

Hi, this is Chris Micheli, a principal with the Sacramento Governmental Relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an Adjunct Professor at McGeorge School of Law in the Capital Lawyering Program.

Today's podcast is on legislative deadlines. The California Legislature works on the basis of deadlines for moving measures including bills, resolutions and constitutional amendments through the legislative process. This is in stark contrast to the US Congress that does not have similar deadlines. The Assembly Chief Clerk and the Senate Secretary each maintain information related to these legislative deadlines.

Based upon the legislative calendar and the Joint Rules of the Assembly and Senate, the following are some of the key dates during the calendar year for you to be aware of. Most statutes take effect on January 1, the Legislature generally convenes the first week in January, the budget bill must be submitted by the Governor by January 10th. There's a deadline in late January for the last day to submit bill drafting requests to the office of the Legislative Counsel. And February is the last day for bills to be introduced for that year.

Generally in March, there's a one week spring recess and then the Legislature reconvenes about 10 days later. In April will be the last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills to fiscal committees and then two weeks thereafter will be the last day for policy committees to hear and report to the floor non-fiscal bills. There will be a last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the floor, generally in late May.

The first week in June will generally be, no committee may meet for any purpose except for the Rules Committee and the last day to pass bills out of the house of origin. And then of course, bills continue the process in the opposite house and committee meetings generally resume in June. The budget bill must be passed by midnight, June the 15th. In late June or early July will be the last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills for referral to the fiscal committee.

There will be the deadline for the last day for policy committees to hear and report bills. Generally, either the month of July, or mid-July to mid-August in odd-numbered years will be the summer recess assuming that the budget bill has been passed. The Legislature will reconvene from the summer recess for generally four to five weeks. At that time there'll be a last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor. The last two weeks will be floor session only or generally no committee may meet absent or rule waiver.

Several days before the end of session will be the last day to amend bills on the floor and of course, the last day of session, which is August 31st in the even-numbered year, or roughly mid-September in the odd-numbered year will be the last day for any bill to be passed and the start of the interim recess upon adjournment in the odd-numbered year. The Governor will have 30 days to sign or veto bills that were passed by the Legislature to him or her at that point.

Note that there are several important calendar items especially, when it relates to what are called Joint Rule 61 deadlines, which is when bills have to be out of committees, when bills have to be on the floor and when they can be amended. Also,

be aware that the listing of dates upon which the Assembly or Senate measures may be considered are generally provided in the Constitution.

Joint Rule 55 says that no bill other than the budget bill may be heard or acted upon by committee until the bill has been in print for 30 days. These are some of the most critical deadlines for legislation being considered in the California Legislature. Of course, it's important to consult the most recent version of the Assembly Rules, the Senate Rules, and the Joint Rules in order to double check these important deadlines. You can also obtain a list of these deadlines from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly for the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.