

Testimony on HB 4002
House Committee on Rules
By: Brad Dennis
February 12, 2026

I am writing in support of HB 4002 which would limit the number of bills that a legislator may initiate during the long session. I have been frustrated for several years, watching the number of bills grow each session to beyond what can be addressed during the session.

In the short session, legislators are required to prioritize their wishes due to a 2-bill limit. The long session is 4 times as long, so you might make the case that the bill-limit during the long session should be $2 \times 4 = 8$ bills.

Thanks to the OLIS data system and the ability to extract a lot of the data, I present the following facts.

Measures

In the last session (2025), 3442 measures were introduced.
2496 of these measures had a chief sponsor listed (3/4 of the measures).
946 measures were introduced by someone other than a legislator (1/4 of the measures).
On average, each legislator introduced 28 bills, although 3 legislators accounted for 593 bills. Please see Exhibit 2 below for a count of bills by chief sponsor.

Hearings

Of the 3442 measures that were introduced, only 1649 had a hearing (48%)
The bills that had a hearing can be divided into two groups:

1. Legislator-introduced measures: 1083 (Average of 12 per legislator)
2. Staff-introduced measures: 566

The 1793 bills that did not have a hearing (52% of total) can be divided into two groups:

1. Unheard legislator-introduced measures = 1413
2. Unheard staff-introduced measures = 380

Please see exhibit 1 for a graphical representation of these numbers.

While I greatly support the passage of HB 4002, I also recommend amendments as follows:

1. Reduce the number of measures that a legislator can introduce to 12, for a total of 1080 in both chambers.
2. Require staff, agencies and the governor to work with a legislator to introduce staff measures, allowing each legislator to introduce 6 of these staff measures.
3. Revise the number of allowable measures in the following long session to be equal to the number of measures that had a work session in the most recent long session.

Passing HB 4002 with these proposed amendments will result in high-quality measures being introduced and will require legislators to prioritize their work. It should also be mentioned that currently, duplicate bills are being introduced by lawmakers. There should be a mechanism to allow lawmakers to collaborate and consolidate bills. A case in point is the more than 20 bills on the estate tax that were introduced last session.

Sincerely,
Brad Dennis

Exhibit 1 – Bill Status (source OLIS database)

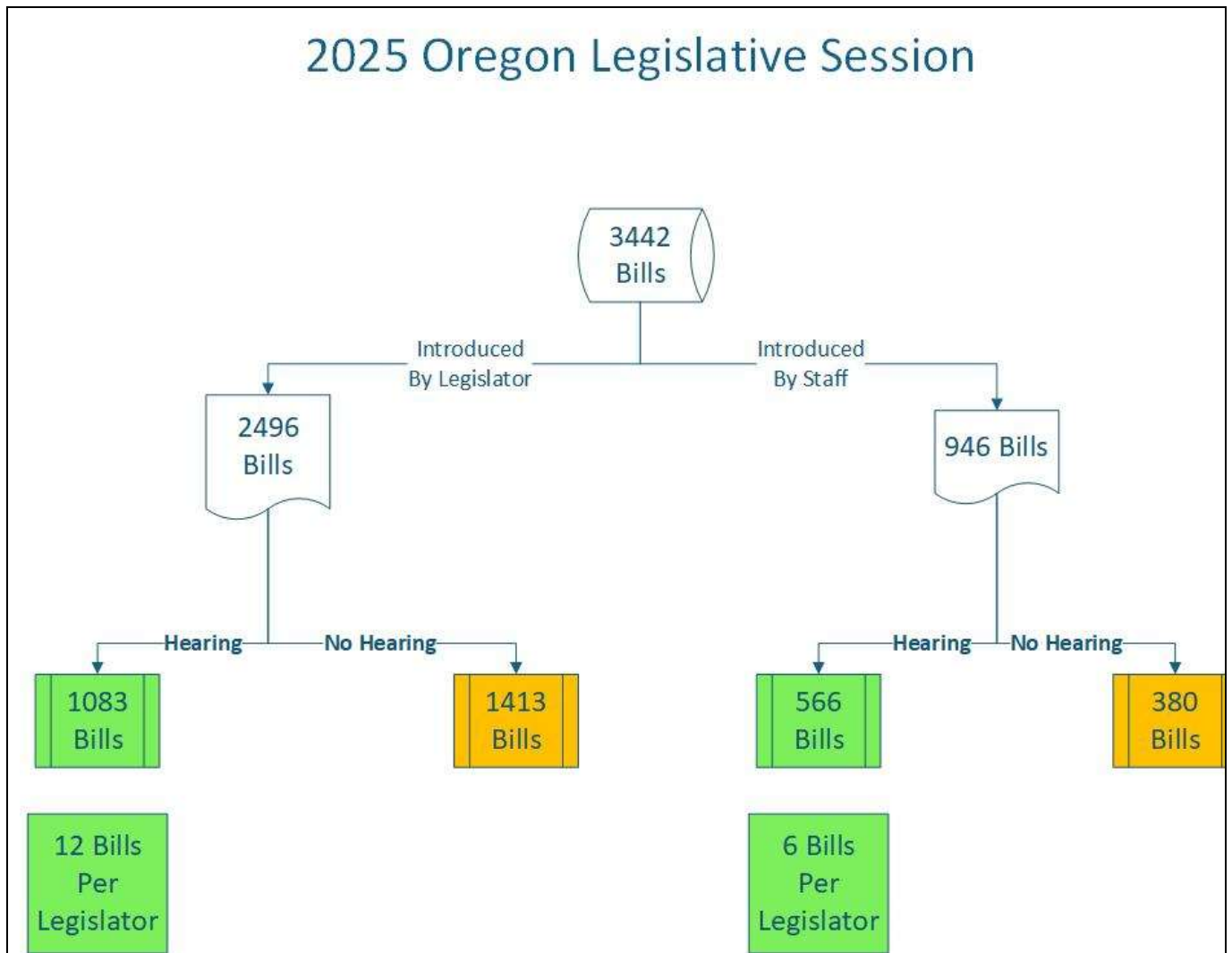


Exhibit 2 – Chief Sponsor count of bills (source OLIS database 2025)

Legislator Code	Party	Bill Count	Legislator Code	Party	Bill Count
Rep Andersen	Democrat	26	Sen Anderson	Republican	43
Rep Boice	Republican	34	Sen Bonham	Republican	104
Rep Boshart Davis	Republican	17	Sen Broadman	Democrat	13
Rep Bowman	Democrat	10	Sen Campos	Democrat	21
Rep Breese-Iverson	Republican	15	Sen Frederick	Democrat	33
Rep Cate	Republican	18	Sen Gelser Blouin	Democrat	44
Rep Chaichi	Democrat	12	Sen Girod	Republican	36
Rep Chotzen	Democrat	9	Sen Golden	Democrat	14
Rep Diehl	Republican	42	Sen Gorsek	Democrat	38
Rep Dobson	Democrat	2	Sen Hayden	Republican	21
Rep Drazan	Republican	32	Sen Jama	Democrat	10
Rep Edwards	Republican	15	Sen Lieber	Democrat	3
Rep Elmer	Republican	21	Sen Linthicum	Republican	1
Rep Evans	Democrat	305	Sen Manning Jr	Democrat	24
Rep Fragala	Democrat	6	Sen McLane	Republican	1
Rep Gamba	Democrat	27	Sen Meek	Democrat	29
Rep Gomborg	Democrat	28	Sen Nash	Republican	43
Rep Grayber	Democrat	24	Sen Patterson	Democrat	61
Rep Harbick	Republican	1	Sen Pham	Democrat	9
Rep Hartman	Democrat	27	Sen President Wagner	Democrat	12
Rep Helfrich	Republican	26	Sen Prozanski	Democrat	33
Rep Helm	Democrat	29	Sen Reynolds	Democrat	28
Rep Hudson	Democrat	32	Sen Robinson	Republican	3
Rep Isadore	Democrat	1	Sen Smith DB	Republican	184
Rep Javadi	Republican	19	Sen Sollman	Democrat	28
Rep Kropf	Democrat	16	Sen Starr	Republican	4
Rep Levy B	Republican	48	Sen Taylor	Democrat	21
Rep Levy E	Democrat	29	Sen Thatcher	Republican	32
Rep Lewis	Republican	13	Sen Weber	Republican	26
Rep Lively	Democrat	12			
Rep Mannix	Republican	38			
Rep Marsh	Democrat	34			
Rep McDonald	Democrat	3			
Rep McIntire	Republican	45			
Rep McLain	Democrat	6			
Rep Munoz	Democrat	4			
Rep Nathanson	Democrat	25			
Rep Nelson	Democrat	57			

Rep Nguyen D	Democrat	9
Rep Nguyen H	Democrat	13
Rep Nosse	Democrat	60
Rep Osborne	Republican	14
Rep Owens	Republican	55
Rep Pham H	Democrat	19
Rep Reschke	Republican	56
Rep Ruiz	Democrat	34
Rep Sanchez	Democrat	10
Rep Scharf	Republican	23
Rep Skarlatos	Republican	6
Rep Smith G	Republican	37
Rep Sosa	Democrat	12
Rep Speaker Fahey	Democrat	7
Rep Tran	Democrat	26
Rep Valderrama	Democrat	7
Rep Wallan	Republican	12
Rep Walters	Democrat	8
Rep Wright	Republican	39
Rep Yunker	Republican	22