

Hi, this is Chris Micheli, with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law in its Capital Lawyering program. Today's podcast is looking at the 2017 California legislative session by the numbers. We're going to look at three things today: bill introductions, end of session statistics, and the Governor's actions.

So with bill introductions, the 2017 session - which is the first year of the two year 2017-18 legislative session - we saw 2,495 bills introduced in this first year. Now that was by the February 17th deadline. There were about 50 more bills that were introduced after that deadline. To put the 2017 bill introductions into context, let's look at the last couple of years.

It seems that in the second year of the legislative session - that is the even-numbered years - we have a number of fewer bills, on average about 2,000 bills. In 2016 the bill introductions as of the deadline was 1,993. Looking at 2015 - again which was the first year of the two-year session - there were 2,297 bills. About 2,300 of them. In 2014, the bill introductions by the deadline - 1,930. And then lastly, in the 2013 session - again the first year of a two-year session - we had 2,256 bills.

So California's Legislature did introduce about 200 more bills in the 2017 session than they did in 2015 or in 2013 - the first year of those two-year sessions. I would note that the Assembly increased the cap on bill introductions from 40 bills in the two-year session to 50 bills. So let's turn to the end of session statistics.

And here we broke them into the two houses of the Legislature - the Senate and the Assembly. In the Senate, we had a total of 817 bills introduced. Of those, 514 of the bills were passed by the Senate. Only three bills were refused passage on the Senate floor - that's quite the statistic. That leaves about 300 bills as two-year measures - those can be considered again in January 2018. Essentially, the rule is that bills introduced in the first year of the legislative session can carry over - that's why they're called two-year bills - they can be carried over to the second year of the legislative session. But, they have to clear their house of origin by January 31st of the following year. That means all the Assembly bills have to the Assembly by January 31st, 2018 and all the Senate bills have to clear the Senate floor by January 31st, 2018.

So getting back to the number of bills in the Senate, 63% of the introduced bills passed out of the Senate while a meager 0.4% of the introduced bills actually failed passage on the Senate floor. Now, looking at authors and the number of bills. The most bills that were introduced in 2017 were by Senator Ricardo Lara, a Democrat from Los Angeles. He had 29 bills. By the way, the maximum introductions for the two-year session are 40 bills - absent a rule waiver. Senator Galgiani, from the Central Valley, she introduced 28 bills; Senator Jerry Hill from San Mateo - 26 bills. There were five state senators who introduced 24 bills a piece - Steve Bradford, Steve Glazer, Connie Leyva, Janet Nguyen, and Anthony Portantino. Now, at the other end of the spectrum Senators Ted Gaines - a Republican from Amador - and Senator Holly Mitchell - a Democrat from LA

- introduced only 9 bills, followed by Senator Andy Vidak - from the Central Valley - he introduced 12 bills.

Now looking at the bills being considered by standing committees, here's an interesting statistic. In looking at bills being considered by standing committees, the Senate committees with the highest number of original committee references were the following: the Senate Education Committee had the most - the considered 166 bills this year - followed by the Senate Public Safety Committee which considered 146 bills, and the third highest was the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee which considered 140 bills.

Now the three committees with the lowest number of original committee references? They were the Senate Agriculture Committee with 17, Senate Insurance Committee with 19, and the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee also with 19.

Turning to the State Assembly, there were a total of 1,733 bills that were introduced in the State Assembly in 2017. Of those 970 bills passed the Assembly floor while only 9 were refused passage on the Assembly floor. Sounds similar to the statistics on the Senate side, doesn't it? That left 763 bills as two-year measures that may be considered by January 31st, 2018.

So in terms of those Assembly statistics: 56% of the introduced bills passed out of the Assembly, while just a half a percent of the introduced failed passage on the Assembly floor. Now, looking at authors and bills. The most bills by far were introduced by Assembly Member Ting with 78. Now how is that when the total number that is capped at 50? Well, that's because the Budget Committee Chair in the Assembly authors most of the Budget trailer bills. So that's why his number is over-inflated.

Now turning to other Assembly Members, Assemblyman Bloom - a Democrat from Santa Monica - introduced 32 bills; Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva from Orange County introduced 31 bills; Assemblyman Levine from Marin County introduced 30, and there were four Assembly Members who introduced 29 bills each - Assemblywoman Caballero, Assemblyman Frazier, Assemblyman Gipson, and Assemblywoman Gonzalez Fletcher.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Speaker Anthony Rendon kept his promise - he did not introduce any bills and he only introduced four resolutions. Interestingly, the next lowest from the Assembly Republican Leader - the Speaker's counterpart in the other party. Assemblyman Chad Mayes introduced just 5 bills, well underneath his 50 bill cap.

In terms of the bills being considered by standing committees in the Assembly, the three committees in the Assembly with the highest number of original committee references were the Public Safety Committee - which considered 195 bills - the Assembly Health Committee considered 147 bills, the Assembly Education Committee considered 140 bills, and the Assembly Judiciary Committee considered 133 bills.

Now on the opposite side of the spectrum, the committees with the lowest number of original committee references were the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Technology, and Internet Media - which had only 9 bills in its jurisdiction. The Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee had 12. The Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee had 13, and the Assembly Banking and Financial Institutions had 18 original committee references.

Our last section of the podcast concerns the Governor's bill actions. This year the Governor got a fewer number of bills than prior years. The total bills he received were 977. Last year, in 2016, the Governor got 1,059 bills on his desk. He vetoed 159, or 15% of them. This year the Governor signed 859 bills, which was an 88% approval rate, and he vetoed 118 - 12%. Now to put this into context we can look quickly at the last four governors.

Now, between 2011 and 2016, Governor Jerry Brown vetoed a low of 10.7% and a high - last year's veto rate - of 15%. The prior Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, between 2004 and 2010, Schwarzenegger vetoed between 22.3%, at the low mark, and 35% of the bills sent to him as a high water mark. Between 1999 and 2003, Governor Gray Davis vetoed between 6% and 25% of the bills sent to his desk. And between 1991 and 1998, Governor Pete Wilson vetoed a low of 8.6%, to a high of 24.5%.

Now, of the bills that reached the Governor's desk, the Governor signed 567 Assembly bills and 292 Senate bills. Of those 567 AB's, 85% were authored by Democrats and 15% were authored by Republicans. Of the 292 Senate bills, 86% were authored by Democrats, 14% were authored by Republicans.

Turning to the vetoes. Of the 118 bills that the Governor vetoed, 84 of them were Assembly bills, 34 were Senate bills. In terms of the partisan authorship. Of the 84 Assembly bills that were vetoed, 87% were authored by Democrats, 13% were authored by Republicans. And of the 34 Senate bills that were vetoed, 82% were authored by Democrats and 18% were authored by Republicans. So very similar numbers between the Assembly Democrat authorship rate the Senate Democratic authorship rate.

So the final statistic I'll give you is that of the 733 total bills that were introduced in the Assembly, 37.5% got to the Governor's desk. Of those total, 32.7% got signed, and only 4.8 got vetoed. That's on the Assembly side. On the Senate side, 39.9% got to the Governor's desk, 35.7% got signed, and 4.2% got vetoed.

So the numbers are very similar, but apparently based upon the statistics, you had a better shot of a Senate bill getting to the Governor's and signed into law than the Assembly.

I hope you enjoyed today's podcast on the 2017 session by the numbers.