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STANDING COMMITTEE
SENATE RULES
CHAIR

SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

May 19, 2021

To: Senators

From: President pro Tempore Toni Atkins

Re: 2021 Senate Bill Requirements

After much consideration and collaboration with the Assembly, the Speaker and I have decided to limit members to 12 bills each for the 2021 Legislative year.

This means each Senator and Assemblymember will only be allowed to pass 12 bills to the opposite house (i.e., Senators to the Assembly and Assemblymembers to the Senate).

My office, in conjunction with Senate Rules Committee Staff, will be monitoring the number of bills leaving and entering the Senate to ensure limits are being followed.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q: *What if a Senator already has a bill that passed off the Senate Floor and the bill is in the Assembly?*

A: Assembly Committees will not set bills for hearings that have passed off the Senate Floor prior to Monday, May 24, 2021 until they hear from each Senator's office on whether he or she wants that bill heard by the Assembly committee. If a Senator wants one of these bills to be heard, it will count toward the 12 bill limit. If not, the bill will remain in the Assembly until 2022.

Please contact the relevant Assembly Committee and email Kimberly Rodriguez (kimberly.rodriguez@sen.ca.gov) in the Pro Tem's Office by Friday, May 28, 2021 if you will be setting your bill(s) that are already in the Assembly. Also, please include the bill number in the email.

Q: *Can a Senator pass as many bills as he or she wants off the Senate Floor to the Assembly and decide while the bills are in the Assembly, which 12 bills he or she wants set for hearing by Assembly Committees?*

No. Beginning May 24, 2021, any Senate Bill that passes off the Senate floor will count toward the Senator's 12 bill limit. Therefore, if you do not want a bill to count toward your 12 bill limit, please do not move it off the Senate Floor.

Q: Are bills that are left on the Senate Floor in June 2021 dead?

A: No. Any bills left on the Senate Floor in May/June 2021 are alive and can be acted on by January 31, 2022.

Q: Do Committee bills count against a Senator's 12 bill limit?

A: No. For Senators who chair a policy or fiscal committee, a bill specifically for the purposes of the jurisdiction of the committee does not count toward the 12 bill limit.

Q: Are Senate bills held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File in May 2021 eligible to move in January 2022?

No. Consistent with past practice, bills held on suspense are not eligible to move.

Q: Is someone keeping track of whether a Senator has reached the 12 bill limit?

A: Yes, the Pro Tem's Office, in conjunction with Senate Rules Committee staff, is keeping track of how many bills each Senator has. The Pro Tem's Office is also coordinating with the Speaker's Office on bill information.

If you have questions on the bill limit issue, please feel free to contact Kimberly Rodriguez, Policy Director, in the Pro Tem's Office at kimberly.rodriguez@sen.ca.gov.