

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Peter Buckley, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means 2015 Session

Committee Rules

The Joint Committee will operate in accordance with the Oregon Constitution, House and Senate Rules, custom, usage and precedents, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, and applicable statutory provisions.

1. The officers of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means shall consist of the Senate and House Co-Chairs and the Senate and House Co-Vice Chairs, who are appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, respectively. The Co-Chair of each Senate Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Senate President. The Co-Chair of each House Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.
2. All meetings of the Joint Committee and Subcommittees shall be open to the public.
3. Voting by member of either the Joint Committee or Subcommittees shall be by roll call, if requested by any Committee member.
4. All meetings of the Joint Committee and Subcommittees shall be recorded. The audio records shall be indexed and placed with the Oregon Archivist in accordance with Oregon Law.
5. In addition to the quorum requirements described in Rule 10, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee shall be deemed voting members of all Subcommittees when in attendance, unless the Co-Chair is an appointed member of the Subcommittee, in which case the Co-Vice Chair of the same chamber and same party affiliation shall be deemed a voting member of said Subcommittee when in attendance.
6. Hearing notices identifying an agenda of bills and subjects to be considered by the Joint Committee and Subcommittees shall be posted publicly in accordance with Senate and House rules, and the Joint Committee and Subcommittees shall not take action on any item not included in the posted notice. The Senate Co-Chair and the House Co-Chair shall approve all Joint Committee and Subcommittee agendas prior to posting.
7. Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public shall be welcome to testify at Subcommittee meetings posted for "Public Hearing with Public Testimony." Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public may testify before the Joint Committee upon the invitation of the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee and the Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee that heard the bill, or at the invitation of a majority of the Senate members and a majority of the House members of the Joint Committee.

8. Joint Committee bills and resolutions are to be sent to the floor of either chamber without minority reports. All Committee members have the right to their own position in floor debate. If a member plans to oppose a Committee bill, the member should advise the Senate or House Co-Chair in advance of debate in their respective chamber.
9. A quorum for reporting legislation to the floor of either chamber shall be a majority of Senate members and a majority of House members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the appointed members of each chamber is required to report legislation out of committee. In the event of a tie vote, either among the Senate members or among the House members, the Senate President or the Speaker of the House, respectively, may attend as voting members of the Joint Committee.
10. A quorum for reporting legislation from any Subcommittee to the Joint Committee shall be a majority of appointed Senate members and a majority of appointed House members of that Subcommittee. The affirmative vote of a majority of the appointed Subcommittee members of each chamber is required to report legislation to the Joint Committee.
11. Bills and resolutions shall be assigned jointly by the Senate Co-Chair and House Co-Chair to the appropriate Subcommittee for consideration. A Subcommittee does not have the power to table or hold legislation, but must report it back to the Joint Committee for consideration. The Senate and House Co-Chairs may, at any time by joint action, remove a bill or resolution from a Subcommittee and assign it to another Subcommittee or to the Joint Committee.
12. Once a bill has been reported to the floor of either chamber and passed, it shall be, after return to the Joint Committee in the second chamber, automatically reported to the floor of the second chamber unless the Senate and House Co-Chairs decide jointly that such legislation may be held in Committee for further consideration.
13. In the event that the Joint Committee identifies a need for language to clarify or expand upon administrative requirements which are directly related to the execution of budgets during the fiscal period covered by the appropriation and expenditure limitation, such language may be included within the Budget Report for the bill. If the Joint Committee identifies the need for a statement of policy or administrative direction which goes beyond the criteria described above, such statement or directive shall be handled as a separate bill, a resolution, or by amendment to the appropriation bill.
14. Introduction of bills:
 - a) Appropriation bills and non-appropriation bills relating to fiscal matters may be introduced by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means at any date.
 - b) All bills for introduction must first be approved by a Subcommittee before being brought to the Joint Committee, unless permission for direct submission to the Joint Committee is granted jointly by the Senate and House Co-Chairs.
15. These rules may be changed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the appointed members of each chamber of the Joint Committee, provided at least one day's notice of any proposed change has been given in writing to each Committee member.