

Report on Discussion by the three administrative committee leaders regarding session organization

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1. Ideas for improving session efficiency

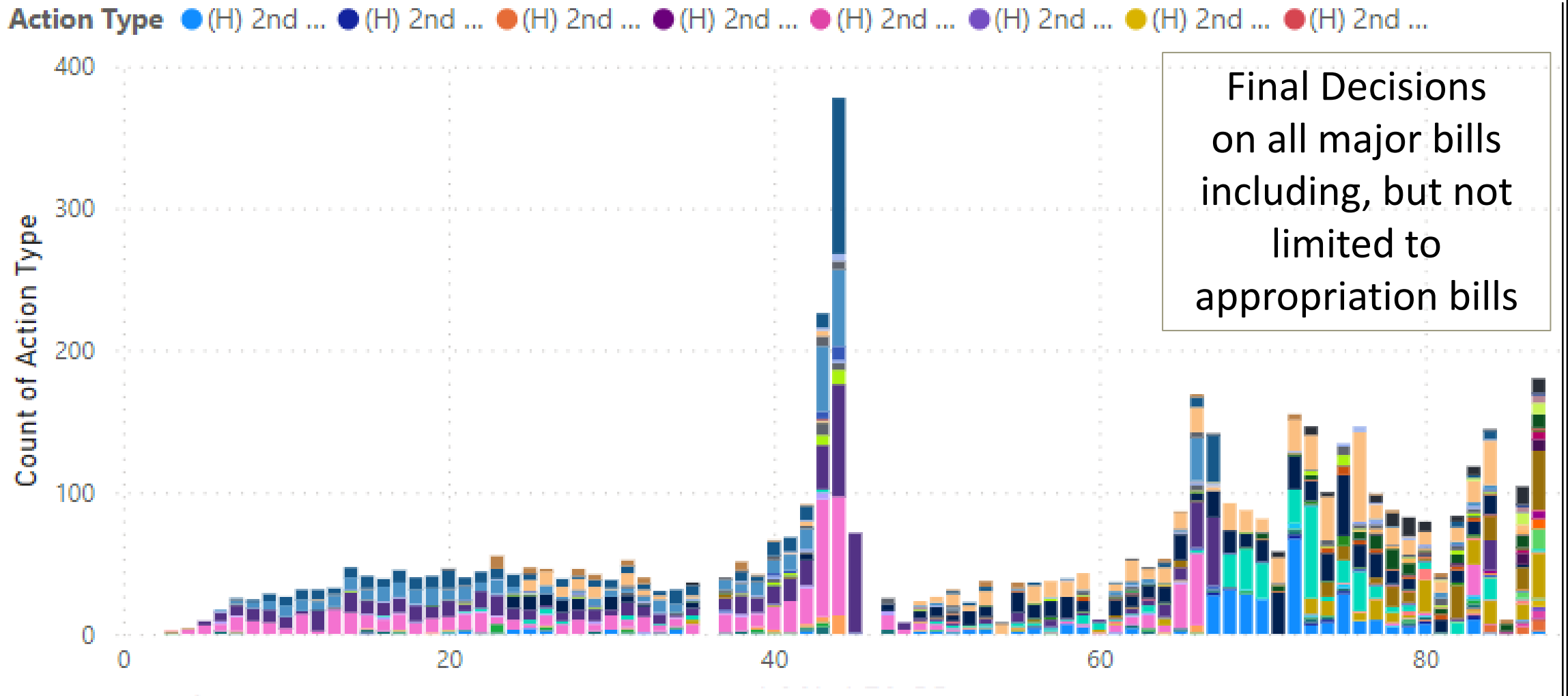
Changing the calendar, aids for leadership, training, organization

Observations from the 2023 Session

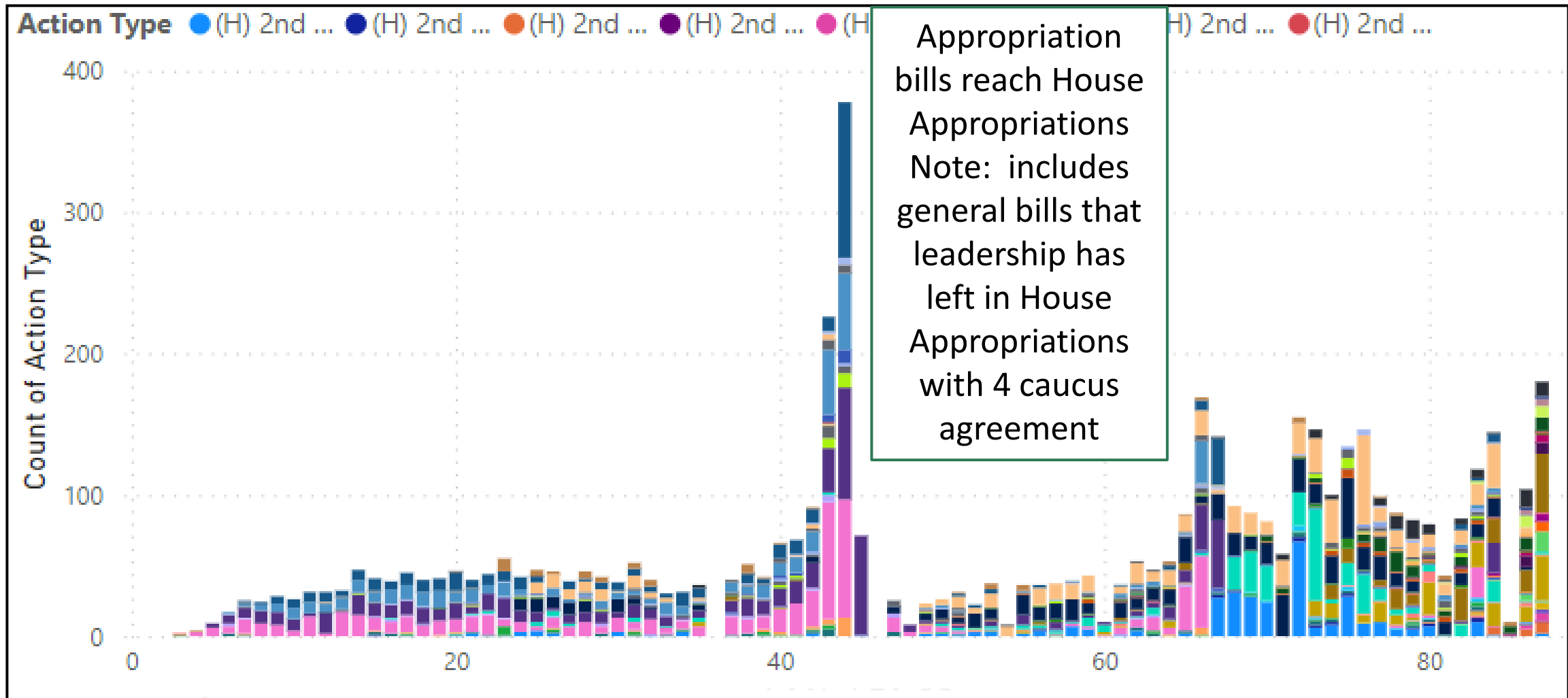
- The higher number of bills was part of a greater trend, but also had several unusual spikes:
 - Governor's red tape bills (likely not the same level again)
 - Unusually high amount of revenue and ideas to spend the revenue (should be less in the future)
 - Unusually high number of policy bills in the Judiciary and Business and Labor Committees
- The unusual bubble of bills was felt at each step of the process

A few more observations

- Committees are busier the first half of session
- Floors are busier at mid-point and the last month of session



2023 Session Floor Votes - Committees busier in the early session
 Floors are busier at the middle & end



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What about re-referring fewer bills to Appropriations Committees?

Summary statistics:

If increase threshold to \$500k, then House Appropriation Committee decrease 63 out of 199 bills and Senate Finance & Claims decrease 53 out of 167 bills

If increase threshold to \$500k in second house only, then House Appropriations 18 out of 199 bills and Senate Finance Claims decrease 29 out of 167 bills

[Data Link](#)

Committee	Fiscal impact bills heard 2023	First House	Second House
		Reduction \$500,000 Threshold	Reduction in number of bills if \$500,000 Threshold in second house only
House Appropriations	199	-63	-18
Senate Finance and Claims	167	-53	-29

Note: Small bills that were sent to HAC or SFC for other reasons are not removed. 12 in HAC and 8 in SFC.

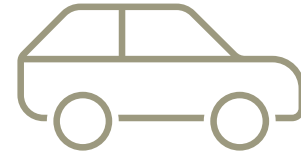
Other random thoughts

- Added thought – could the introduction deadline for bill with material fiscal impact be moved up?

2025 Session Calendar



Begins January 6th

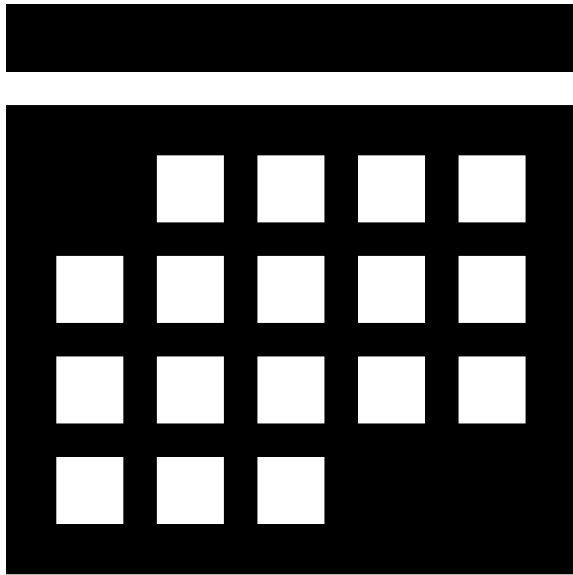


Ends April 25-May 15

If all Saturdays, the 90th day is ~April 25th

If no Saturdays, the 90th day is ~May 15th

2. Other ideas discussed



Leadership Preparation

- Session deadlines and goals to be met
- Tools for managing bills within committees
- Ability to encourage coordinated bills when possible
- Recommendations from previous leaders



Committee Chair Preparation

- Ideas for managing bills within the committee
- Understanding session deadlines
 - Policy only bills
 - Additional time after passing the committee for fiscal impact bills above the threshold that go to House Appropriations Committee or Senate Finance and Claims
- Bill strategy – which bills out first for session long plan

All Legislators Preparation



Improve opportunities to build expertise coordinated across the Branch

In person

Zoom/Teams Lunch and Learn

Web available videos

Libraries of information by topic area - all divisions



Improved legislative handbook and portal that covers aspects of legislative process

Between Now and Session

June 18-19 LEG
DAYS

Build relationships
Enhance policy
understanding
Bill drafting ideas
Leadership
workshop

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November 12-14

Caucuses
Orientation:
Work and life
necessities
Bill Drafting 101
Committee
assignment
requests

November to
Early December

Leadership
Preparation
Rules
Presiding
Officer
Preparation

Throughout
November and
December
Lunch & Learns
= optional
Zoom training;
videos will be
created for
future use

December
16-17

IBCs and
LFC
Budget
overview
with Zoom
for all
legislators

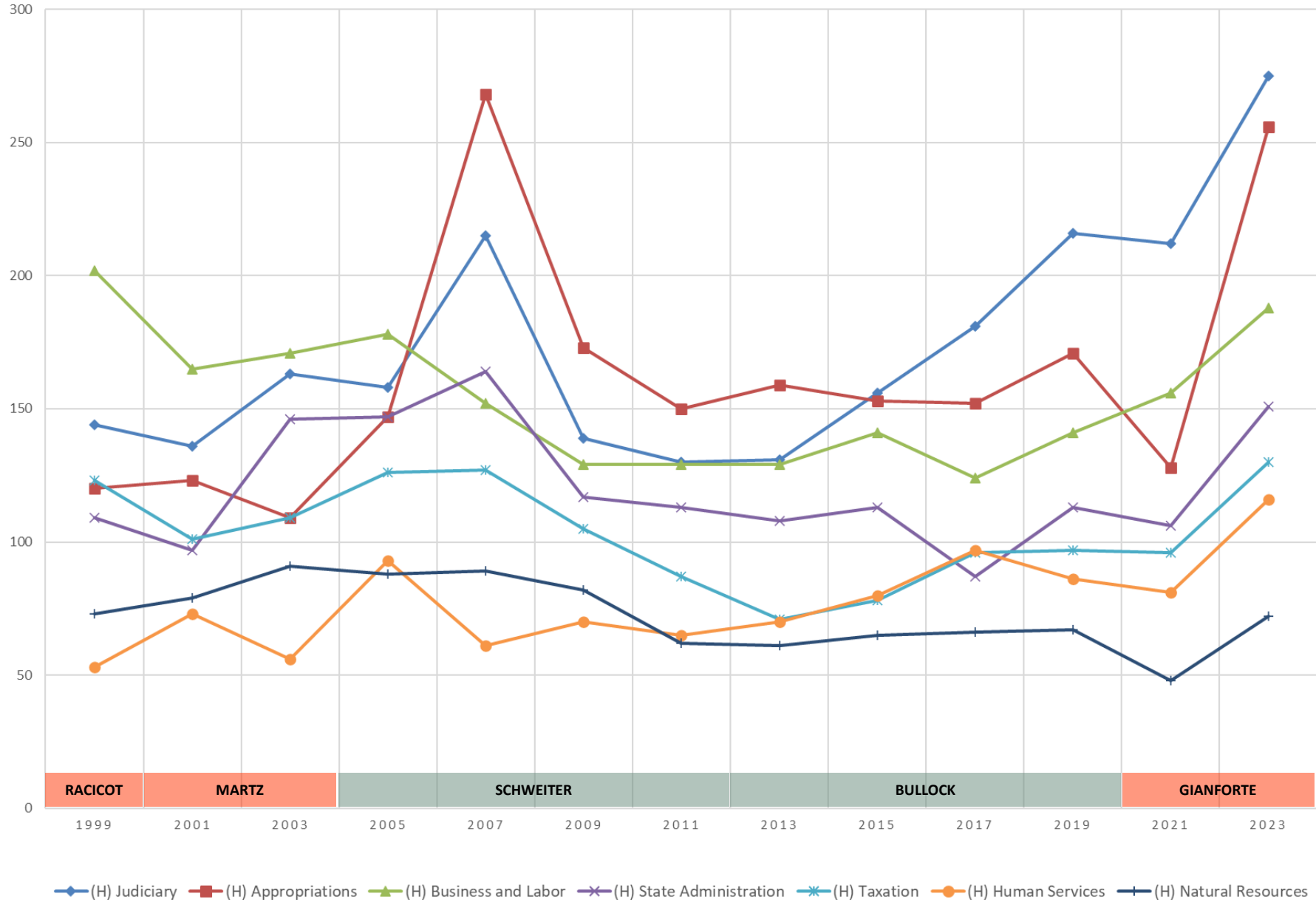
January 2-3

Prepare for
Session
Committees 101
Floor Sessions
Budget and
policy sessions

Conclusion of Presentation

HEARINGS BY STANDING COMMITTEE AND SESSION

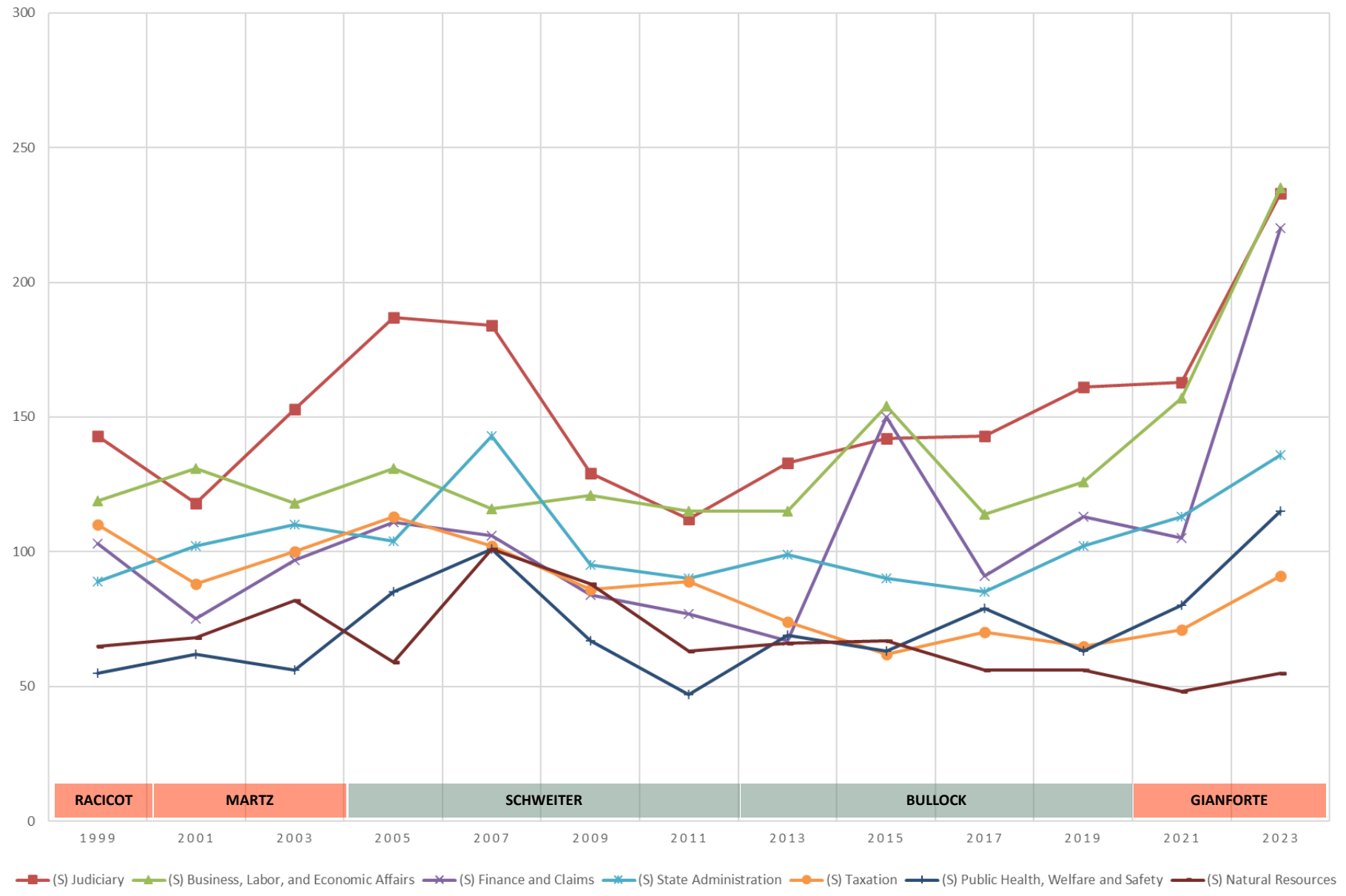
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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Dan Kayser,
LSD

HEARINGS BY STANDING COMMITTEE AND SESSION

MONTANA STATE SENATE



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