

Submitter: Hope Segel-Vaccher
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2006

Honorable Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee:

The reason I support limiting the number of bills per session is because the current system of unlimited bills results in a system that only works if you live at the Legislature 24/7 during the session. This session alone I have driven for over an hour each way, with a car full of people, to testify several times, only to learn that because of the number of bills on the agenda, and the number of people interested in speaking, we would be limited to 60, or 90 seconds each. Really? It's insulting. No questions are asked and subsequent worksessions have had up to 12 bills scheduled for a single meeting. Again, few questions and even fewer answers are asked and provided, and again there are too many bills for any one of them to get the amount of time they deserve.

Another problem is the codifying of all the holes and add on legislation to the existing statutes has overwhelmed legislative counsel. In fact, the 2023 version of the Oregon Revised Statutes is what is posted on the Legislatures web page. If any of you happen to work with the statutes every day in the work you do, without legislative counsel or other assistants, you should know the difficulty this poses for those of us who don't have people around to figure out what is applicable and what statutory provisions have changed since 2023.

The idea that limits will further enable lobbyists is real because lobbyists already dominate and control, whether you like or believe it. For this reason please consider an amendment that limits lobbyists to one bill per Committee, or some similar restriction on their access to people they expect favors from.

Finally, not all 'issues' are bill worthy, and personal grievances about state laws and not getting ones way because of those laws should not be the basis for changing statutory laws, as is often the case.