

Use Your Voice to Make A Difference!

Helpful websites:

Oregon State Legislature: www.oregonlegislature.gov

Find your legislator, who is on what committee, calendar, citizen activism

Oregon Legislative Information System: www.olis.leg.state.or.us/

(OLIS) for accessing bills, committee agendas, submit testimony

Oregon Citizens Lobby: www.oregoncitizenslobby.org

Citizen analysis of bills by 5 criteria to empower citizens to be more involved

Oregon Firearms Federation: www.oregonfirearms.org

News of gun rights concerns and legislative alerts

Connect with legislators: Using the Oregon State Legislature website

Overview and tools: Today's Events – Tabs - Buttons

Committees

Calendar

Find Legislator

Legislator Information:		State Senator	State Representative	Federal Representative
Name	Party	District #	Office Phone #	Office Address
Email Address		WebPage		

Ways to get acquainted:

Ways to get more personal for direct input and dialog:

Overview of a bill and its process from an idea to a law

Finding your way around OLIS:

Find bills: By sponsor

By text

By bill number

Follow bills and committees

Practical steps to make your voice heard and influence:

Build relationships

Support and oppose bills that are important to you

Communicate

Testify

The Process of A Bill, From Idea to Law

A bill may begin with a request from a citizen, a group, or a particular legislator with an idea for a bill.

Legislators or a legislative committee sponsors a bill.

Bill is drafted by legislative counsel.

First Reading: The recitation on the Chamber floor of the measure number and title by the Reading Clerk upon introduction of a measure in either house. After the First Reading, the measure is referred to a committee by the Senate President or House Speaker (depending on which Chamber originates the bill).

The Committee chair decides which bills to bring forward to be heard.

Public Hearing: A public meeting of a legislative committee held for the purpose of taking public testimony and/or other action concerning proposed legislation. (The only time citizens can speak publicly for or against a bill, addressing the whole committee and ask or answer questions to defend your views.

Work Session: A committee meeting held for the purpose of determining the contents of a measure to be reported out of committee. A work session is different from a public hearing. In a work session, testimony is usually not taken from the public, although the public may attend the hearing.

Recommendation is given: Do Pass - Refer back to the committee to consider amendments - Fail, bill dies

Second Reading: Like the First Reading, a recitation of the measure's number and title by the Reading Clerk. Second Reading occurs after the measure has been referred to committee, worked on, and reported back to the floor for a vote.

Third Reading: As in First or Second Readings, a recitation of a measure's number and title by the Reading Clerk on the floor before a final vote by either Chamber.

Final Vote of the complete Chamber.

If the bill passes one Chamber it is sent to the other Chamber for consideration and the process begins again. Example: If the bill passed in the Senate it goes to the House where there is a First Reading and the Speaker assigns the bill to a committee for consideration.

- If both Chambers agree and pass the bill, it is sent to the Governor for signature or veto.
- If the Governor does not sign but does not veto it, the becomes law without the Governor's signature.
- If changes or amendments were added by the second Chamber, it goes back to the first Chamber for a vote on the changes.
- A conference committee is appointed with legislators from both Chambers to iron out the differences. The conference committee sends the bill back to the House and the Senate for approval. The bill is then sent to the Governor.