Legislative Concept

A legislative concept (LC) is the draft idea for legislation before it is introduced as a bill or other type of legislative measure. According to the Oregon Legislature, a bill is a legislative “measure that creates new law, amends or repeals existing law, appropriates money, prescribes fees, transfers functions from one agency to another, provides penalties, or takes other action.”. For state agencies, if a legislative concept includes proposals that would have a state agency fiscal impact or would otherwise require funding if implemented, the state agency must include a corresponding policy option package (see Budget Development below).

Legislative concept development for odd-year legislative sessions begin in the early part of the preceding year (Figure 1). The Department works throughout the year to engage with interested parties to craft legislative priorities and language that achieve the preferred outcomes. The Department’s legislative concept proposal is due to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in the early summer and the Department has one opportunity to revise draft language before the legislative concept is filed. The legislative concept is submitted for pre-session filing in December and the 2023 legislative session begins in January 2023, where any pre-session filed legislative concepts are officially introduced as a bill. The Department typically engages with interested parties on each bill throughout the legislative session; see Contact Information below to get involved.

January-March 2022
• Scoping and gathering input on LCs

April 15, 2022
• LCs due to DAS (can be submitted as placeholders)

June 3, 2022
• Placeholder LC language due to DAS (bill drafting begins)

January 2023
• Legislative Session begins

December 9, 2022
• Pre-session filing: LCs are submitted as final bills/measures

September 30, 2022
• Deadline to request bill/measure language revisions

Figure 1. 2023 Legislative Concept development timeline. The 2023 legislative session begins in January of 2023.

Budget Development

The budget development process typically occurs within three distinct and iterative stages: 1) Agency Request Budget; 2) Governor’s Recommended Budget; and 3) Legislatively Adopted Budget. (Figure 2). The fiscal biennium ends on June 30 and begins July 1 of odd numbered years. The next budget to be developed will be the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025 biennial budget.

The Agency Request Budget (ARB) is the Department’s proposal for the structure of the upcoming biennial budget. Development of the 2023-2025 ARB development began in early 2022 and will be published in early August 2022 (Figure 3). The ARB includes requests for new investments, such as authority for new staffing, funding for projects, studies, or contracts, or fee increases. These funding and
staffing requests are called Policy Option Packages (POPs) and are developed in collaboration with other state agencies and other interested parties.

The Governor’s Request Budget (GRB) is crafted based on ARBs, Governor’s budget priorities, recommendations from DAS, and revenue projections. The 2023-2025 GRB will be published February 2023 (the budget is published in December when Governorship does not change; Figure 3). The GRB will typically retain a portion of ARB suggested POPs and may include new POPs based on the Governor’s budget priorities. The GRB is the starting point for executive branch agency negotiations with the legislature. It may also include reductions depending on the Governor’s priorities and forecasted revenues and costs.

The Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) is the final version of an agency’s biennial budget. The Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and its subcommittees have primary responsibility for the budget writing process. After an agency’s budget bill passes out of the subcommittee and the full Joint Ways and Means Committee, the broader legislative body votes on and approves agency budgets. The legislative session will begin January 2023 and will likely conclude in June 2023.

Modifications may be made after the 2023 legislative session ends by the Legislature through the Emergency Board, 2024 session, or special legislative sessions.

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**Figure 3.** State agency 2023-2025 biennial budget timeline. The 2023 legislative session will likely conclude in late spring/early summer of 2023; the agency budget will be finalized by then.

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**Contact**

If you would like to be included in future budget or legislative communications, please reach out to Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, Bryn.Hudson@water.oregon.gov or 503-302-7584.