

IV. Review and Approval of Recommendations to the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature for Changes Concerning Bill Draft Requests

Secondary Deadlines. As discussed at previous meetings, the final details for measures often come in shortly before deadlines for introduction. This defeats the purpose of the deadlines for submitting bill draft requests (BDR's): the staggered deadlines for requesting measures are intended to allow drafting and introduction of a number of measures before session or early in session, and to spread out the drafting workload. Instead, most bills are introduced near the deadlines for introduction (which precludes hearing many bills in the first month of session) and a large amount of drafting is done in the final weeks before the deadlines for introduction.

To address this issue, the committee approved the establishment of the following "secondary deadlines" – dates by which final details must be submitted for BDR's:

For Measures Requested By:

July 1
September 1
December 15
February 7
February 14
February 25

The Secondary Deadline Is:

December 1
December 1
January 15
March 1
March 1
March 11

The first four deadlines for requests are in statute, as they are requests submitted before session. The last two (individual requests in the first 8 days of session and committee requests in the first 19 days) are in the Joint Rules. As the committee could not amend either the statutes or the Joint Rules during the interim, the secondary deadlines were established as a matter of policy.

1. Does the Committee want to recommend that the Legislative Commission request a BDR to establish secondary deadlines for BDR's authorized by statute? Instead of having this established as a policy by this committee, an amendment to the statutes would apply of its own force to requests submitted for the 2013 session.

2. Does the Committee want to recommend the inclusion of secondary deadlines for BDR's authorized during session in the Joint Rules for the 2011 session? The secondary deadlines can be established by rule for these requests, and can apply to the 2011 session.

Number of BDR's. Attached is a table showing the number of authorized requests by type of requester. All of these except the few allowed by rule during session are included in the statutes. If the committee wants to recommend any changes, they would need to be made through legislation.

Does the Committee want to recommend that the Legislative Commission request a BDR to change the number of BDR's that can be requested by any categories of requestors (and, if so, what changes should be proposed)? I do not have any recommendations for changes – the shift away from nonlegislative requestors to more requests from legislators (and reducing the total number) has had the desired effect: there are fewer bills, and fewer bills submitted by without any legislative support (because they came from state agencies or local governments that did not obtain support from any members of the legislature).