

LEGISLATIVE TERMS

Amendment – A modification, deletion, or addition that alters form or substance of legislation.

Appropriation – A legislative authorization to make expenditures and incur obligations.

Budget – Estimates of proposed expenditures and expected revenues for a fiscal year.

Calendar – A sequential listing of bills and resolutions for floor consideration.

Circle a Bill – To temporarily postpone action on a measure without removing it from its place on the calendar.

Concurrence – One house "accepts" the actions of the other house.

Consent Calendar – A special calendar allowing consideration of bills without debate and requiring committee support and bill sponsor endorsement.

Enrolled Bill – An exact, accurate, and official copy of a passed Senate or House bill. This copy is sent to the governor for executive action.

Fiscal Note – A statement from the legislative fiscal analyst showing estimated cost or cost savings in a particular bill.

Floor – Reference to the interior of the chamber. "Floor action" refers to action in the chamber on a measure under consideration.

Hearing – A legislative committee meeting at which witnesses from the general public are invited to participate.

Move Previous Question – A non-debatable parliamentary motion to conclude debate and proceed to vote on the issue.

Reading – Refers to the following stages of the legislative process:

First Reading – Required of all bills and resolutions and accomplished by receiving a number and stating the title. The first reading is followed by Rules Committee consideration.

Second Reading – Occurs in the House as a bill is reported back to the floor with a committee recommendation. Acceptance of the committee report completes the second reading. In the Senate, debate, possible amendments and substitutes, and vote are taken on the actual bill which completes the second reading.

Third reading – Final phase in the consideration of a bill, followed by debate, further amendments and substitutes, if any, and final vote.

Rules – The procedures of action as determined by each house or joint action.

Sponsor – A member who authors or agrees to introduce a measure.

Standing Committee – A designated committee which considers proposed legislation during a legislative session.

Substitute Bill – In lieu of extensive amendments, a bill with the same number and sponsor and covering the same subject area with considerably altered substance.

Suspend the Rules – A parliamentary procedure to remove obstacles either for voting, consideration, or status.

Table a Bill – To indefinitely postpone action on a measure.

Veto – An official action of the governor to nullify legislative action. The legislature may override the action by a constitutional 2/3 vote of each house if still in session or if called back into veto override session.