

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: SB 1542**

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Modifies date selected for start of odd-numbered year regular session of Legislative Assembly.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Legislative Administration (LA), Legislative Counsel (LC), Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), Legislative Revenue (LRO),  
Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO)

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

**Analysis:**

SB 1542 moves the starting date of regular sessions in odd-numbered years from early February to the Tuesday after the federal Martin Luther King, Jr's Holiday in mid-January.

Although an earlier start date would require the legislative branch to bring on session staff approximately two weeks earlier than current practice, this change is not anticipated to increase staffing costs due to the lengthening of legislative session because constitutionally, the odd-numbered year legislative session may not exceed 160 days. However, an earlier start date could have a fiscal impact by placing scheduling and logistical pressures on pre-session and late session activities.

Under current practice, the 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 the start of the regular legislative session. 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 regular session. An earlier start could require organizational sessions to be moved to December, shorten organizational sessions, or shorten the time between the organizational session and the regular session.

An earlier start to the regular session also means an earlier date for sine die based on the constitutional limits placed on the number of days for each regular session. In the case of the odd-numbered year, the earlier start of the regular session means that there will be fewer days available for the Legislature to finalize the biennial budget. Under current practice, the economic and revenue forecast upon which the biennial budget is based is released in the middle of May of an odd-numbered year. An earlier start to the session means that there are fewer days between when the forecast that is used in the development of the budget is released to the public and when the final budget for the next two-year biennial period is completed. This could lead to complications in end of session budget negotiations and bill finalization.