

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.

Betheda G. Edmonds
President of the Senate

State of Maine
122nd Maine Legislature

John Richardson
Speaker of the House

TO: Senate and House Chairs
Joint Standing Committees of the 122nd Legislature

FROM: Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate *BE*
John Richardson, Speaker of the House *JR*

DATE: April 11, 2005

RE: **Requests to Carry Over Bills to the Second Regular Session
of the 122nd Legislature**

We appreciate the dedication and hard work of the joint standing committees this session. As you plan your committee workload to meet this session's bill reporting deadlines, we want to explain the procedures governing requests to carry bills over to the Second Regular Session, established pursuant to Joint Rule 301(1). We ask you to share the details of this memorandum with your committee members.

The bill carryover mechanism is designed to give committees, and the full Legislature, a vehicle for deferring action on selected bills when postponing final action is warranted. This deferral gives the committee additional time to consider a complex issue, allow the committee analyst time to conduct in-depth research and analysis on the bill, or to allow time for outside parties to reach consensus on an issue. The presiding officers will review all requests to carry over bills. Bills that the presiding officers authorize for carry over will then be listed in a Joint Order that must be voted on by the full Legislature. Bills not included in the order are subject to the reporting deadlines and must be reported out of committee this session.

Please be advised that we will be applying a stricter standard for carryover bill requests than in the recent past. We plan to limit the number of carryover bills to a minimal number of bills where postponing final action this session is truly necessary. Furthermore, budget cuts have resulted in reducing the number of interim committee meetings this year so there is very limited opportunity to hear and work on carryover bills before January.

Procedures

If your committee believes it needs to carry over any bills, please follow the procedures outlined below:

- The committees must vote on all bills to be carried over prior to submitting a request to the presiding officers. A majority vote of the committee must support carrying the bill over in order for the bill to be considered for carryover. Bills that receive a unanimous committee vote have a greater likelihood of presiding officer support.

- Submit your committee's request to carry over a bill or bills in a single, brief letter. In the request, include the committee's vote for each bill and the reason why the bill should be carried over until the second regular session. If the committee believes it is necessary to work any of the bills during the legislative interim, please explain why it is necessary. Your committee analyst will assist you in preparing this letter.
- **Your committee's request to carry over bills must be addressed to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House and delivered to the Legislative Information Office no later than the close of business on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.** Please provide a copy of all carryover requests to the Executive Director's Office. The Legislative Information Office will compile and distribute all carryover requests for our review and decision. If we require additional information, we will let you know.
- For bills that are approved to be carried over until next session, the committees have until Friday, January 20, 2006 to have heard and reported out all carryover bills. We do not anticipate granting any extensions to this deadline. Please note that committees may meet in the legislative interim only with the prior approval of the presiding officers. It is our expectation that bills worked during the interim must be reported out of committee by Friday, December 9, 2005 so they will be on the calendar when the Legislature reconvenes in January, 2006. The standard public notice requirements for holding hearings and work sessions apply to bills heard and worked during the interim.

Once all carryover requests have been submitted, we will review the requests promptly and let you know of our decision. As mentioned above, we anticipate limiting carryover bills to only those bills that absolutely require additional time. The joint order referenced above will be prepared during the final week of the First Special Session. If we have any questions, we will contact you.

If you have any questions, please see your respective presiding officer.

Thank you.

cc: Members, Legislative Council
Joy O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate
Millie MacFarland, Clerk of the House
David Boulter, Executive Director
Teen Griffin, Manager, Legislative Information Office
Legislative Council Office Directors