

Hi. This is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea and Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law in its Capital Lawyering program.

This podcast is on other floor items. We're going to cover, briefly, the unfinished business file, the inactive file, the use of floor managers, and WORFs. What are they?

The unfinished business file: both the Assembly Daily File as well as the Senate Daily File contain a portion titled "Unfinished Business." This is the section of the daily file that contains the bills that have returned to their House of origin from the opposite House.

The bills await a concurrence vote due to amendments that were made to the bill in the other House.

This section of the daily file also contains bills that were vetoed by the governor. Note that vetoed items remain on the daily file for a 60-day period following the gubernatorial veto. Thereafter, unless voted upon, they are removed from the daily file and can no longer be considered.

What's the inactive file? Another portion of the daily file to be aware of is for bills that made it to the floor of either the Assembly or the Senate but, for whatever reason, the bill's author has chosen not to proceed with the measure.

Bills that have failed passage can be moved to the inactive file for further consideration. If an author has moved the bill to the inactive file, he or she can remove it from the active file at a later date, with specified public notice, for further consideration on the respective floor.

What are floor managers? When the bill's author presents his or her bill on the floor of the bill's House of origin, that is, when the Assembly bill is presented by an Assembly Member or a Senate bill is presented by the Senator, that's different when the bill is for consideration in the opposite House.

That's when you need a floor manager. In other words, Assembly Members cannot present their bills for consideration and debate on the Senate floor and, likewise, Senators cannot present their bills for consideration and debate on the Assembly floor.

When a bill's author is responsible for taking up his or her measure on their own floor, a floor manager is required in the other House. A member of the other House, designated by the bill's author when the bill is considered by the other House, is called the bill's floor manager.

In years past, this member was often referred to as the floor jockey, however, this term is no longer used. The member's name who's the floor manager in the other House appears in parentheses after the bill's author's name on either the second or third reading file of the daily file.

What's a WORF? According to the rules of both Houses, bills that are not listed on the daily file can only be taken up with either unanimous consent by the members of that House or by suspension of the rules.

A bill that is not listed on the daily file but which is taken up nonetheless is referred to as a WOLF. The process of taking up a WOLF'ed bill is without reference to file, W-O-R-F.

In order to WOLF a bill, a majority of the House's membership, that's 41 votes in the Assembly and 21 votes in the Senate, is required to take up the bill without reference to file.

I hoped you learned a little bit with this brief presentation on different floor items. Thanks for joining.