

O4AD ADVOCACY REFRESHER – 2024

JANUARY 2024. O4AD - OREGON ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING & DISABILITIES

OUR AGENDA TODAY



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- Intros and agenda review
 - A review – what is this process we speak of?
 - Effective Advocacy for the session and beyond
 - The 2024 legislative session – O4AD priorities and more
 - How after session has a BIG impact on current session
 - Q&A
 - Adjourn

HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW – A REVIEW

- Oregon became a state on February 14, 1859
- Oregon held its first legislative session, a special session in May 1859
- The first regular session convened in September 1860

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

- Laws in Oregon are created by the Oregon State Legislature.
- The Oregon Legislature has two legislative chambers – the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- There are 60 members of the House of Representatives and 30 members of the Senate.
- The Oregon Legislature meets for 35 days in even years and 160 days in odd years.

IN THE BEGINNING

A **bill** is an idea for a new law, or an idea to change or get rid of an existing law.

Ideas for bills can come from anyone – legislators, community members, organizations, even corporations.



INTRODUCE A BILL

- A member of the House of Representatives or the Senate can introduce a bill. The member who introduces the bill is called the chief sponsor.
- *O4AD meets with potential sponsors to share our priorities, helping to inform the development of legislation as it is being created.*



SEND TO COMMITTEE

Once introduced, a bill gets assigned a number, and then the bill is sent to a committee. The House of Representatives has 15 committees and the Senate has 12 committees. There are also Joint Committees made up of members from both Chambers.



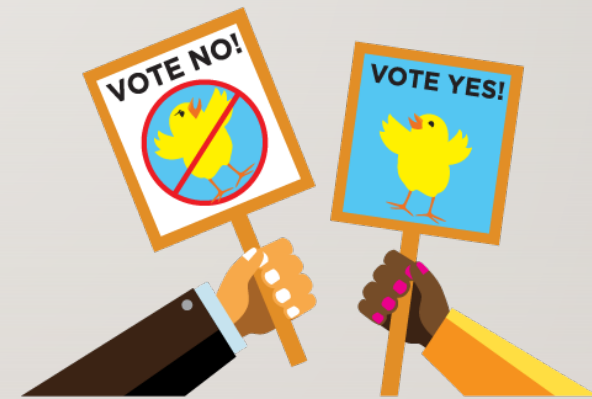
COMMITTEE HEARS THE BILL

- The committee studies the bill to see if it would make a good law. Committees often hold hearings, where people testify in support of or in opposition to the bill. Members of the committee can suggest changes (called amendments) to the bill for the committee to consider.
- After listening to all of the information and proposed changes, the committee will vote on the bill. If more than half of the committee members support the bill, it moves onto the next step. If the committee doesn't vote on the bill or the bill gets defeated in committee, it cannot move on.
- *O4AD shares information about our information regarding bills by testifying at committee hearings. People who can't attend in person can submit written testimony into the record. Advocates can engage with members of the committee to express their support or share their concern about a bill.*



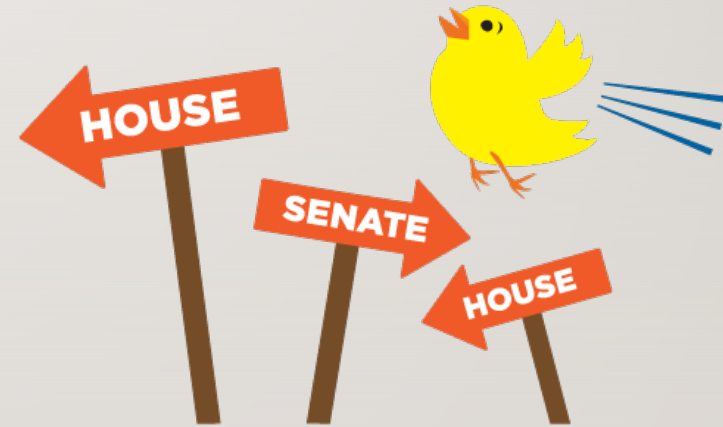
FLOOR ACTION

A bill that is approved by committee returns to the chamber (House or Senate) where it was introduced and is read or printed in the calendar three times. To pass the first reading, the bill title is printed in the calendar (the daily printed agenda of business) or is read by the Clerk of the chamber. During the second reading, the bill may be amended and debated on the full floor. During the third reading, members vote to pass or not pass the bill. Bills that don't pass on the third reading do not move on in the process.



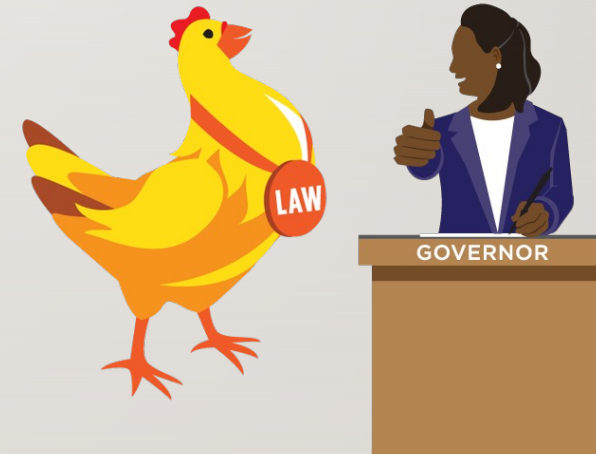
AND THEN

If a bill passes in the House of Representatives, it goes through a similar process in the Senate. Before a bill becomes law, it must be approved by both chambers of the legislature. The bill must pass with the same wording in the House of Representatives and the Senate before it can go to the Governor. If the Senate amends a House bill, or vice versa, the bill must go back to the original chamber and be approved with the amendments before proceeding.



THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

- If the bill passes both chambers, it goes to the Governor for approval. The Governor has three choices:
 - Governor signs the bill.
 - Governor vetoes (or rejects) the bill. The House of Representatives and Senate may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of each chamber.
 - Governor takes no action. If the Governor doesn't sign the bill, but doesn't veto it, it automatically becomes the law.



EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY – YOUR VOICE MATTERS


1. Know your audience
2. Know your topics
3. Build relationships
4. Be strategic
5. Use facts, statistics, data and your stories. But don't oversell
6. Do your homework in advance and follow up after

THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.



- January 8 ~ LC return
- January 20 – 22 ~ Legislative Committee Days
- January 17 ~ LC Drop
- February 5 ~ 2024 Legislative Session opens for 35 days
- February 12 – Post WS Deadline
- February 19 ~ 1st Chamber deadline
- February 23 ~ Post WS deadline
- February 29 ~ Leap Year! And 2nd Chamber deadline
- March 10 ~ Constitutional Sine Die
- March 12 ~ Filing Day
- March 14 – Nicole’s birthday 🎉

IT'S GOTTA END SOMEDAY....

- The “short” session is restricted to 35 days by Constitution
- The official Sine Die date is set by the Constitution but it can end sooner or go longer. However filing day factors into the short session.
- We will be in person.
- This session moves very fast.... 

AFTER THE SESSION MATTERS A LOT TO THIS SESSION



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- The statewide races matter a lot during this session
 - Treasurer
 - Attorney General
 - Secretary of State
 - Congress
 - It's like show and tell – what you do now is what you can talk about later
 - Budget allocations will reflect some campaign priorities for the parties

WHAT'S EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT



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- Measure 110 reform – top of mind
 - Governor's priorities on housing
 - Undone business
 - Money to be spent – a watermelon wallet full of cash

O4AD PRIORITIES



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- Advocating for the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon's older adults and people with disabilities

ANY QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

