



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4746/1
RAC:cjs

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 965

March 1, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives SPREITZER, KAHL, KOLSTE, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, WACHS and C. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT to create** 13.082, 13.45 (8) and 13.45 (9) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 legislative consideration of bills and committee activity.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides that neither the assembly nor the senate may consider while in session on the floor more than 40 bills on a legislative day or 100 bills during a calendar week. There is one exception, however: the limits do not apply to bills withdrawn by motion or petition from a committee or bills taken up by unanimous consent, except that in no event may the assembly or the senate consider while in session on the floor more than 50 bills on a legislative day or 120 bills during a calendar week.

The bill further provides, with some exceptions, that not more than 20 percent of assembly committees and not more than 20 percent of senate committees may meet on the same day and not more than 40 percent of assembly committees and not more than 40 percent of senate committees may meet during the same calendar week.

Finally, the bill provides that no assembly or senate committee may hold a public hearing or conduct an executive session on more than eight bills on the same day or more than 12 bills during the same calendar week and, unless authorized by unanimous consent of committee members, no assembly or senate committee may

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conduct an executive session on a bill on a day on which its house is in session on the floor.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 13.082 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **13.082 Consideration of bills. (1)** Except as provided in sub. (2), neither the
3 assembly nor the senate may consider while in session on the floor more than 40 bills
4 on a legislative day or 100 bills during a calendar week.

5 **(2)** The limits under sub. (1) do not apply to bills withdrawn by motion or
6 petition from a committee or bills taken up by unanimous consent, except that in no
7 event may the assembly or the senate consider while in session on the floor more than
8 50 bills on a legislative day or 120 bills during a calendar week.

9 **SECTION 2.** 13.45 (8) of the statutes is created to read:

10 **13.45 (8) FREQUENCY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** (a) Not more than 20 percent of
11 committees in the assembly and not more than 20 percent of committees in the
12 senate may meet on the same day.

13 (b) Not more than 40 percent of committees in the assembly and not more than
14 40 percent of committees in the senate may meet during the same calendar week.

15 (c) For purposes of calculating the percentages in pars. (a) and (b), all of the
16 following shall apply:

17 1. A meeting of a joint legislative committee is considered a committee meeting
18 in both the assembly and senate.

19 2. A meeting of a task force or special committee established in the assembly
20 or senate is considered a meeting in the assembly or senate, whichever house is
21 appropriate.

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1 (d) For purposes of calculating the percentages in pars. (a) and (b), meetings
2 of the assembly committee on rules, the committee on assembly organization, the
3 committee on senate organization, and the joint committee on legislative
4 organization are not included.

5 **SECTION 3.** 13.45 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

6 13.45 (9) COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS. (a) No
7 committee in the assembly or senate, including any task force or special committee
8 established in either house, may hold a public hearing or conduct an executive
9 session on more than 8 bills on the same day or more than 12 bills during the same
10 calendar week. This paragraph does not apply to the joint committee on finance or
11 the joint survey committee on tax exemptions.

12 (b) 1. Except by unanimous consent of committee members, no committee in the
13 assembly, including any assembly task force or special committee, may conduct an
14 executive session on a bill on a day on which the assembly is in session on the floor.

15 2. Except by unanimous consent of committee members, no committee in the
16 senate, including any senate task force or special committee, may conduct an
17 executive session on a bill on a day on which the senate is in session on the floor.

18 (END)