

CARRY OVER BILLS

Background:

As established by the joint rules and presiding officer rulings, the general rule is that all bills must be reported out of committee in the same session in which they were referred to that committee. Under Joint Rule 310, bills must be reported out in accordance with deadlines established by the presiding officers. So-called “carry over” bills are an exception to the general rule.

Committees may be authorized, by joint order passed in the House and the Senate, to hold specific, identified bills in committee beyond the end of a legislative session. Such bills are said to be “carried over” from the First Regular session to a subsequent session. Bills may not be carried over from one legislative biennium to the next. Bills that are not reported in accordance with reporting deadlines established by the presiding officers may be removed from committee and sent to the floor without a committee report.

During the course of a first legislative session, committees may find that certain bills require more extensive consideration than can be given during the session. This may be due to a bill’s complexity, potential impacts or the need for additional information or expertise in order for the committee to fully evaluate a bill and report it out. In those cases, bills may be considered for carryover until the following legislative session.

Procedure:

During the First Regular Session, committees may submit a written request to the presiding officers for permission to carry over certain bills. The request must identify the bills by LD number and title and briefly explain the reason why the carry over is being requested. The presiding officers jointly review the requests, and if they agree to the requests, they are included in a single joint order authorizing specific bills to be carried over to the following session. The order is introduced near the end of the First Regular Session.

Following passage of the order by the full Legislature, the named bills are held over for consideration in a subsequent session of that Legislature. Carry over bills are subject to new committee reporting deadlines for the next session as established by the presiding officers under Joint Rule 310.

Approval to carry over a bill does not by itself authorize a committee to meet, to hold a public hearing or to work on the bill during the interim, or to conduct a study of issues related to the bill. Such authorization must be sought from the presiding officers independently of the carry over request; or may also be approved by the presiding officers as part of authorized interim meetings of the committees.