



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR

## NEWS RELEASE

February 15, 2010

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### **Annual session referral moves to Senate floor** *Senate rules committee approves SJR 41 in bipartisan vote*

SALEM—After hearing testimony from legislators, public interest advocates, and members of the Public Commission on the Legislature, the Senate Rules Committee voted this morning to approve a measure that would ask voters to consider annual sessions for Oregon’s Legislature.

“It is crucial that we are responsive and accountable to the people of Oregon,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), the chair of the Committee. “Oregon shouldn’t be one of the few states that can’t respond to the needs of its people in a timely manner, especially when it comes to changes in our economy. SJR 41 will give Oregon voters the opportunity to consider modernizing how we do business.”

SJR 41 would refer to voters a constitutional amendment establishing fixed-length, annual sessions for the state. The Legislature would meet for approximately 135 days in odd-numbered years and 45 days in even-numbered years, and for no more than 180 days over a two year period. The referral would appear on the ballot during the November 2010 election.

“Each and every Oregonian depends on the services that the state provides, be it public education, safe roads, or services to seniors and children,” said Devlin. “Our ability to provide these services in a fiscally sound and responsive manner is challenged by the constraint of meeting only once every two years.”

Including Oregon, there are only five state legislatures that meet only once every other year. The bill will now go to the Senate floor.

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