

WASHINGTON STATE

ACT. A bill adopted by the Legislature.

ACTUARY. A legislative staff officer appointed by the Joint Committee on Pension Policy to prepare actuarial analyses of pension proposals and other items as directed by the Legislature.

ADHOC COMMITTEE. A committee formed for a short duration, usually to study a specific issue.

ADJOURN. To conclude a day's session with a time set to meet again, or conclude a meeting.

ADJOURN SINE DIE. To conclude a regular or special session without setting a day to reconvene.

ADOPT. To approve formally.

AGENCY REQUEST BILL. A request for legislation proposed by an agency of the executive branch of government.

AGENDA. The proposed order of business for a meeting.

AMEND. To modify, delete or add to a proposal.

AMENDMENT. Any change in a bill, resolution or memorial. A committee amendment is an amendment proposed in a committee meeting. A floor amendment is an amendment proposed on the floor of a legislative chamber.

APPEAL FROM DECISION OF THE CHAIR. A parliamentary procedure for challenging the decision of a presiding officer by asking the members to uphold or reject the decision.

APPORTIONMENT. The division of the state into districts with distinct geographic boundaries and the allocation of the number of legislators or congressmen to be elected to represent each district.

APPROACH THE BAR. A legislator's physical movement from any place on the floor of either house to the rostrum.

APPROPRIATION. A legislative allocation of money for a specific purpose.

AT EASE. A pause in the proceedings of either house, usually for an indefinite time.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION (AGO). A formal expression of legal reasons and principles regarding statutory or common law questions from state agencies or legislators.

BAR OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE. The rostrum within both houses behind which sit or stand the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and others as designated, for presiding over the body, recording, and processing legislation being considered by the houses.

BICAMERAL. Composed of two chambers or two legislative bodies. The Washington State bicameral legislature is made up of a House of Representatives and a Senate.

BIENNIUM. Two-year period. The Washington State fiscal biennium is from July 1 of odd-numbered years to June 30, two years later.

BILL. A proposed law presented to the Legislature for consideration.

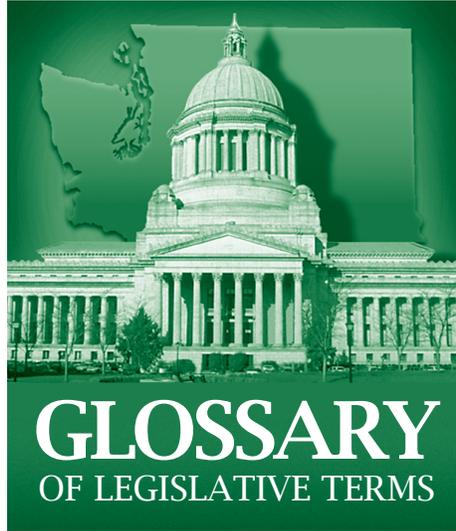
BILL BOOKS. Binders located adjacent to the chamber or in committees containing all bills and amendments currently before or passed by the Legislature or committee.

BILL DIGEST. Section-by-section summary of a bill, prepared by the Code Reviser's office.

BILL DRAFTING OFFICE. Located in the Pritchard Building in the Code Reviser's office. Drafts legislation to be introduced to the Legislature. (Officially named the Statute Law Committee.)

BILL HISTORY. A record of the action taken on bills, resolutions and memorials.

BILL INDEX. A list of legislative measures by subject matter.



BILL REPORT. Summary of background and effect of bills, prepared by committee staff.

BILLS ON CALENDAR. Printed volumes with yellow covers distributed to each member's floor desk. Includes the full text of bills and proposed committee amendments on the pending calendar.

BOOST. A legislative procedure to move a bill directly from its introduction to the floor of the House or Senate without going through the committee process.

BUMPING. Slang term for suspending the rules to allow a bill to be advanced from second to third reading without having the bill revert to the Rules Committee.

CALENDAR. A list or schedule of pending business.

CALL OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE. A procedure used to compel attendance of members.

CALL TO ORDER. Notice given indicating the Legislature is officially in session. Also used to restore order during floor action.

CAPITAL. Olympia, Washington.

CAPITAL BUDGET. Appropriations made to state and local agencies for building and construction projects.

CAPITOL CAMPUS. The grounds and group of buildings surrounding the domed Legislative Building, holding the offices of most of the state's elected officials.

CAUCUS. A group of legislators from the House or Senate who unite to promote an agreed-upon agenda, influence a particular area of policy, and to decide on questions of policy or leadership. Typically, these take the form of political party (Democratic/Republican) caucuses but may also include members from multiple parties who join together to form a coalition.

CHAIR. Presiding officer.

CHAMBER. Official hall for the meeting of a legislative body.

CHAPTER NUMBER. A chapter number, in numerical order, given to each bill enacted. The chapter number is the number of the law. When codified the chapter is inserted in the appropriate section of the statutes known as the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

CHERBERG, JOHN A. BUILDING. The four-story building directly southeast of the Legislative Building containing offices of senators and staff and hearing rooms.

CHIEF CLERK. A person elected by the members of the House of Representatives to record the official

actions of the House and to be the chief administrative officer of the House.

CODE REVISER. Operating under the supervision of the Statute Law Committee, this person codifies into the appropriate sections of the RCW those measures enacted into law by the Legislature and also codifies administrative rules adopted by executive branch agencies.

CODIFY. To consolidate, arrange and systematize the permanent legislation passed in a legislative session into a formal code organized by topic.

COLLOQUY. A formal conversation in which one or more lawmakers recite a carefully written script, designed to clarify legislative intent.

COMMITTEE. A portion of a legislative body charged with examining matters specifically referred to it.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES. Committees in each house that select the chairs and members of standing committees.

COMPANION BILL. A bill introduced in the same form in both the House and the Senate.

CONCURRENCE CALENDAR. A list of own-house bills amended by the opposite body and returned for possible concurrence.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION. A resolution relating to the internal operation of the Legislature, in which one house concurs in the action of the other; it may originate in either house.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR. A list of bills to which both bodies have appointed conferees to discuss differences and seek resolution.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. A committee appointed to discuss specific differences of opinion between the House and Senate on bills which have passed each house but with differing positions on one or more amendments.

CONFIRMATION. Approval by the Senate of gubernatorial appointments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Any interest, financial or otherwise, any business or professional activity, or any obligation which is incompatible with the proper discharge duties.

CONSENT CALENDAR. Bills with little or no known opposition which are placed on a special calendar by the Rules Committee.

CONSTITUTION. The written instrument embodying the fundamental principles of the state that establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Proposed change in the Washington State Constitution which has been approved by two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature. To be enacted, the proposed amendment must be placed on the next general election ballot and secure a simple majority of votes in favor of adopting the measure.

CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY. A majority of members elected to either the Senate or the House. In the Senate, a constitutional majority is 25; in the House, it is 50.

CONVENE. Assemble for an official meeting.

COSPONSOR. Two or more persons proposing any document.

CUTOFF DATES. Time certain set by a legislative body for specified action such as bill introduction, committee action, or passage of bills by either house.

DAY CERTAIN. Adjournment with specific day to reconvene.

DEBATABLE. Open for discussion or argument.

DEBATE. Discussion of a matter following parliamentary rules.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST BILL. A request for legislation proposed by a department of the state (also known as agency request bill).

DISCHARGE. What happens to an elected official who has been recalled.

DISPUTE CALENDAR. Bills amended by one body where the second body refuses to concur and asks the first body to recede.

DISSENT. Difference of opinion.

DISTRICT. Area encompassing citizens represented by a legislator. There are currently 49 legislative districts, each having two House members and one senator.

DIVISION. A method of voting by standing.

DIVISION OF QUESTION. Consideration of each item separately.

EFFECTIVE DATE. The date a bill, once passed, becomes law. Unless a different date is specified, bills become law ninety days after Sine Die.

EMERGENCY CLAUSE. A provision in a bill that allows a measure to become effective immediately upon the signature of the Governor.

ENACTMENT. The passage of a bill by both houses and the signing by the Governor.

ENGROSSED BILL. A bill which includes all amendments adopted on the floor of the house of origin.

ENROLLED BILL. A bill passed by both houses, which incorporates all amendments, and to which has been attached a certificate of enrollment indicating the date passed, votes cast on the bill, and the certifying officers' signatures. It is presented to the Governor for signature.

ETHICS. Standard of moral conduct. Legislative ethics standards are set forth in Chapter 42.52 RCW and House and Senate rules.

EXECUTIVE ACTION. 1. Executive action of a standing committee refers to final consideration of a bill by the committee. 2. Executive action on a bill already passed by both houses refers to action taken by the Governor.

EXECUTIVE ORDER. A directive or command from the Governor to agencies in the executive branch.

EXECUTIVE REQUEST BILL. Request for legislation proposed by the Governor.

EXECUTIVE RULES COMMITTEE. See Facilities and Operations (F&O).

EXECUTIVE SESSION. A meeting of committee members to discuss and vote on bills they wish to report out of committee. These meetings are open to the public but no testimony is taken. Note that in other contexts executive sessions are closed to the public.

EX OFFICIO. Holding one office by virtue of holding another office. Ex-officio members of a committee have voice but may not vote.

EXPULSION. The act wherein a body removes one of its members as provided under its rules.

FACILITIES AND OPERATION COMMITTEE. The Senate leadership committee that oversees matters relating to staff, the physical plant and equipment, and operational matters. The corresponding House committee is called EXECUTIVE RULES.

FIRST READING. First of three readings required to pass measures. Bill on first reading are introduced and referred to standing committees. SEE INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

FISCAL. Relating to financial matters. The state fiscal year (FY) is July 1 through June 30.

FISCAL COMMITTEES. Committees in each house that create the budgets and review the fiscal impact of pending legislation (for example, Ways and Means, Appropriations, Transportation, etc.).

FISCAL NOTE. An estimate of the expected cost of a measure to state and/or local government.

FLASH CALENDAR. A listing of bills on the second or third reading calendar for the next day's agenda in the Senate.

FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE. The actual floor space, committed primarily to legislators' desks, on which the business of the Legislature is conducted.

FLOOR RESOLUTION. A written motion calling for action, which may be offered from the floor of either house.

GALLERY. Areas of both chambers where public visitors may observe the Legislature in session.

GERMANE. Relating directly to a question.

GERRYMANDERING. Legislative district boundary lines drawn to obtain partisan or factional advantages.

GovDelivery. A software application which allows the user to be notified by e-mail or text messages of legislative events such as committee hearing times and agendas.

GOVERNOR. The chief executive officer of a state.

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE. Inserted in a bill making provisions nonapplicable to activities or personnel involved prior to the enactment of the new legislation.

GREEN SHEET. The list of bills eligible for action by the Senate Rules Committee. Green sheet bills can be placed directly on the floor calendar if approved by a majority of the members of the Senate Rules Committee. Similar to the House Rules Consideration Calendar.

GOVERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT. Designation by the Governor to fill an office or position.

HEARING. A legislative committee meeting at which witnesses present testimony on matters under consideration by the committee.

HONORARY PAGE. A young person who is acting as a nonpaid short-term page for either house.

HOPPER. Box located in the bill drafting area in which legislative measures are deposited for introduction.

HOTLINE. Toll-free number (1-800-562-6000) operated by the Legislative Information Center where citizens can leave a brief phone or e-mail message to communicate their concerns and opinions to their legislator, and/or the Governor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Lower chamber of our two-body legislature. The House has 98 members who serve two-year terms.

INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. To postpone without setting a definite time for consideration.

INITIATIVE. A legislative power vested in the people. An initiative is proposed through a petition containing signatures of 8 percent of the number of voters voting in the last preceding regular gubernatorial election. There are two types of initiatives: 1. Initiative to the people. Original legislation by the voters, proposing a new law (or changing existing laws) without consideration by the Legislature. 2. Initiative to the Legislature. Original legislation by the voters, proposing a new law (or changing existing laws) for consideration by the Legislature at its next regular session. If not enacted, it is placed on the next general election ballot.

INSURANCE BUILDING. Lying directly to the east of the Legislative Building, the Insurance Building houses the Insurance Commissioner, the Office of Financial Management and the State Auditor.

INTERIM. Time between regular legislative sessions.

INTERIM COMMITTEE ASSEMBLY. A legislative practice during the interim of having some days devoted to committee hearings and caucuses in Olympia or another location within the state.

INTERN. A college or university student from a higher education institution within the state, working with the Legislature, who receives stipend and credit hours. Legislative interns are assigned to members' offices during session and to committee staff during the interim.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS. An order of business during which new bills are read into the record. SEE FIRST READING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

INVOCATION. Prayer given prior to a session. The schedule for persons offering prayer is determined by the presiding officer.

JARRC. Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee. Reviews agency rules to ensure consistency with legislative intent.

JLARC. Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee. A joint, bipartisan committee which conducts performance audits, program evaluations and other oversight duties assigned by the Legislature.

JOINT COMMITTEE. Committee which consists of members from both houses.

JOINT MEMORIAL. A message or petition addressed to the President and/or Congress of the United States, or the head of any other agency of the federal or state government, asking for consideration of some matter of concern to the state or region. Proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution are also in the form of joint memorials.

JOINT RESOLUTION. An act of the Legislature which proposes an amendment to the state Constitution for reference to the people for acceptance or rejection. To pass, joint resolutions must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members elected in each house.

JOURNAL. Official record of action of legislative session.

LAW. Common law is law set by precedent in court and by interpretation of the Constitution and statute law. Statute law is governing action or procedure approved through the legislative process.

LEADERSHIP. The officers elected by their respective caucuses.

LEAP. Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program. A computer-based program developed by the Legislature to monitor the budgetary process. Administered by a joint committee and staff.

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR. Staff director of JLARC.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET NOTES. Document providing detail about the biennial operating budget.

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING. The domed capitol building of the state of Washington containing both the House and Senate chambers and the offices of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Auditor and Secretary of State.

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST AND HISTORY OF BILLS. A publication issued periodically containing the sponsors, titles, short digest of content, legislative actions, and veto messages of the Governor for each bill, memorial, resolution and gubernatorial appointment.

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS BOARD. Nine-member board with four legislators and five nonlegislators. Authority to interpret and apply the state ethics law for legislators and staff by training, advisory opinions, and complaints.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER (LIC). Located on the first floor of the Legislative Building in which staff is available to answer questions about the legislature and the legislative process and provide copies of all bills and legislative documents.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SPECIALIST.

An employee of the Legislative Information Center (LIC) who can answer questions about the legislature and provide copies of bills, amendments, and other legislative documents.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT. If the words of a law cannot be clearly interpreted as written, the court may refer to the journal and bill reports to establish the intent of the Legislature in passing certain bills.

LEGISLATIVE MANUAL. Biennial publication that contains the rules of each body, joint rules, biographical and other information about the Legislature and state government.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT. Summary of legislation passed during one or more legislative sessions.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES (LSS).

A legislative agency which provides joint administrative services such as printing, graphics, videography, photography, mail services, facilities support, supply, and technology support to the House, Senate and legislative agencies. LSS also manages the gift shop, the Legislative Information Center and Legislative Hotline.

LEGISLATOR. Elected member of either the House of Representatives or Senate.

LEGISLATURE. The body made up of the members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Presiding officer of the Senate.

LOBBYIST. A person who tries to get legislators to introduce or vote for measures favorable and against measures unfavorable to an interest that he or she represents.

LSC. Legislative Service Center. A legislative agency providing planning, data and information processing services, equipment and training in support of the Legislature and legislative agencies. Policy and administrative supervision are provided by the Joint Legislative Systems Committee and the Legislative Systems Administrative Committee.

LTC. Legislative Transportation Committee. A joint committee composed of eleven senators and twelve representatives which conducts transportation studies between legislative sessions.

MAJORITY LEADER. Leader of the majority party in the state Senate. In the House, second in command to the Speaker. Elected by the majority caucus in each body.

MAJORITY PARTY. The party numbering the most members in a legislative body.

MAJORITY REPORT. Document bearing the signatures of a majority of the members of a committee recommending a particular action on a measure.

MANSION. The official residence of the Governor, located directly west of the Legislative Building.

MEASURE. Any matter before a body such as a bill, memorial or resolution.

MEDIA DIGEST. Compilation of print media about legislative activities for a certain period. Also called "daily clips."

MEMBERS. Legislators having taken the oath of office.

MINORITY PARTY. A party numbering less than a majority of members in a legislative body.

MINORITY REPORT. Document carrying signature(s) of a minority of the members of a committee recommending an action different from the majority.

MOOT. A term indicating that a motion is not timely because it can no longer affect an action or event.

MOTION. A proposal that the Senate or House take a certain action.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion which, if it succeeds, would place a question in the same status as it was prior to a previous vote on that question.

MOVE. A formal request for action.

NEWHOUSE, IRVING R. BUILDING. A two-story building southeast of the Legislative Building, it houses office space for senators and staff.

NULL AND VOID CLAUSE. Language specifying that a measure is invalid unless funding is provided in the budget by a specified date.

OATH OF OFFICE. Oath taken by members-elect of the Legislature prior to being seated.

O'BRIEN, JOHN L. BUILDING. The four-story building southwest of the Legislative Building containing House members' and staff offices, hearing rooms, and other House facilities.

OFM. Office of Financial Management. The chief executive agency for evaluating the budget, preparing fiscal notes, and providing fiscal policy analysis to the Governor.

OPERATING BUDGET. Two-year plan for funding ongoing activities of state agencies, except transportation.

OPR. Office of Program Research. The House non-partisan research and committee staff located in the John L. O'Brien Building. Equivalent to Senate Committee Services.

ORDER OF BUSINESS. The usual order of daily activities of a body, set out in its rules.

ORDER OF CONSIDERATION. A list of measures anticipated to be acted upon by the House or Senate on a particular day.

PAGE. High school students who assist the House or Senate during regular legislative sessions. Each page is appointed by a member for one week for which they receive a stipend.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY. Question posed to chair for clarification of a point in the proceedings.

PASSAGE OF BILL. The act of passing a bill by either or both houses of the Legislature.

PDC. Public Disclosure Commission. Oversees the reporting of information filed by lobbyists, state agencies, legislators, candidates and political committees on the amount of money spent on the political process and enforces the campaign laws.

PENALTY CLAUSES. Sections of bills which lay out criminal or civil penalties for violation of the law.

PENSION POLICY, JOINT COMMITTEE. Committee which reviews proposed changes to retirement laws and recommends changes.

PETITION. A formal request.

PER DIEM. Payment in lieu of living expenses.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY. Publication containing pictures and biographical material about the statewide elected officials and members of the Legislature. Known as the "baby book."

PLURALITY. The person or alternative with the most votes between two or more choices; as opposed to a "simple majority," meaning 51 percent or more of those present and voting. A "constitutional majority" is 51 percent or more of those elected to the House or Senate.

POINT OF ORDER. A demand or request by a member for a legislative body to adhere to its rules of procedure.

POLICY COMMITTEES. Committees in each house that examine bills and other matters related to specific policy areas (for example, Education, Health and Welfare, etc.).

POSTPONE TO A DAY CERTAIN. To defer consideration until a later time or day.

PREFILING. The act of introducing a bill prior to the beginning of session. Prefiling starts on the first Monday in December prior to the commencement of the session, or twenty days prior to a special session.

PRESIDENT. Presiding officer of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor of the state.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. A senator elected by the Senate to discharge the duties of presiding officer in the Lieutenant Governor's absence.

PREVIOUS QUESTION. A motion to close debate and bring the pending question or questions to an immediate vote.

PRIME SPONSOR. The originator or first name on a bill or amendment that has been introduced.

PRITCHARD, JOEL, M. BUILDING. The former library building South of the Legislative Building. It houses Senate staff, the Statute Law Committee, the public cafeteria and other legislative offices.

PROCLAMATION. An order issued by the Governor, such as a proclamation calling a special session of the legislature.

PROVISO. A clause in a bill that sets out specific exceptions to the general law.

PULL. Slang term for moving a bill. For example, Rules Committee members may move (pull) bills from the Green sheet to the floor for action by the full Senate or from the white sheet to the green sheet, or members may vote to pull a bill from a committee to the floor.

PUT THE QUESTION. When the presiding officer instructs the body what it is about to vote on.

QUORUM. A majority of members of the group concerned. This means a majority of those elected to either house; in a committee, this means a majority of members assigned to the specific committee.

RCW. See Revised Code of Washington.

RECALL. The recall is the vote of the people which, in effect, tries the elective public officer on charges brought against the officer. All elective public officers except judges of courts of record are subject to recall and discharge from elective offices.

RECEDE. To withdraw from an amendment in which the other house refused to concur.

RECODIFY. To reorganize existing sections, chapters or titles of a code, usually to conform to a scheme set forth in new legislation.

RECOMMITTED BILL. A procedure whereby a bill is referred back to a standing or conference committee for further consideration. A bill may be recommitted at any time, usually on second or third reading. Recommitment of bills can be used to kill a bill during the final days of a session.

RECONSIDER. To vote again on a question previously before the body.

RED BOOK. The Legislative Manual.

REDISTRICTING. Redrawing the boundaries of areas of representation to make them equal in population. Generally done once each decade.

REFER. To send a measure to a committee for study and consideration.

RE-REFER. To reassign a measure to a different committee.

REFERENDUM. Recently passed legislation referred by the Legislature to the voters for their rejection or enactment.

REFERENDUM MEASURE. The legislative power whereby the electorate may call back recently enacted laws for voter consideration. It originates in a petition containing signatures of 4 percent of those registered and voting at the last preceding regular gubernatorial election.

RELIEVED. A committee may be relieved of further consideration of any bill in either house by a majority vote of the members of the particular house.

REPEAL. To revoke or abrogate by legislative action.

REPEALER CLAUSE. The section of a bill that lists which RCW sections and chapters of law are revoked and abrogated by the proposed legislation.

REPORTING OUT. Action by a committee on a measure which moves the measure out of the committee. Committee reports include do pass, do not pass, amend, substitute, refer to another committee, or no recommendation.

REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON. A codification of current statutes as enacted and amended.

ROLL CALL. Record of how members voted on a particular issue or question.

RSS. A software program or application that notifies the user when a bill has changed status.

RULES CONSIDERATION CALENDAR. The list of bills eligible for action by the House Rules Committee. Bills from this calendar can be placed directly on the floor calendar, if approved by a majority of the members of the House Rules Committee. Similar to the Senate Green Sheet.

RULES REVIEW CALENDAR. The list of bills eligible to be moved to the Rules Consideration Calendar by the House Rules Committee. Pulls from this calendar to the Rules Consideration Calendar require a vote by the majority of members of the House Rules Committee. Similar to the Senate White Sheet.

RULE SUSPENDED. To temporarily set aside a rule.

RULES. Regulating principles used in the conduct of legislative business.

RULES COMMITTEE. Committee responsible for setting the daily calendar of the Senate and House. The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively, serve as chair of these committees.

SCOPE AND OBJECT. A parliamentary ruling by the presiding officer as to whether a proposed amendment fits within the subject matter of the bill under consideration. Senate and House rules prohibit amendments which change or expand the scope and object of a bill.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE. A person elected by the Senate members to record the official actions of the Senate and to be the chief administrative officer of the Senate.

SECOND READING. The reading of a bill for the second time, in full, in open session, opening it to amendatory action.

SELECT COMMITTEE. A committee appointed to consider a particular topic for a limited time. Used interchangeably with special committee.

SENATE. Upper chamber of our two-body legislature. The Senate has 49 members who serve four-year terms.

SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES. The Senate nonpartisan research and committee staff located in the John A. Cherberg Building. Equivalent to House Office of Program Research.

SERGEANT AT ARMS. Enforces protocol of the House or Senate and provides security for the legislative offices.

SESSION. Official meeting of the Legislature. The Constitution provides for one 105-day regular session during odd-numbered years and one 60-day regular session during even-numbered years each biennium.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. A section of a bill which instructs the court that if one section of the

act is found unconstitutional, the remainder of the act will remain intact.

SHORT TITLE. An abridged description of a Senate Bill

SINE DIE. To conclude a regular or special session without setting a day to reconvene.

SPEAKER. Presiding officer of the House of Representatives.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS. A motion to take up a specified measure at a specific time.

SPECIAL SESSION. A session of no more than 30 days, convened by the Governor or the Legislature, following adjournment of the regular session. The Legislature, upon two-thirds vote of all members, may call itself into special session.

SPONSOR. Member offering a bill, amendment, resolution or memorial.

STANDING COMMITTEES. Committees set up by the Legislature to last for the entire length (two years) of a legislature.

STATE OFFICIALS. The nine elected statewide administrative officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Commissioner of Public Lands, Insurance Commissioner and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

STATUS SHEET. A daily publication during session giving status of bills pending or acted upon by the Legislature.

STATUTE. A law enacted by the Legislature.

STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE. See Code Reviser.

STRIKE OUT. To delete language from a bill or resolution.

STRIKING AMENDMENT. Amendment removing everything after the title and inserting a whole new bill.

SUBCOMMITTEE. Selected members of a committee designed to study a special area of concern and then report to the whole committee their findings and recommendations.

SUBSTITUTE. A bill which replaces an entire bill or resolution.

SUNSET. A program for review of state agencies, programs and statutes by JLARC and OFM.

SUNSET PROVISION. A date certain for a law to automatically be repealed unless renewed by the Legislature.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET. Changes in the second year of the biennium to funds allocated in the original capital, operating, or transportation budgets.

SUPREME COURT. The highest court of the state. Comprised of nine elected justices who serve staggered six-year terms.

SUSPENSION CALENDAR. Special calendar of noncontroversial bills created by the House Rules Committee. The only question on the floor is acceptance of committee recommendations and advancement to third reading. Closely related to the consent calendar occasionally used in the Senate.

TABLE. To set aside a matter for possible consideration at a future time.

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE. The building directly north of the Legislative Building housing the Supreme Court and offices of the Supreme Court Clerk, Commissioner, Reporter of Decisions, and the Law Library.

TERM. Duration of office of an elected official.

TERM LIMITS. Restrictions on the length of service for elected offices.

THIRD HOUSE. An association whose membership includes most of the professional lobbyists in the state.

THIRD READING. The final consideration of a bill before either house. The bill can be debated, tabled, referred, but not amended. Final passage takes a constitutional majority.

TITLE OF BILL. Description of bill or act which encompasses the intent of the bill.

TITLE-ONLY BILL. A bill which contains nothing more than a title and a number. It is introduced in order to have a vehicle on which to amend substance at a later time.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET. Appropriations for highways, bridges, ferries, transit, vehicle licensing, and traffic enforcement.

TVW. Washington State version of C-SPAN, broadcasting state government meetings and activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. Business which has been laid over from a previous day.

UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE. A legislative body having only one house, such as a city council. Nebraska has the only unicameral state legislature.

VETO. Rejection of a bill by the Governor. Governor has power to veto sections of bills but cannot make any additions. The Governor can also veto appropriation items. To pass a bill over a Governor's veto takes a two-thirds vote of both houses and is known as overriding a veto.

WAC. Washington Administrative Code. States how state agencies shall organize and adopt rules and regulations. WACs and rules and regs refer to agency guidelines adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

WALIS. Washington Legislative Information System. A number of different types of services, including a data processing system, which provides accurate up-to-date information on legislative actions.

WASHINGTON STATE REGISTER. A monthly publication which lists all proposed new agency WAC rules and regs as well as proposed amendments, meeting notices, etc.

WAYS AND MEANS. The chief revenue and appropriations committee in the Senate. The committee is responsible for deciding the ways in which state monies will be spent and the means that will be used to raise the tax revenues.

WHIP. An assistant to the majority or minority leader, the duties of the whip include counting votes, checking attendance and maintaining caucus discipline on partisan issues and procedural questions.

WHITE SHEET. The list of bills eligible for consideration to be moved to the Green Sheet by the Senate Rules Committee. Pulls from the White Sheet to the Green Sheet do not require a vote. Similar to the House Rules Review Calendar.

WITHDRAW A MOTION. To recall or remove a motion according to parliamentary procedure.

WITHIN THE BAR. Refers either to a legislator's presence within the bar of the house or to his or her physical presence on the floor of the Legislature.

WORK ROOM. An office in each house where the bills are processed, roll call information retained and bills engrossed, enrolled, etc.

WORK SESSION. Informal discussion of a measure or topic by a committee. No executive action or amendments are permitted.

YIELD. To relinquish the floor of the House or Senate to allow another member to speak.

If you are a person with a disability and need a special accommodation, please contact the House at (360) 786-7271, or the Senate at (360) 786-7189. TTY 1-800-833-6388.

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