

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/02/16

Action: Do Pass And Subsequent Referral To Ways And Means Be Rescinded.

Meeting Dates: 02/02

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 1 - Beyer

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Legislative Assembly to convene organizational session before odd-numbered and even-numbered year regular session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reason for permitting organizational session in February
- Ability to improve public notification for even-numbered year session
- Timing for organizational session
- Does not change length of even-numbered year session

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2010, Oregonians approved Measure 71, which amended Article IV, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution to require the Oregon Legislative Assembly to meet in limited regular sessions in odd-numbered years and in even-numbered years. The odd-numbered legislative session may not exceed 160 days and the even-numbered session may not exceed 35 days. In addition, the Legislative Assembly is able to hold a pre-session organizational session, not subject to limits on number of calendar days. The purpose of the organizational session, as prescribed in Article IV, Section 10 (2) of the Oregon Constitution, is to introduce measures and perform the duties regarding organization of the legislature including election of legislative officers, adoption of rules of proceedings and adjournments. The Oregon Constitution prohibits the legislature from taking final action on any measure or reconsidering a measure that has been vetoed by the Governor.

The Oregon legislature convenes for an organizational session on the second Monday in January, prior to the odd-numbered year regular legislative session. Following the swearing in of the newly elected statewide officials and legislators, the new Legislative Assembly convenes an organizational session at which time the legislative officers are elected; chamber rules are adopted and all pre-session filed measures are first read and referred to legislative committees. Upon conclusion of the organizational session, the legislature recesses until February, but as a result of the actions taken during the organizational session, the legislature is able to take formal action to notify the public about legislative committee meetings including scheduling of public hearings and work sessions for the first week of the odd-numbered year regular session.

Currently, the Oregon legislature only convenes for an organizational session prior to the start of the odd-numbered year session and not before the even-numbered year session. Senate Bill 1570 requires the Legislative Assembly to conduct an organizational session prior to the convening of the odd-numbered and even-numbered year regular sessions of the legislature.