

Appendix A.4

Responses by Legislators to the Question:

List three changes that you would like to see in legislative practice and procedure.

Major Category	Chamber	Comments
Bill Assignment	House	Assign bills to committees based on jurisdiction
Bill Assignment	House	Send bills to comm. Before introduced
Bill Assignment	House	Senate to assign bills to appropriate committees, that will give them a fair chance to be debated
Bill Assignment	Senate	Assignment of bills to proper jurisdiction
Bill Assignment	Senate	Bill assignment to committee
Bill Assignment	Senate	Impartial assignment of bills to committees
Bill Assignment	Senate	Allowing committee chairmen to kill bill without having bill reassigned.
Budgeting	House	The budget should be passed in the first 15 days of session before any other issues are brought before the legislature.
Budgeting	House	Biennial budgets
Budgeting	House	Budgets based on actual revenue from previous FY
Caucuses, Role Of	House	Put less authority in the leadership hands and more authority to the respective party caucuses.
Caucuses, Role Of	House	Expand majority and minority caucus roles
Caucuses, Role Of	House	Caucuses should choose what committees its members serve on.
Chair Assignment	House	Nonpartisan committee chair assignments
Comm. Assignments	House	Allow caucuses to make committee assignments (Dem and GOP)
Comm. Assignments	House	Committee assignments by expertise not by party affiliation
Comm. Assignments	Senate	Committees with a fair representation of all Senators
Comm. Assignments Plus	Senate	Legislative leadership and committee appointments must reflect also years of legislative service (seniority rule) by the member
Comm. Operations	House	More public hearings
Comm. Operations	House	Longer committee meetings for major committees
Comm. Operations	House	If committee numbers remain, rotate weeks for meetings.
Comm. Operations	Senate	Committee restructure. Fewer committees, more working sub-committees.
Comm. Time	Senate	More committee time
Confer Reports & Votes	Senate	No conference committee report can be voted upon until every legislator has the written report at his or her desk.
Conflict Of Interests	House	Stronger conflict of interest laws/standards
Constitutional Amendments	House	Change ways constitutional amendments are voted on. If the issue only effects one county, whole state should not have to vote on it.
Equipment	House	Telephones on each House desk within the chamber
Equipment	House	Telephones at the desk in the House chamber
Info Access	House	Information should be supplied equally to all members
Leadership, General	House	Less control by leadership
Legislature/Agency Interactions	House	More interaction between Dept. staff and legislators (Medicaid, MH, DHR, ALDOT, etc)

Major Category	Chamber	Comments
Lobbies	House	Reduce the contact and influence of lobby groups! By law reduce the influence of lobbying groups (as money, contract while in the statehouse). Obviously, I abhor the lobbying system!
Lobbies	House	Less access for lobbyists.
Lobbies, Campaign Monies	House	Less influence from lobbyists/interest groups probably thru campaign contribution limits
Lobbies, Campaign Monies	House	Prohibit speaker of House from contribution to other House members or directing contributions to House members
Member Training	House	Instructional tutorial on rules.
Procedures	House	Procedure for hearing all bills Bills introduced (other than budgets) should stay in committee for study & amendment 1 year before being introduced on floor.
Procedures	House	Do away with procedural voting
Public	House	More citizen input
Redistricting	House	Eliminate wild population swings in districts A more thorough understanding of the intent and effect of bills before being rushed to vote!!
Research	House	More year around support for research from various sources.
Research	House	Research on bills is currently not available as a general rule.
Research	Senate	Require a committee staff analysis on all bills before committee consideration and after committee action <u>before</u> the bill is ready for 3rd read.
Research	Senate	
Salary/Benefits	House	Adequate salary/benefits for legislators A pay increase for legislators. Many men and women can't afford to serve. If the pay and benefits would equal what a public school teacher makes, we would have a better and more dedicated group of 140 public servants. The public does not understand the financial sacrifices we make in order to serve. This can never happen <u>without</u> public support.
Salary/Benefits	House	Legislators should be paid full-time and be a part of the retirement system.
Salary/Benefits	Senate	Per diem increased so committee meetings could be held Mon. afternoons as well as Wed.
Salary/Benefits, Comm.	House	A complete change of Senators now holding those positions.
Senate Leadership	House	Replace them all!
Senate Rules Comm.	House	Change in Senate Rules Committee to allow bills to get to floor. One man has too much power!
Senate Structure	House	The whole structure of the Senate needs to be revamped.
Space	House	Conference space
Space, Comm.	House	Committee rooms need to be larger for public access.
Space, District Offices	Senate	Legislators should maintain district offices for constituents that aren't able to access the statehouse
Space, Office	House	Larger offices
Space, Office	House	Larger offices
Space, Office	House	Private office
Space, Office & Comm.	House	Better office and committee space

Major Category	Chamber	Comments
Space, Office & Comm.	House	Better committee meeting facilities
Space, Office & Comm.	Senate	Greater support capacity for members and for committees
Staff	House	Staff for legislators
Staff	House	More staff
Staff	House	More staff for legislators
Staff		Legislators should be provided more staff for constituent services.
Staff, Assignment Of	Senate	
Staff, Clerical	House	Assignment of staff by seniority
	House	More clerical support for House members
		Senate has private secretaries; only 6 for House of Representatives
Staff, Clerical	House	Provide more clerical help
Staff, Clerical	House	Secretary for representatives
Staff, Clerical	House	Secretarial help
Staff, Clerical	House	More sec. staff to help with constituents
Staff, Clerical	Senate	1 secretary per each Senator
Staff, Res. & Member	House	Research and staff support for members
Staff, Res. & Member	House	Increase research and secretarial help for House members
Staff, Research	House	Hire more research assistants to do research
Staff, Research	House	Need staff for research and mark-up of bills and resolution.
Staff, Research	House	More research staff
		Analysis is provided and available for discussion on the floor when amendments are offered.
Staff, Research	House	Analysis is available on the floor for interpreting and explaining the impact that amendments have on the specific bill.
		The Legislature should have a Research Division comprised of professional civil servants (non-partisan) and available only to legislators.
Staff, Research	Senate	
Staff, Research	Senate	More non-partisan staff
		A legislative session should start late in the morning or after lunch so that committee meetings can meet in the morning of a legislative day.
Time	Senate	
Time, Floor	House	More time in House for debate (true debate).
		Publish special order calendars at least 24 hours before the meeting day begins.
Time, Notices	Senate	Announce committee meeting times <u>and agendas</u> at least 24 hours before the meeting begins.
Time, Notices	Senate	
Time, Notices	Senate	A calendar (agenda) 24 hrs. in advance
Time, Quorum Calls	House	Time on quorum call
		Subject matter of proposed legislation, in certain matters, needs more time to be research
Time, Research	House	