

LEGISLATURES

Table 3.14
BILL PRE-FILING, REFERENCE, AND CARRYOVER

State	Pre-filing of bills allowed (b)	Bills referred to committee by:		Bill referral restricted by rule (a)		Bill carryover allowed (c)
		Senate	House	Senate	House	
Alabama	★ (d)	President (e)	Speaker	L	...	★ (f)
Alaska	★ (g)	President	Speaker	L	L	★
Arizona	★	President	Speaker	...	L	...
Arkansas	★	President	Speaker	L	L	...
California	★	Rules Cmte.	Rules Cmte.	L	...	★ (h)
Colorado	★	President	Speaker	...	...	...
Connecticut	★	Pres. Pro Tempore	Speaker	L	L	...
Delaware	★	Pres. Pro Tempore	Speaker	...	L	★
Florida	★	President	Speaker	L	M	...
Georgia	★ (i)	President (e)	Speaker	...	L	★
Hawaii	(j)	President	Speaker	...	...	★
Idaho	(k)	President (e)	Speaker	...	...	...
Illinois	★	Rules Cmte.	Rules Cmte.	...	...	★
Indiana	★	Pres. Pro Tempore	Speaker	M	...	...
Iowa	★	President	Speaker	M	M	★
Kansas	★	President	Speaker	L	L	★
Kentucky	★	Cmte. on Cmtes.	Cmte. on Cmtes.	L	L	...
Louisiana	★	President (l)	Speaker (l)	L	L	...
Maine	★ (m)	-----Secy. of Senate and Clerk of House (n)-----	...	...	...	★
Maryland	★	President	Speaker	L	L	...
Massachusetts	★	Clerk (l)	Clerk (l)	M	M	★
Michigan	...	Majority Ldr.	Speaker	...	...	★
Minnesota	★ (o)	President	Speaker	M	M	★
Mississippi	★	President (e)	Speaker	...	...	...
Missouri	★	Pres. Pro Tempore	Speaker	...	...	...
Montana	★	President	Speaker	...	...	...
Nebraska	★	Reference Cmte.	U	L	U	★ (p)
Nevada	★	(q)	...	L	...	...
New Hampshire	★	President	Speaker	...	L	★
New Jersey	★ (m)	President	Speaker	...	...	★
New Mexico	★	(r)	Speaker	M	M	...
New York	★	Pres. Pro Tempore (s)	Speaker	M	M	★
North Carolina	...	Clerk (t)	Speaker	M	L	★
North Dakota	★	President (e)	Speaker	M	M	...
Ohio	★	Reference Cmte.	Reference Cmte.	...	M	★
Oklahoma	★	Pres. Pro Tempore	Speaker	M	...	★
Oregon	★	President	Speaker	L	★	...
Pennsylvania	★	President (e)	Speaker	M	M	★
Rhode Island	★	President (e)	Speaker	L	M	★
South Carolina	★	President	Speaker	...	M	★
South Dakota	★	President (e)	Speaker	...	...	...
Tennessee	★	Speaker	Speaker	...	...	★
Texas	★	President (e)	Speaker	...	L	...
Utah	★	President	Speaker	...	...	...
Vermont	★	President (e)	Speaker	L	L	★
Virginia	★	Clerk	Clerk (u)	L	L	★
Washington	★	(v)	...	...	...	★
West Virginia	★	President	Speaker	...	...	★
Wisconsin	...	President	Speaker	...	...	★ (p)
Wyoming	★ (m)	President	Speaker	M	M	...

See footnotes at end of table.

BILL PRE-FILING, REFERENCE, AND CARRYOVER — Continued

Source: State legislative rule books and manuals. The information in this table was compiled in 1998.

Key:

★ — Yes

... — No

L — Rules generally require all bills be referred to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction.

M — Rules require specific types of bills be referred to specific committees (e.g., appropriations, local bills).

U — Unicameral legislature.

(a) Legislative rules specify all or certain bills go to committees of jurisdiction.
 (b) Unless otherwise indicated by footnote, bills may be introduced prior to convening each session of the legislature. In this column only: ★ — pre-filing is allowed in both chambers (or in the case of Nebraska, in the unicameral legislature); ... — pre-filing is not allowed in either chamber.

(c) Bills carry over from the first year of the legislature to the second (does not apply in Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon and Texas, where legislatures meet biennially). Bills generally do not carry over after an intervening legislative election.

(d) Except between the end of the last regular session of the legislature in any quadrennium and the organizational session following the general election.

(e) Lieutenant governor is the president of the Senate.

(f) No motion to carry over all bills on the calendar to reach a certain bill shall be in order.

(g) Maximum 10 bills per member.

(h) Bills introduced in the first year of the regular session and passed by the house of origin on or before the January 31st constitutional deadline are carryover bills.

(i) Pre-filing of bills allowed; however, must formally file again when the sessions starts. *

(j) House only in even-numbered years.

(k) House members may prefile bills during the first 10 days in December before the next regular legislative session.

(l) Subject to approval or disapproval. Louisiana—majority members present. Massachusetts—by presiding officer and Committee on Steering and Policy.

(m) Prior to convening of first regular session only.

(n) For the joint standing committee system. Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of House, after conferring, suggest an appropriate committee reference for every bill, resolve and petition offered in either house. If they are unable to agree, the question of reference is referred to a conference of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. If the presiding officers cannot agree, the question is resolved by the Legislative Council.

(o) Prior to convening of second regular session only.

(p) Any bill or joint resolution on which final action has not been taken at the conclusion of the last general-business floor period in the odd-numbered year shall be carried forward to the even-numbered year.

(q) Motion for referral can be made by any member.

(r) Senator introducing the bill endorses the name of the committee to which the bill is referred. If an objection is made, the Senate determines the committee to which the bill is referred.

(s) Also serves as majority leader.

(t) Under the supervision of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Operation.

(u) Under the direction of the speaker.

(v) By the membership of the chamber.