

## Carry Over Bills

Under Joint Rules 309 and 310 as adopted by the 130th Legislature, all legislative documents (LDs)—bills, resolves and resolutions, jointly referred to as “bills” in this document—must be reported out of committee in accordance with deadlines established by the presiding officers. Generally, bills must be reported out during the session in which they are introduced. However, under certain circumstances, the presiding officers may authorize committees to hold specific, identified bills in committee beyond the end of a legislative session. Such bills are said to be “carried over” to the subsequent session. A bill may be carried over only if there is another scheduled or expected session of the same legislature (for instance, LDs may be carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session).

A committee may wish to carry over a bill to the subsequent session for a variety of reasons. For example, the subject matter of the bill may be exceptionally complex, the committee may wish to direct stakeholders to meet over the interim to reach a consensus solution to the issues raised in the bill, the committee may have requested that important additional information be collected over the interim or the committee may be awaiting the outcome of events that are significant to its consideration of the bill.

### Procedure

If a committee wishes to carry over one or more bills, the following are the standard procedures.

1. Unless otherwise directed or authorized by the presiding officers, the committee should submit a written request, prepared by the committee’s analyst, to the presiding officers. The request should identify each bill by LD number and title and briefly explain the reason why the committee is requesting that it be carried over.
2. The presiding officers jointly review and approve or deny the requests in whole or in part.
3. Bills approved for carry over are usually included in a single joint order, introduced near the end of the session, authorizing each of the identified bills to be carried over by the specified committee to a subsequent session. (The order sometimes authorizes the Legislature to carry over other specifically identified bills that are “tabled” in the House or Senate pending further legislative action. Under certain circumstances, for instance an unanticipated early adjournment, all bills not finally disposed of are carried over without referencing individual bills.)

Typically, committees are encouraged to complete their work on carry over bills early in the Second Regular Session, leaving the remainder of the session to focus on newly referred bills.