

Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill? (2026)

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 28th – 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).

How many committee referrals did the bill receive?

A joint committee referral (delineated by a slash between two committees, i.e. "AGR/CPC") counts as one referral.

Three

Two

One

February 11th or 12th – First Triple Referral Filing

Last day for a bill referred to three committees to be heard, passed, and filed by the first committee – February 5th for House bills, February 6th for Senate bills. This enables the bill to move to its second-to-last committee the following day.

Note: Single Referral Senate bills must be filed one day prior to the First Decking Deadline.

February 19th – First Lateral Filing

Last day for a bill referred to more than one committee to be filed to move to its final committee.

March 6th – First Decking

Last day for a bill to pass Second Reading and be heard, passed, and filed by the final committee in its originating Chamber. This ensures legislators have at least 48 hours to review the bill prior to Third Reading. (Exception: The Budget Bill has a later deadline.)

March 12th – First Crossover

Last day for a bill to pass Third Reading in its originating chamber so it can "cross-over" to the other chamber. After crossing over, the bill passes First Reading and is referred to committee(s) again, now in the non-originating chamber. (Exception: The Budget Bill has a later deadline.)

How many committee referrals did the bill receive in its non-originating chamber?

Three

Two

One

March 19th – Second Triple Referral Filing

Last day for a bill referred to three committees to be heard, passed, and filed by the first committee in the non-originating chamber. This enables the bill to move to its second-to-last committee the following day.

Note: Single Referral House bills (HBs) must be filed one day prior to the Second Decking Deadline.

March 27th – Second Lateral Filing

Last day for a bill referred to more than one committee to be filed by the next-to-last committee to move to its final committee in the non-originating chamber.

April 10th – Second Decking

Last day for a bill to pass Second Reading and be heard, passed, and filed by the final committee in the non-originating chamber. This ensures legislators have at least 48 hours to review the bill prior to Third Reading.

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April 16th – Second Crossover & Deadline to Disagree with Bill Amendments

Last day for an amended 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.

Yes

Did the originating chamber agree or disagree with amendments made to the bill by the non-originating chamber?

Disagree

The House and Senate must agree upon a version of the bill before sending it to the Governor for consideration. The Senate President and House Speaker appoint members from both chambers to Conference Committees whose task it is to agree on a final version of the bill. Conference Committee drafts are denoted "CD."

Agree

Is the bill a fiscal bill or a non-fiscal bill?

Fiscal bills are those that received referrals to the Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee and/or the House Finance (FIN) Committee.

Non-Fiscal

Fiscal

April 29th –

Final Decking for Non-Fiscal Bills

Last day for the final version of a non-fiscal bill to be filed for Final Reading.

May 1st –

Final Decking for Fiscal Bills

Last day for the final version of a fiscal bill to be filed for Final Reading.

A bill must pass Final Reading in both chambers *unless* the latest draft is agreed to. If the latest draft was an SD and is agreed to, the bill only needs to pass Final Reading in the House. Likewise, if the latest draft was an HD and is agreed to, the bill only needs to pass Final Reading in the Senate.

May 8th – Sine Die

The last day of the 2025 Regular Session, and the last day for Final Reading in both chambers.

Bills Go to the Governor for Consideration

If the bill is sent to the Governor on or before April 21st (10 or more session 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 after April 21st (less than 10 session days prior to *sine die*), then...

- If the Governor signs the bill by July 15th (the 45th day after *sine die*), the bill becomes law.
- If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill by July 15th (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 30th (the 35th day after *sine die*) and deliver the veto by July 15th. 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 15th 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.