

March 5, 2020



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Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2019 Session of Oregon Legislature:

SJR 201: Oppose -1 Amendment

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports this resolution, which would send to voters an amendment to the Oregon Constitution changing the quorum requirements on the floors of the House and Senate from two-thirds of the members to "a majority" of the members.

But we oppose the -1 amendment, which would not change the existing two-thirds quorum requirement but would lengthen the sessions from 160 or 35 calendar days to 160 or 35 session days. We believe that the legislative sessions are already long enough. Having the Legislature in session longer means added burdens on impecunious groups and individuals who seek to participate in the legislative process.

Further, lengthening the sessions in this manner would not solve the walkout problem. A one-third-plus-one minority could still deny a quorum on either floor for an indefinite period of time. What happens when the calendar year comes to a close? I would think that the session would have to end at that point. If not, then annual sessions would continue into subsequent years, still with no means to prevent the minority from halting all business on the floors.

This testimony is joined by the Independent Party of Oregon.

Oregon Progressive Party

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