



Memo

Date:	January 19, 2024
To:	Oregon State Lottery Commissioners
From:	Kris Skaro, rules and policy analyst
Subject:	2024 Legislative Session

“Short Session” Begins Monday, Feb. 5, 2024

The Legislature will convene on February 5 for the 2024 legislative session. Sessions held in even-numbered years are called “short sessions” because, under Oregon’s Constitution, legislative sessions held in even-numbered years are limited to 35 days. Therefore, they must adjourn by March 10, 2024.

Unlike regular sessions, bills are limited in short sessions. State agencies (including Lottery) cannot bring any bills. Each legislator gets only two personal bills. Most legislative committees, the Governor, and the Chief Justice are limited to three bills each.

The limited number of bills suggests short sessions are “easier,” but the pace of shorts sessions is rapid; it’s important to track bills and committee activities closely.

Governor Kotek and legislative leadership say their priorities for the session are drug addiction, behavioral health, education, and housing. The Legislature will also need to adjust the 23-25 budget passed last year to reflect changes to revenue and expenses.

Gambling-Related Bills

The House Committee on Gambling Regulation has introduced three bills. Two pertain the Oregon Racing Commission and animal racing. The [third bill](#) would define “casino” as an establishment whose dominate use or purpose is gambling. Additionally, the bill would create a presumption that an establishment with seven or more Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) and historical animal racing terminals are casinos and thus prohibited. Lottery is currently reviewing the bill for impacts to Lottery.

Lottery’s Legislative Strategy

As in all legislative sessions, Lottery is neutral on bills unless the Governor states otherwise. Lottery will respond promptly to requests for information and invitations to present to committees. Lottery will also track bills that would affect the Lottery if passed, including many bills that would affect Lottery as a state agency or the Commission as a public body.

We will report back in February. If you have questions, please let me or Mike know.