

JOINT RULE 81. Scheduled floorperiods and committee work.

(1) Each biennial session begins and ends on the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year, as follows:

(a) The incoming legislature shall convene in the capitol at 2 p.m. to take the oath of office, select officers, and do all other things necessary to organize itself for the conduct of its business, but if the first Monday in January falls on January 1 or 2, the organizational meeting is held on January 3.

(b) Each biennial session shall be structured into floorperiods, committee work periods, and an interim committee work period, and shall include at least one meeting of the legislature in January of each year.

(c) Early in each biennial session, the joint committee on legislative organization shall introduce a joint resolution setting forth the session schedule for that biennial session. The joint resolution is amendable and shall, when approved by both houses, constitute the session schedule for that biennial session unless later changed by action of the 2 houses.

(2) Each scheduled floorperiod shall be held as set forth in the session schedule. Any floorperiod may be extended or convened or recessed on a date earlier than the date specified in the session schedule, as follows:

(a) The extension of a floorperiod through earlier convening or later adjournment, or the convening of an extraordinary session, may be authorized at the direction of a majority of the members of the committee on organization in each house or by the adoption of and concurrence in a joint resolution on the approval by a majority of the members elected to each house, or by the joint petition of a majority of the members elected to each house submitted to, and using a form approved by, the senate chief clerk and the assembly chief clerk.

(b) Any extended floorperiod or extraordinary session is limited to the business specified in the action by which it is authorized and to advice and consent on nominations for appointment.

(c) Following the official call of any special or extraordinary session, the joint committee on employment relations or on legislative organization, the committees on organization in each house, and any committee of either house so authorized under the rules thereof, may introduce or offer proposals germane to the call, and such proposals may be numbered, referred to committee, and reproduced in advance of the special or extraordinary session under the customary procedures of each house.

(3) Any day of the biennial session that is not reserved by the session schedule to conduct an organizational meeting or to be part of a scheduled floorperiod of the legislature is available for committee work, but:

(a) Any such day may be assigned to an extended floorperiod or extraordinary session as authorized under sub. (2).

(b) The committee on senate organization may designate a committee work day for senate advice and consent on nominations for appointment and the committee on assembly organization may designate a committee work day for assembly advice and consent on nominations for appointment, whether or not that day was already assigned under par. (a).

(4) The biennial session schedule shall specify the dates on which the chief clerks of the 2 houses shall present to the governor all bills approved by the 2 houses.