you'd like more information: govaffairs@orange.org.