Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill? (2024)

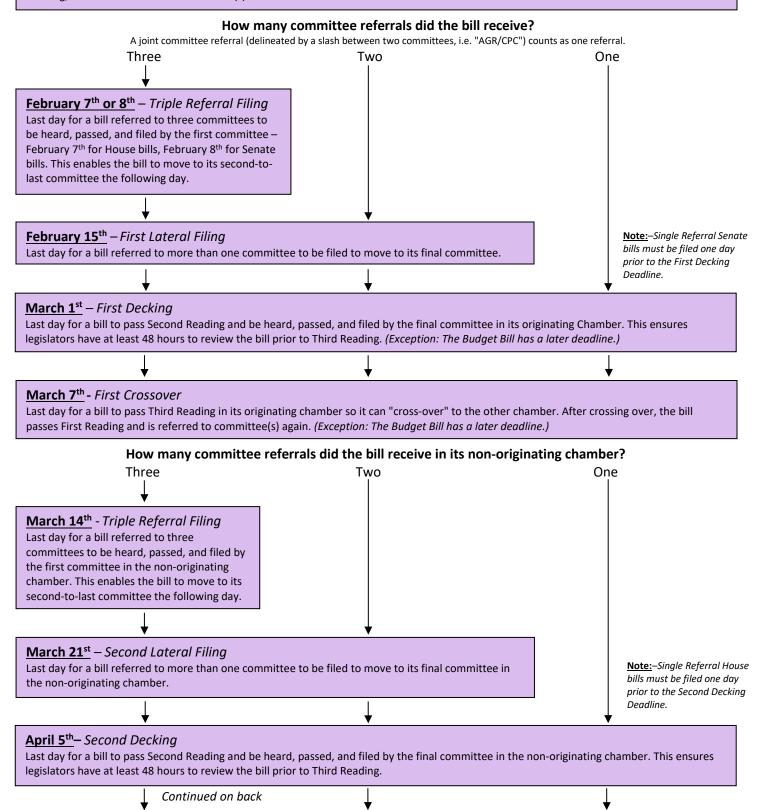
Determining which legislative deadlines apply to a particular bill can be a challenge. This diagram should help!

Deadlines appear in purple. To become law, a bill must meet each relevant legislative deadline.

Other deadlines and circumstances may apply. For more information and advocacy tips, contact the Public Access Room (PAR).

January 24th – Bill Introduction Cutoff

Last day for a bill to be filed with the House or Senate Clerk. After being filed, a bill is given a number (with an HB or SB prefix) and scheduled for First Reading in the originating chamber. Bills must survive at least three Readings (votes) on the floor of each chamber. Following First Reading, each bill is referred to committee(s).

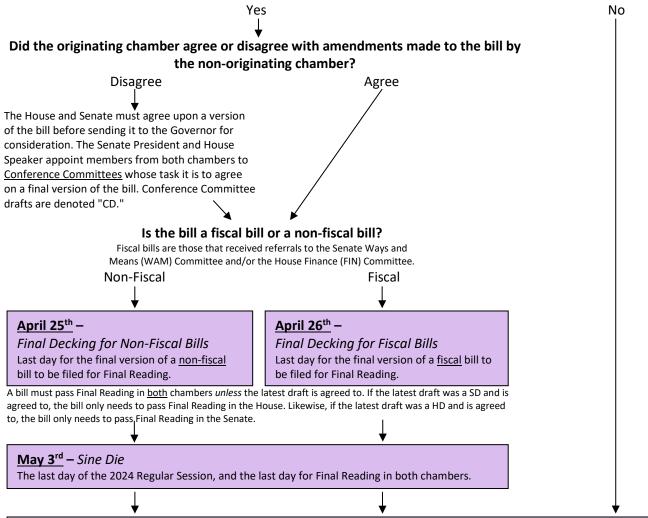


April 11th – Second Crossover & Deadline to Disagree with Bill Amendments

Last day for a bill to pass Third Reading in the non-originating chamber so it can "cross back" to its originating chamber. Last day for the originating chamber to disagree with amendments made in the non-originating chamber.

Did the non-originating chamber amend the originating chamber's last draft?

Confirm this by looking at the bill number. Drafts are denoted by "HD" for House Drafts and "SD" for Senate Drafts, followed by a number that tells you how many times the bill was amended in that chamber. For example, you know a bill that started out in the House was amended by the non-originating chamber if "SD" appears in the bill's number (such as "HB123 HD1 SD1"). Likewise, a bill that started out in the Senate was amended in the other chamber if "HD" appears in its number.



Bills Go to the Governor for Consideration

If the bill is sent to the Governor on or before April 15th (10 or more days before sine die), then...

- If the Governor signs the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law.
- If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.
- If the Governor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill does not become law unless the Legislature reconsiders the bill before *sine die* and overrides the veto by a 2/3 vote in each chamber.

If the bill is sent to the Governor <u>after</u> April 15th (less than 10 days prior to *sine die*), then...

- If the Governor signs the bill by July 10th (the 45th day after *sine die*), the bill becomes law.
- If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill by July 10th (the 45th day after *sine die*), the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.
- If the Governor intends to veto the bill, the Governor must inform the Legislature by June 25th (the 35th day after *sine die*) and deliver the veto by July 10th. If the bill is vetoed, it may still become law if the Legislature successfully overrides the veto in special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber. The Legislature must convene in special session at or before noon on July 10th to override the Governor's veto.

Enactment procedures and deadlines are outlined in Article III, Section 16 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and any days in which the Legislature is in recess prior to its adjournment are excluded in the calculation of days.