## The Flow of Legislation through the Committee Process

L.D. number and a committee of reference is The Bill is printed and suggested by the Clerk of the House and the Legislature Secretary of Senate. The bill is then placed determines the on either the House or Senate calendar. committee of reference House Bill: a bill with a member of the **Senate Bill:** a bill with a member of House as the primary sponsor the Senate as the primary sponsor Reference vote first in Reference vote first in Senate then the House House then the Senate The bill is "in committee" when Bill sent to committee the committee clerk takes physical With few exceptions, every bill is scheduled possession of the bill. for a public hearing. The time, date and location of the hearing are advertised on the Legislature's website and in the weekend A public hearing is editions of newspapers in Portland, Lewiston scheduled and advertised and Bangor. Unless waived by the presiding **During the hearing**, the committee receives officers, hearings must be advertised two testimony from and may ask questions of the weekends in advance. sponsor(s), lobbyists, relevant agencies and/or members of the public. Sometimes, A public hearing is held committees conduct joint public hearings on During work sessions, the committee two or more closely related bills. receives information from its analyst, discusses the bill and may vote on it. Permission is generally required for Work sessions are held audience members to participate in the work session. Advance public notice of a work **Voting** options: session must be provided, although a ONTP: the bill "ought not to pass" committee may vote to enter a work session OTP: the bill "ought to pass" as written on the same day as the bill's advertised The committee votes OTP-A: the bill "ought to pass as public hearing. amended" - sometimes the only change is the addition of a required fiscal note The committee analyst ensures that each Reports are finalized and committee amendment is properly drafted, reviewed for fiscal impact analyzed by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review for fiscal impact (and When the committee's reports are complete, potential drafting of a fiscal note), and the committee clerk delivers the reports in reviewed by the committee. The committee their signed jackets to the House (if it is a may reconsider its vote at any meeting House Bill) or the Senate (if it is a Senate Bill "reported out" of before the bill is reported out of committee. Bill). After the bill is "reported out" of Committee committee, the committee may take no further action on it unless it has been rereferred to the committee by both chambers. For further information on the progress of a

Bill returns to chambers

for further consideration

bill after it is reported out of committee,

please see the Legislator's Handbook, available on the OPLA website.

When the bill is printed, it is assigned an