

**SB 1542 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 2/13, 2/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Changes the start date of odd-numbered year regular sessions of the Legislative Assembly to the Tuesday after the holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Constitutional limits on the length of session
- Ending before July 4
- Organizational days

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, ORS 171.010 provides that all regular sessions of the Legislative Assembly begin on the first day of February, unless the first day is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, in which case the regular session begins on the following Monday. Senate Bill 1542 retains this start date for even-numbered year regular sessions, while beginning the odd-numbered year regular sessions on the Tuesday after the holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.

Article IV, section 10, of the Oregon Constitution provides the presumptive maximum length of legislative sessions, while allowing for five-day extensions pursuant to a two-thirds vote. In odd-numbered years, the presumptive maximum is 160 calendar days. Senate Bill 1542 would begin the 2019 regular session of the Legislative Assembly on January 22, 2019, and would result in a presumptive constitutional end date of June 30, 2019.