

CONSIDERATIONS FOR POTENTIAL CHANGES TO LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Prepared for the Legislative Council
for March 7, 2012

There are four scenarios:

Scenario 1: Standard calendar similar to original 2011 calendar (first two Saturdays off, work Good Friday)

Scenario 2: No Saturdays

Scenario 3: Meet Saturdays starting in April (April 6, after Easter)

Scenario 4: Meet Saturdays after general bill transmittal deadline (March 16, before Easter)

For each scenario there is a packet that contains a list of considerations specific to the calendar, a draft calendar, and an estimate of the additional per diem costs and operational costs.

Included with this cover memo are the following general information:

1. A chart for comparison of the four calendars and considerations for changing the calendar. The chart contains information on estimated costs for the calendar change. The range for per diem costs given as the exact per diem amount is not known until December of 2012. In addition to per diem and operational costs, there are attached salaries which are three of the major components of the Feed Bill.
2. A discussion of the fiscal impact related to changing the session calendar for 2013, and the assumptions used to calculate fiscal impacts.
3. A table that illustrates the effect of changing the calendar in the middle of session and how the changes in 2011 affected the expenditures.

	Scenario 1 Traditional	Scenario 2 No Saturdays	Scenario 3 Saturdays beginning April 6	Scenario 4 Saturdays beginning March 16
General bill transmittal	Day 45: Friday, 3/1 Break: 3/2-4	Day 45: Friday, 3/8 Break: 3/9-12	Day 45: Friday, 3/8 Break: 3/9-12	Day 45: Friday, 3/8 Break: 3/9-12
App. Bill transmittal	Day 67: Fri. 3/29 (work Good Friday)	Day 67: Mon. 4/15	Day 67: Fri. 4/12	Day 67: Thurs, 4/10
Easter Break	3/30-4/1	3/29-4/1	3/29-4/1	3/29-4/1
Trans of ams to general bills	Day 73: Mon. 4/8	Day 73: Tues. 4/23	Day 73: Fri. 4/19	Day 73: Wed. 4/17
Revenue estimating affect	None-- same as 2011	May provide time to get 4/15 tax revenues to adjust rev. est. in FCC	Leaves less time to receive 4/15 revenues to make adjustments	Leaves less time to receive 4/15 revenues to make adjustments
Day 90	Saturday April 27	Thursday May 16	Thursday May 9	Tuesday May 7
Per diem and Op costs	\$1,753,411 to \$1,841,082	+\$268,540 to +\$285,565	+\$159,763 to +\$167,661	+\$128,170 to +\$134,488
Est. increased staff costs		\$210,000 (14 days)	\$150,000 (10 days)	\$120,000 (8 days)

Other Considerations for Extending Calendar into May

1. It is actually the day before transmittal days that are mostly 2nd reading and are the heavy lifting days -- often the transmittal day is only 3rd reading.
2. Actual per diem change unknown until December 2012.
3. Makes for tighter budget turn around for agencies and school districts.
4. Increases number of temporary H/S staff days as more work on M-F than Saturdays, permanent staff would still bill draft or do fiscal analysis and catch up. Estimates are based on 2009 and 2011 costs and are for the days after April 27 which is Day 90 for Scenario 1.
5. Legislators required to rent into May.
6. Impacts codification and publishing of codes because one needs to account for time for vetoes and veto polls. In 2011, this was extended out to mid- to late-June. We had fewer chapters this session, but if we go back to averages we will be pushing getting codes out by October 1.
7. Will affect start of interim -- for interim study polling, Council assignment of studies and first meetings. Many like to meet in May or early June and would likely be pushed later into June or July.
8. Rules may need to be changed.
9. There may be staffing considerations pushing temporary staff into May and later for clean-up for sergeants, secretaries, journal clerks, enrolling and engrossing.
10. In 2011 Session:
House Class 1 committees did not meet on 34.5% of Mondays and 11% of Fridays
Senate Class 1 committees did not meet on 45% of Mondays and 14% of Fridays
House Class 2 committees did not meet on 34.5% of Mondays and 31% of Fridays
Senate Class 2 committees did not meet on 34.5% of Mondays and 27% of Fridays
11. It would be vital for committees to meet more Mondays and Fridays and not leave bills until the end of session. If Legislature did not meet on Saturdays, it may exacerbate committees not meeting on Mondays and Fridays.
12. Although calendar changes have been made in the last few sessions, the fewer changes and more advance notice that legislators, staff, and the public have of the legislative calendar, allows for better planning and prevents disorganization and second guessing in the mid to latter parts of session.