

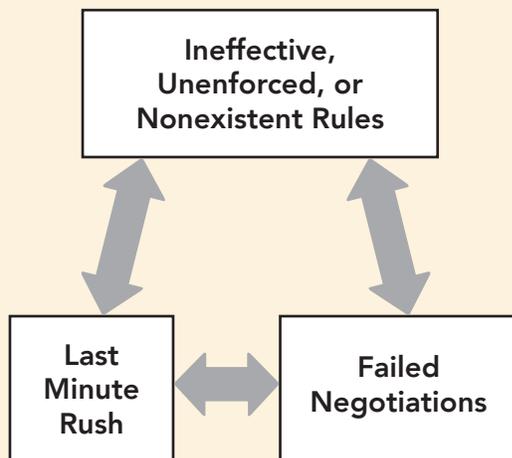
House Legislative Reform Committee: Informational Hearing

November 28, 2018

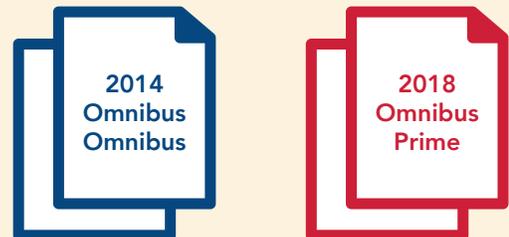
Recurring Problems

- New provisions inserted by conference that did not appear in either companion bill
- Great, truly bipartisan provisions fail (e.g., election cybersecurity funding)
- Perpetual call of the chair or nearly nonexistent notice for hearings
- Policy provisions with no fiscal impact inserted into finance bills
- Late floor sessions and committee hearings past midnight
- Finance and policy provisions for almost every state agency
- Lengthy closed-door negotiations between leadership
- Perceived and actual single subject clause violations
- Last minute changes with no public explanations
- Costly mistakes in language lost in bloated bills
- Legislators voting without knowing bill content

Interrelated Causes



A Bad Kind of Bipartisanship



Promises of incoming leaders do not solve potential problems in subsequent bienniums

The People Want an Open and Fair Process

75%

of Americans say they have “not too much” confidence or “none at all” in elected officials to act in the best interests of the public.

74%

of both Republicans and Democrats say it is “very important” for our country that the government is open and transparent.

69%

of Americans say that “the government is open and transparent,” describes America “not too well” or “not well at all.”

82%

of Republicans and **79%** of Democrats agree that “it is important to respect the rules, even if it makes it harder to get things done.”

88%

of Americans with a high level of civic engagement agree “it is important to respect the rules, even if it makes it harder to get things done.”

Source: Pew Research Center, “The Public, the Political System and American Democracy,” April 2018

Defining “Open” and “Fair”

Open

- The public easily knows who, what, when, where, and why
- The public has not only easy access to information, but also complete and accurate understanding of the information
- Constituents can verify that legislators’ actions follow constituent preferences

Fair

- Rules are complete, effective, and enforced
- Constituents, junior legislators, and minority party legislators have meaningful opportunities for public participation

Our Positions

- Governmental bodies must protect the right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- We also support improved structure and procedures for the legislature, as well as adequate research assistance.
- We oppose a unicameral legislature.

We look forward to discussing other reforms and policy details with members of the committee.

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.