
Glossary of Legislative Terms

GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

A

ACROSS THE DESK—The official act of introducing a bill or resolution. The measure is given to the Chief Clerk or his or her representative at the Assembly Desk in the Assembly Chamber or to the Secretary of the Senate or his or her representative in the Senate Chamber. It then receives a number, is sent to the State Printer, and becomes a public document available in the bill room. Amendments are also “put across the desk.”

ACT—A bill passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor.

ACTION—Disposition of any question before the Legislature.

ADJOURN IN MEMORY (AIM)—A Member may request that the Assembly or Senate session be adjourned in the memory of a person. This request must be in writing and shall be read by the Presiding Officer prior to the adjournment of session.

ADJOURNMENT—Termination of a meeting, occurring at the close of each legislative day upon the completion of business, accomplished by a successful motion to end session, with the hour and day of the next meeting being set prior to adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE—Literally, “adjournment without day,” meaning no days left; final termination of the two-year legislative session. Regular or special sessions of the Legislature are adjourned sine die at midnight on November 30 of each even-numbered year.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT (APA)—A statute containing required procedures for rule-making and administrative hearings. (Chapter 3.5, 4, and 5 [commencing with Section 11340] of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.)

ADOPTION—Approval or acceptance of motions, amendments or resolutions.

ADVISE AND CONSENT—Confirmation by the Senate of certain appointees of the Governor.

FOUR-DAY FILE NOTICE—Joint Rule 62(a) requires bills set for hearing in the committee of first reference to be noticed in the Daily File for four days prior to hearing. Subsequent committees of reference require a Daily File notice of two days.

G

GALLERY—The balconies of the chambers from which visitors may view proceedings of the Legislature.

GERMANE—Referring to whether a proposed amendment is relevant to the subject matter in the bill. Legislative Counsel may opine on germaneness, but the determination of germaneness is decided by the Presiding Officer, subject to an appeal by the membership.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET—A spending plan for the State presented annually by the Governor in January, for consideration by the Legislature; compiled by the Department of Finance, in conjunction with state department heads.

GOVERNOR'S REORGANIZATION PLAN—A proposal to reorganize the functions within the Executive Branch, subject to approval by the Legislature.

GRANDFATHERING—A legal exemption whereby a situation is governed by an old law while a new law applies to all future, similar situations.

GUT AND AMEND—When amendments to a bill remove the current contents in their entirety and replace them with different provisions.

H

HANDBOOK—The 3" x 5¼" hardbound edition of California Legislature published for each two-year legislative session. It contains indexed versions of the Assembly, Senate, and Joint Rules; biographies of Members; and other useful information. The handbook is published by the Assembly Chief Clerk and Secretary of the Senate for their respective houses.

HEARING—A committee meeting convened for the purpose of considering and acting upon or gathering information on a specific subject.

HELD IN COMMITTEE—When a bill fails to get sufficient votes to pass out of committee, it is held in committee.