

A photograph of the Washington State Capitol building, featuring a large, ornate dome and classical columns, set against a clear blue sky. The building is illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun.

Washington State Legislative History Chart Book:

A Selected Graphical
and Tabular History of
The Washington State
Legislature

2021 UPDATE

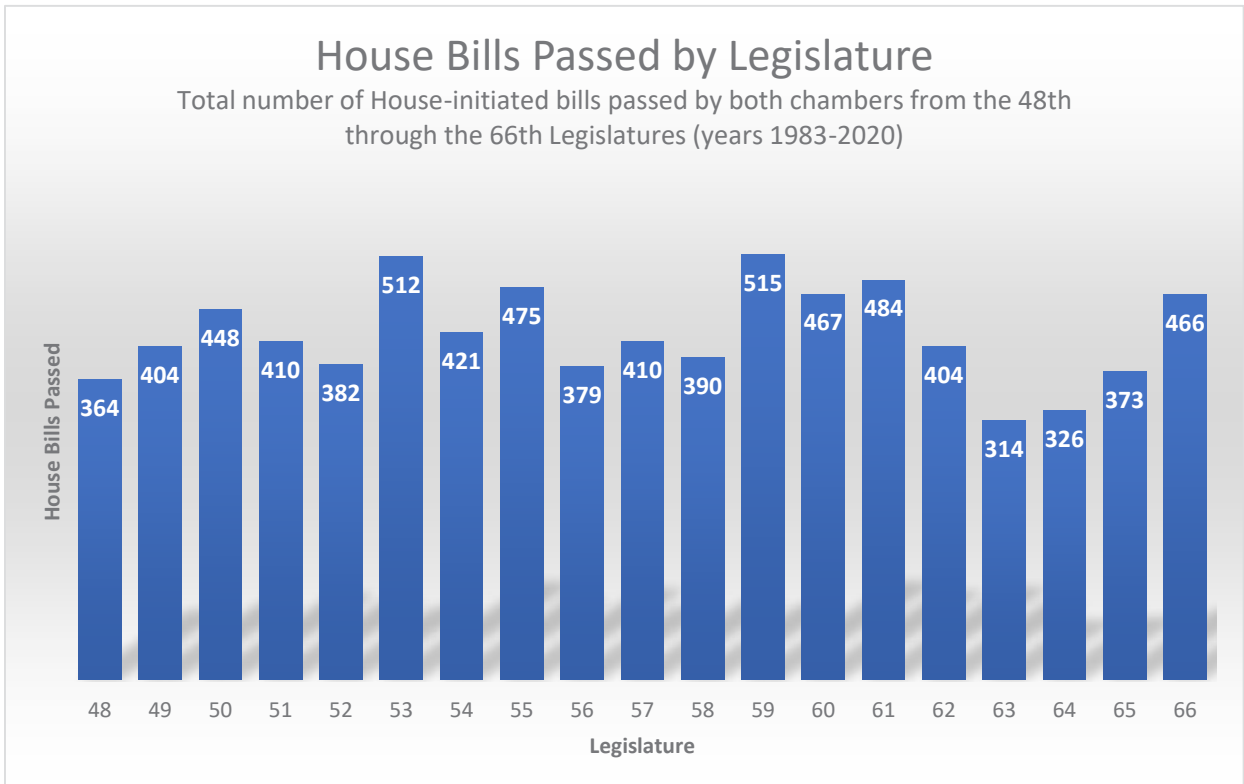
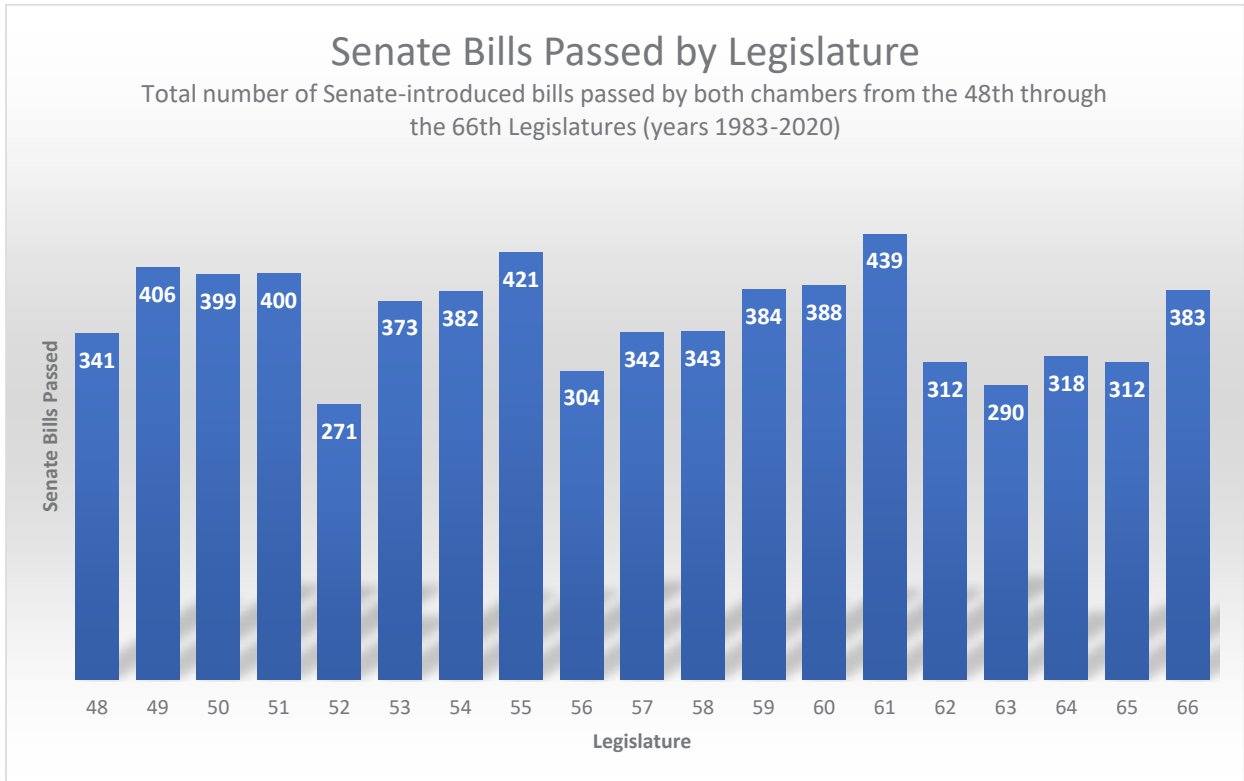
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Bill History by Legislature

The following gives a selected graphical history of Washington state legislature.

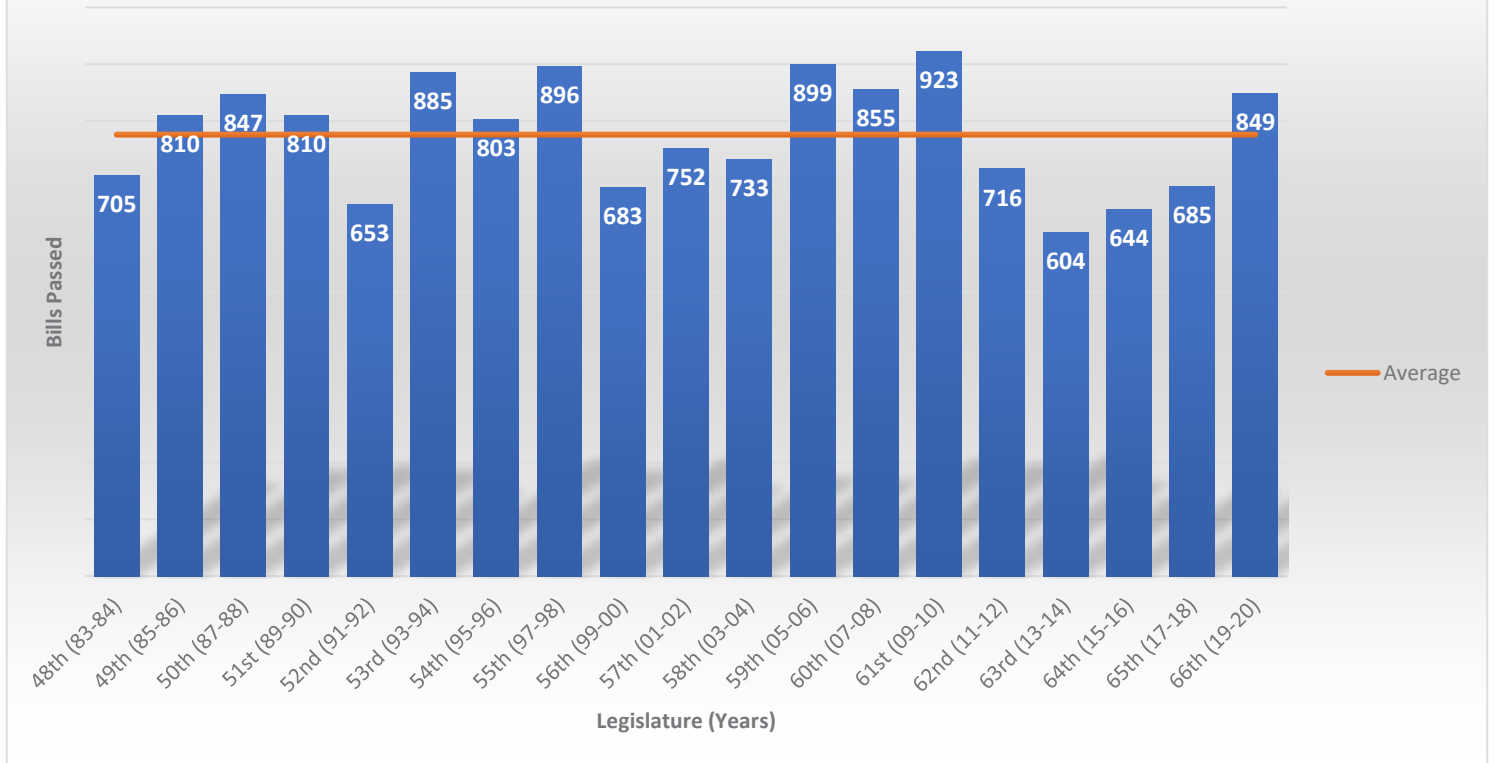
First is an overview showing bill history beginning with the 48th Legislature.



Bill History by Legislature *continued*

Total Bills Passed by Legislature

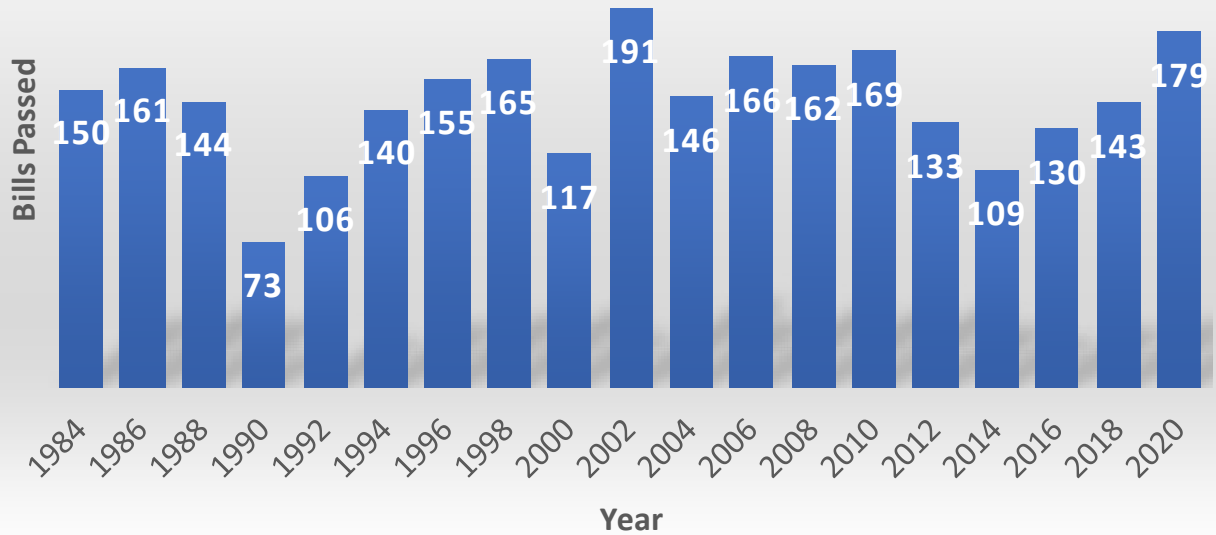
Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both from the 48th through 66th Legislatures (years 1983-2020)



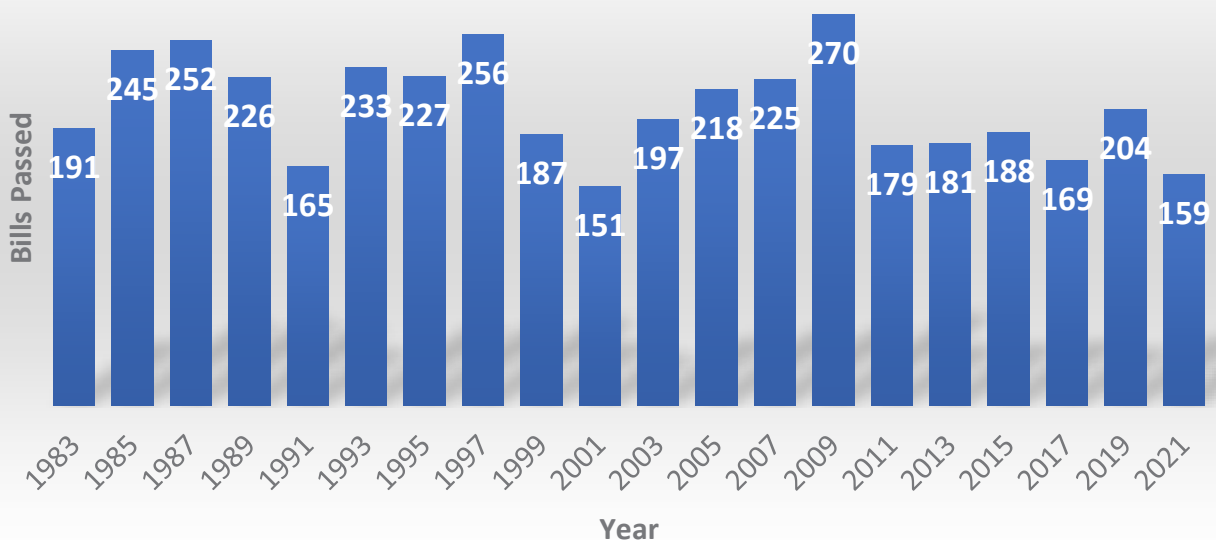
Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year

The next six charts summarize bills initiated by each chamber and legislature as a whole and passed by both, for odd and even years.

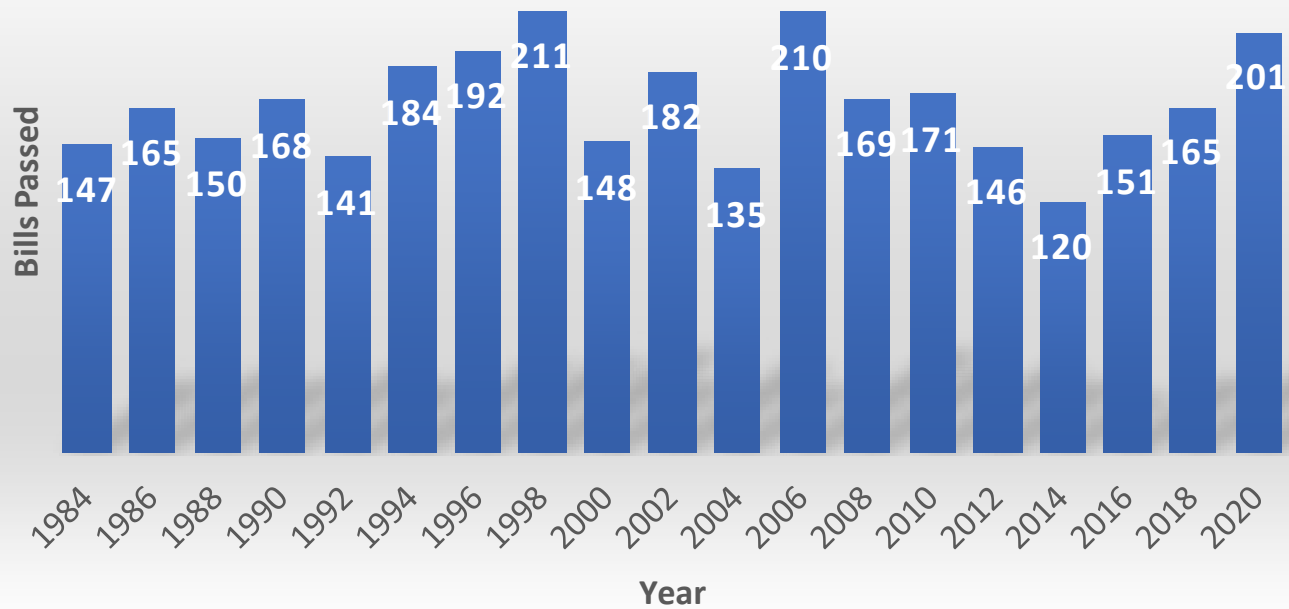
Senate Bills Passed, Even Years



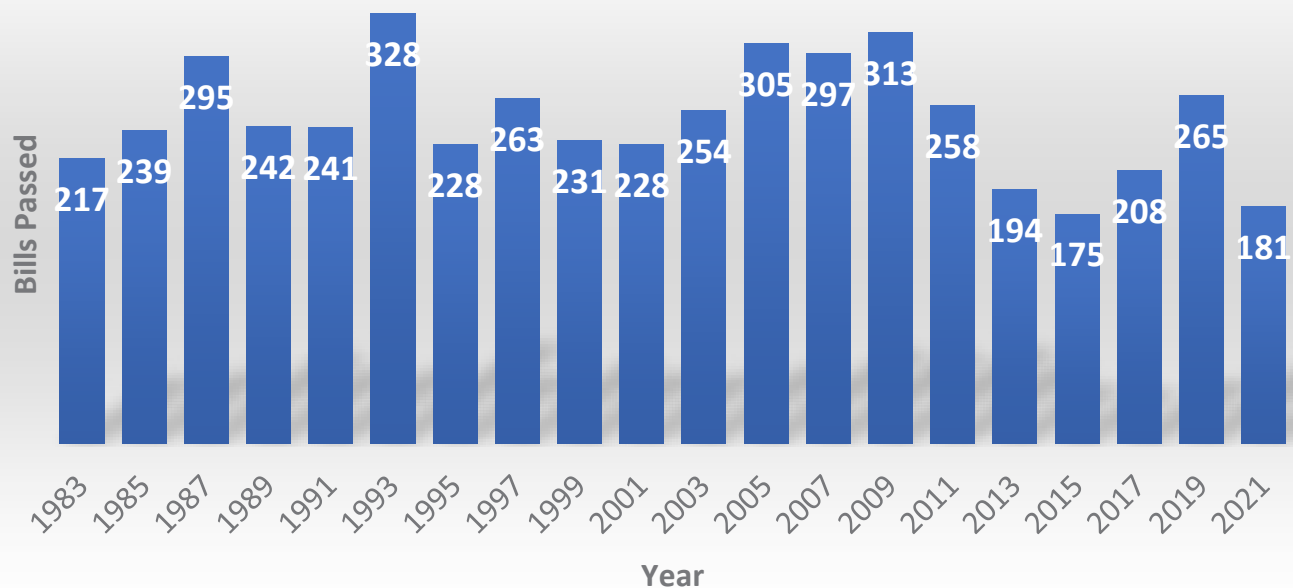
Senate Bills Passed, Odd Years



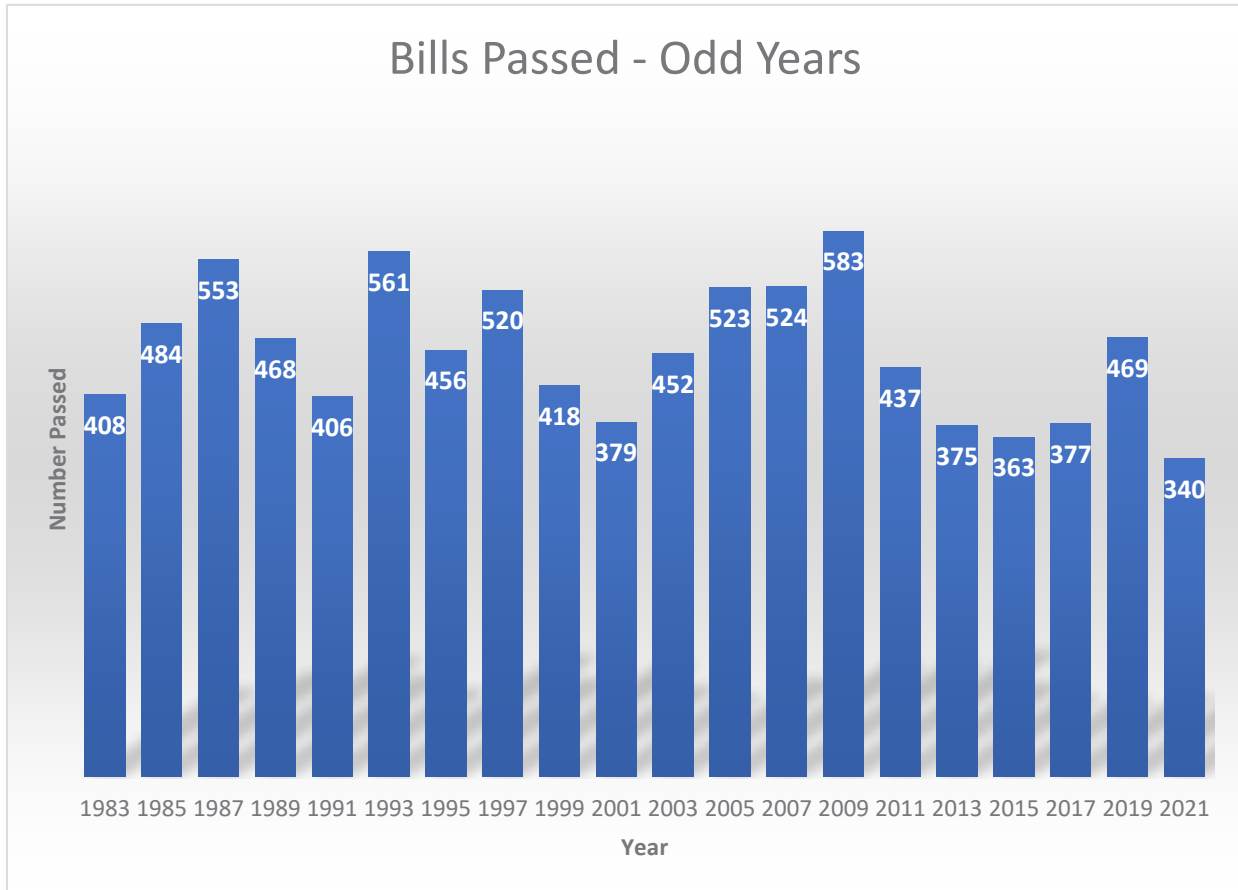
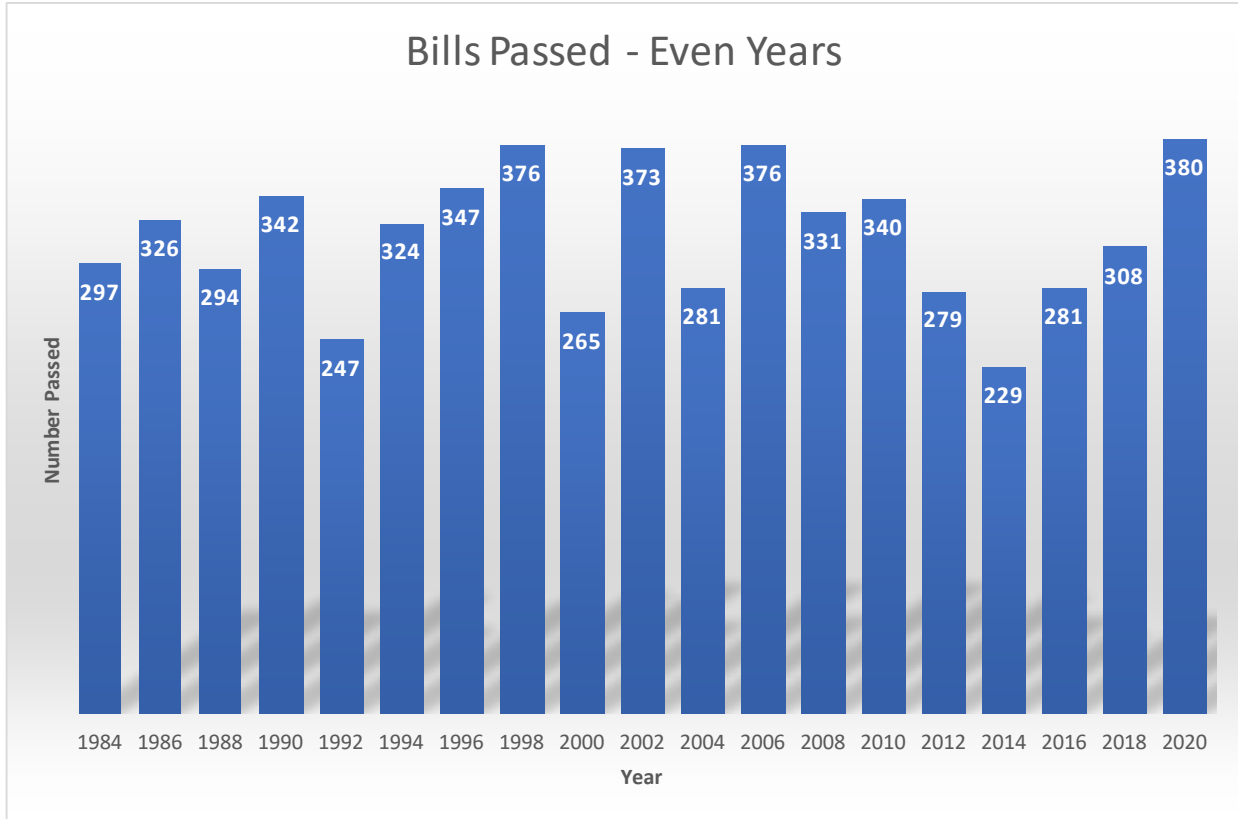
House Bills Passed, Even Years



House Bills Passed, Odd Years



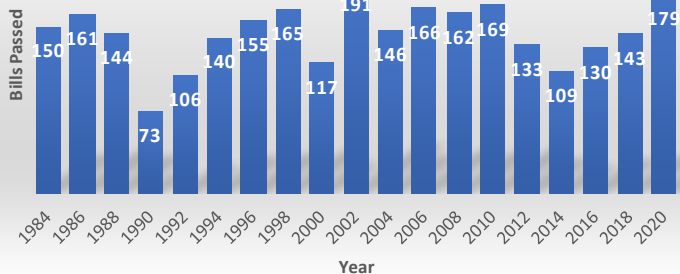
Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year *continued*



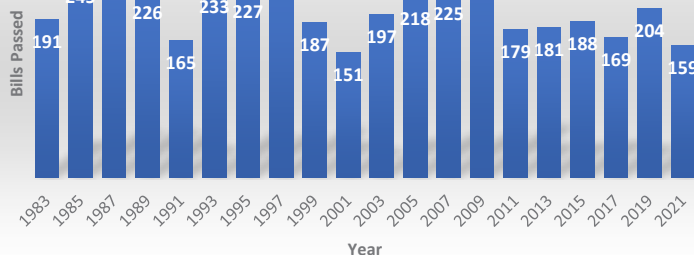
Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year *(displayed side by side)*

These and the next page are similar to the previous six charts but odd and even years are side-by-side for ease of comparison.

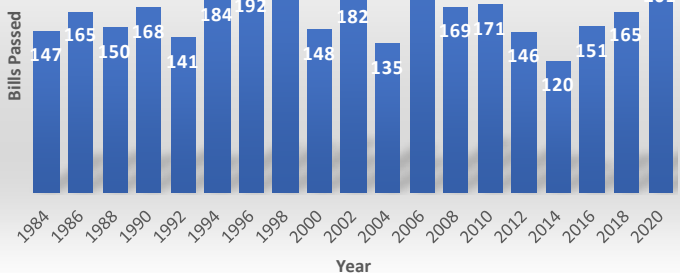
Senate Bills Passed, Even Years



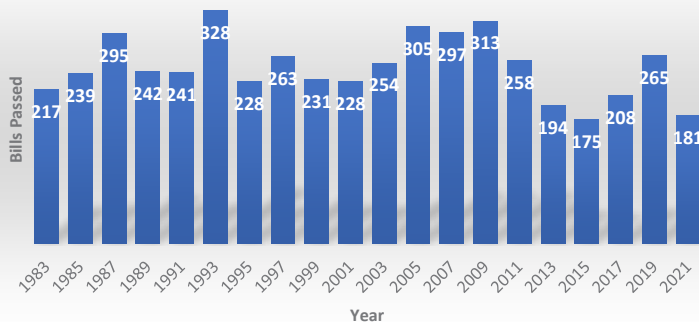
Senate Bills Passed, Odd Years



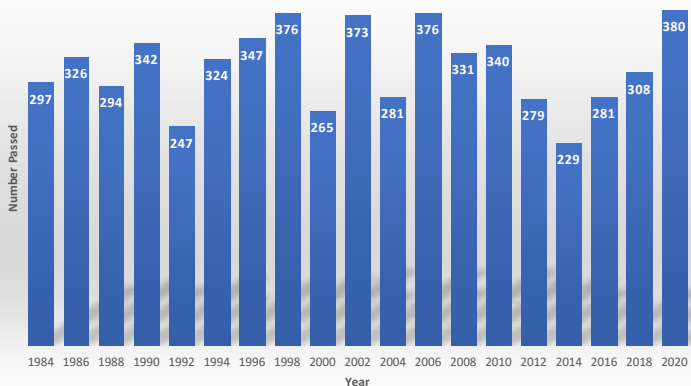
House Bills Passed, Even Years



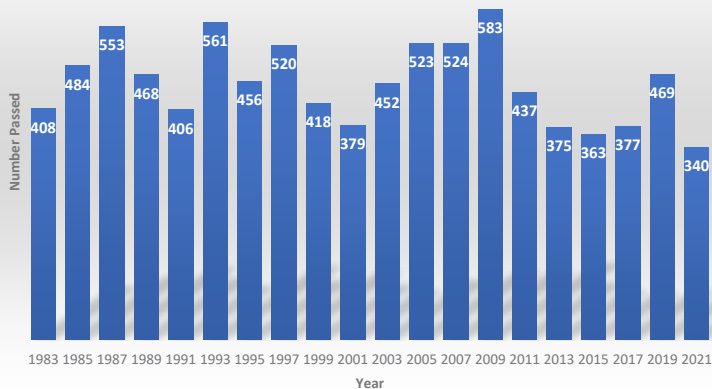
House Bills Passed, Odd Years



Bills Passed - Even Years

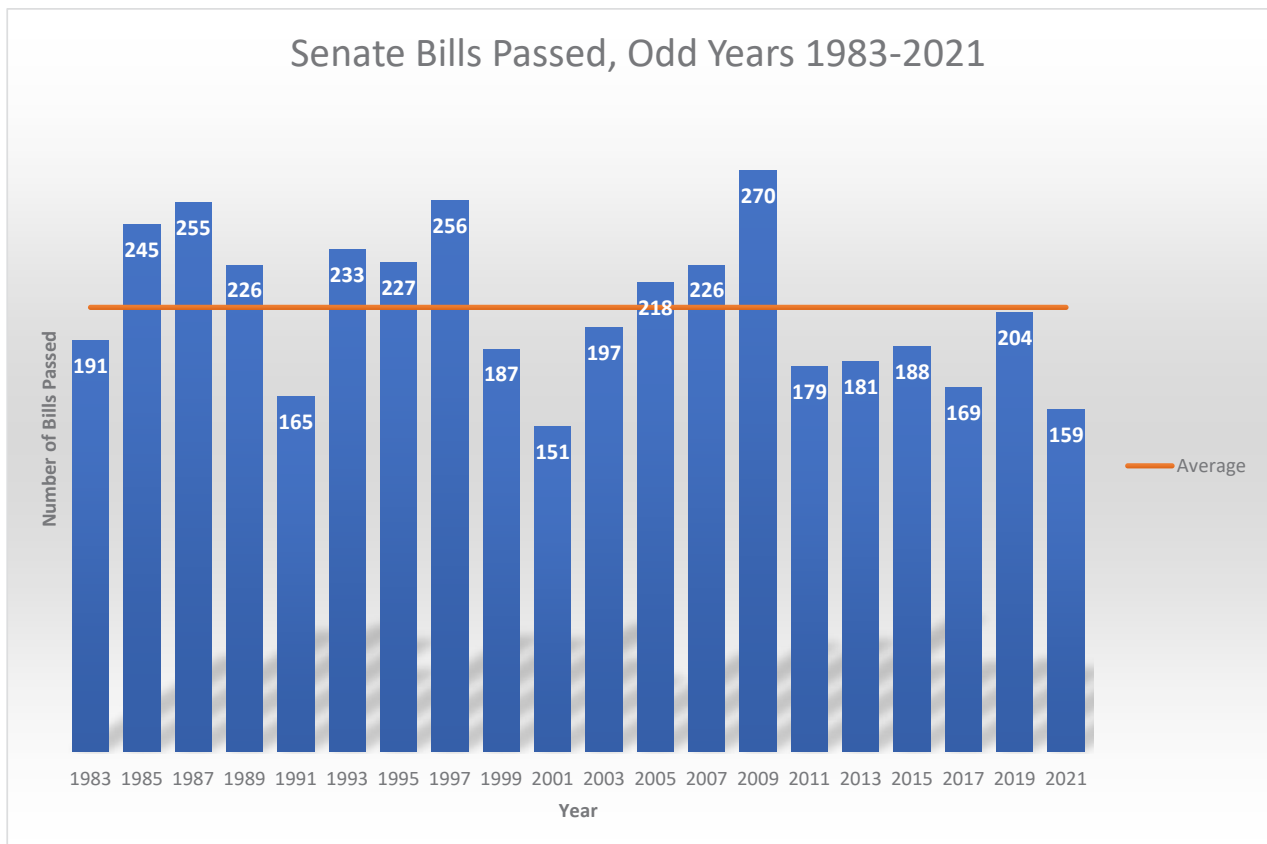
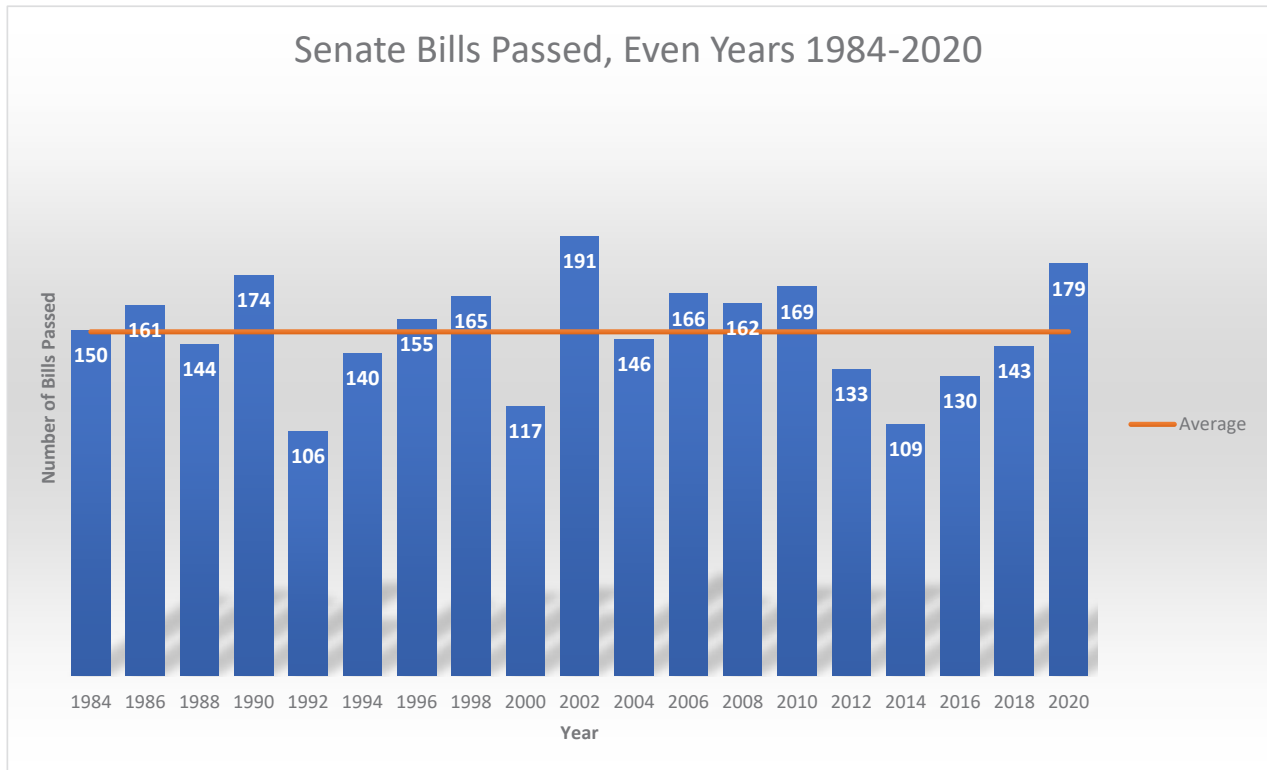


Bills Passed - Odd Years



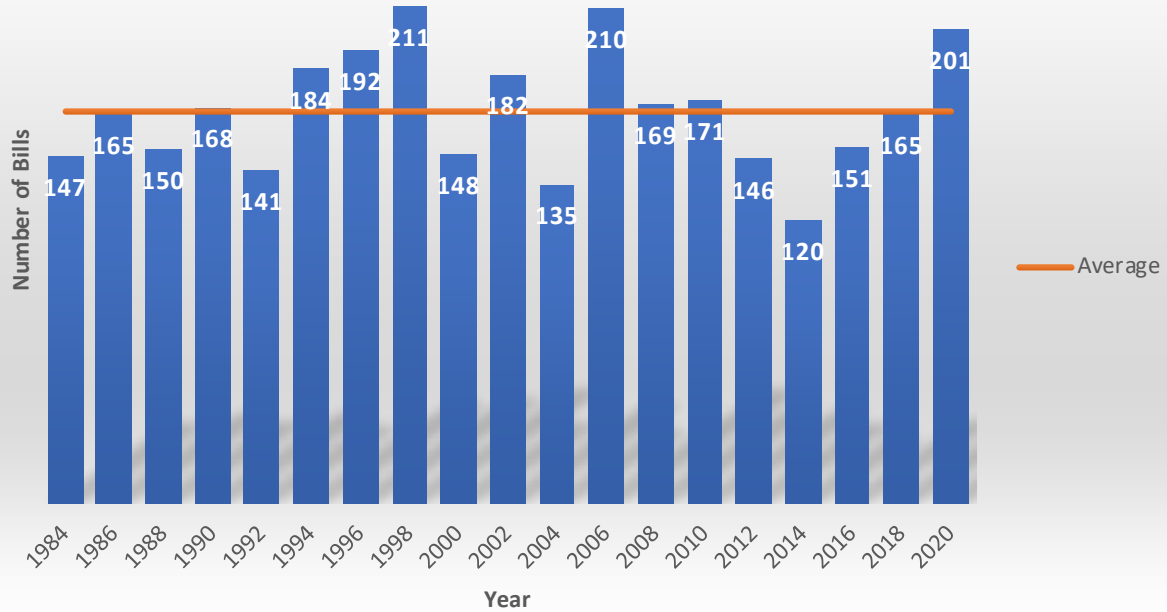
Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year Showing Regular and Special Sessions

Six bar charts showing regular and special sessions.

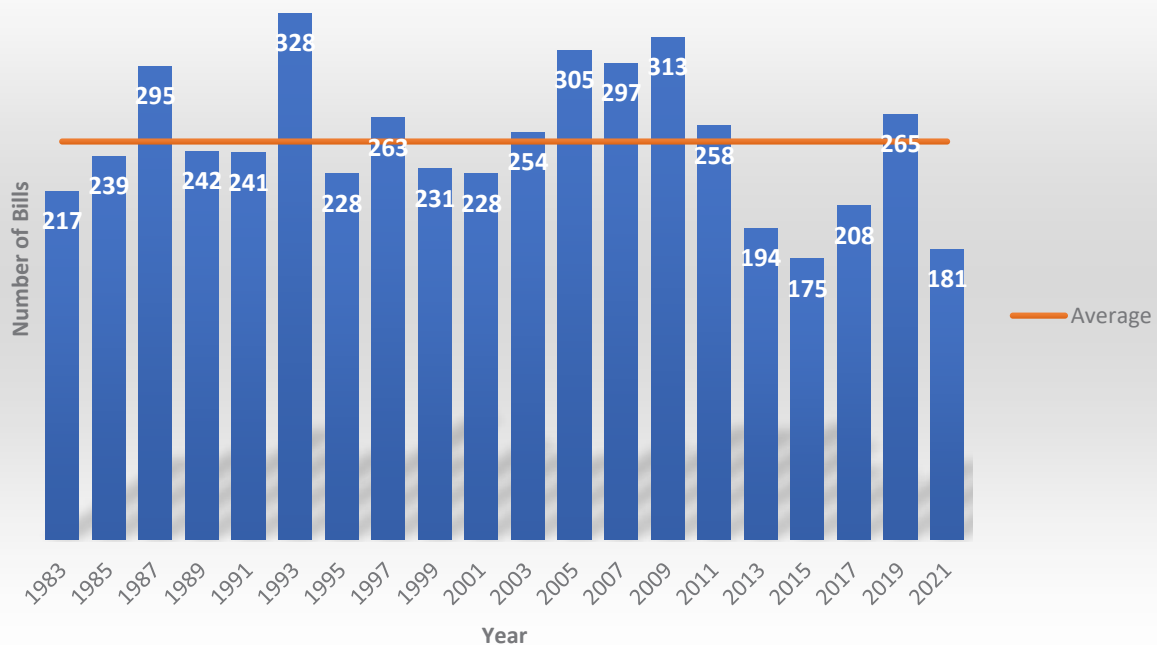


Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year Showing Regular and Special Sessions *continued*

House Bills Passed, Even Years 1984-2020



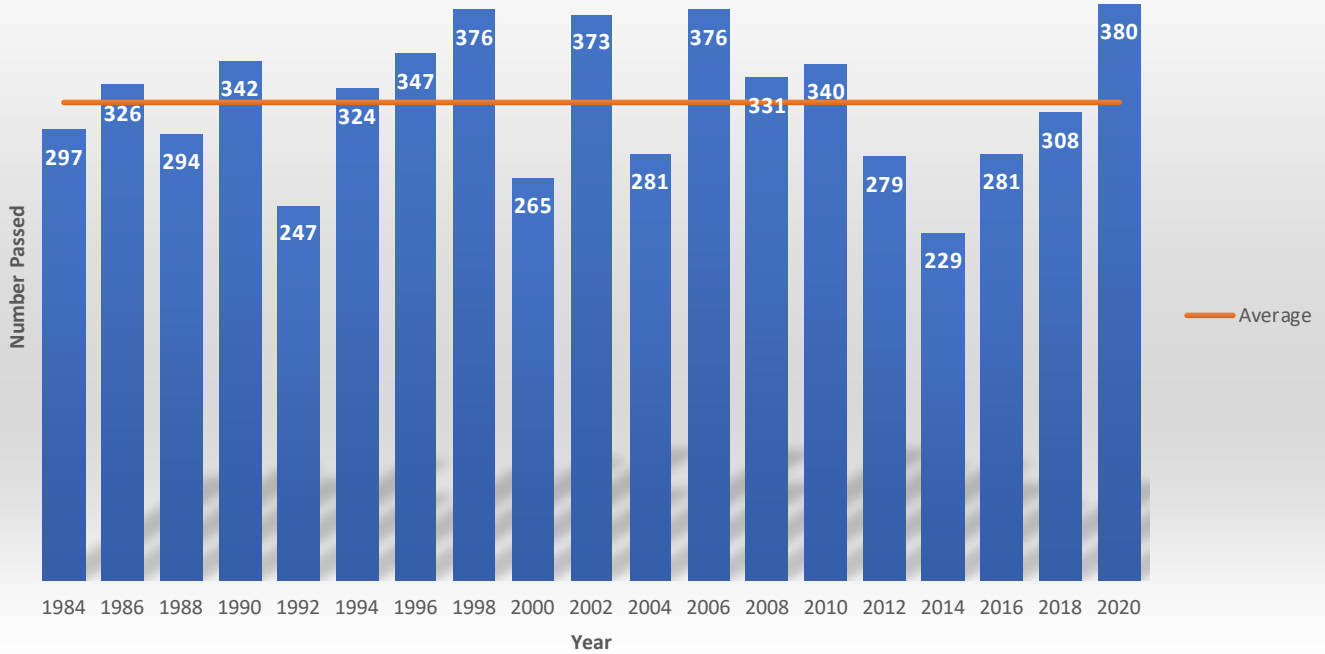
House Bills Passed, Odd Years 1983-2021



Bills Passed by Chamber, Legislature and Year Showing Regular and Special Sessions *continued*

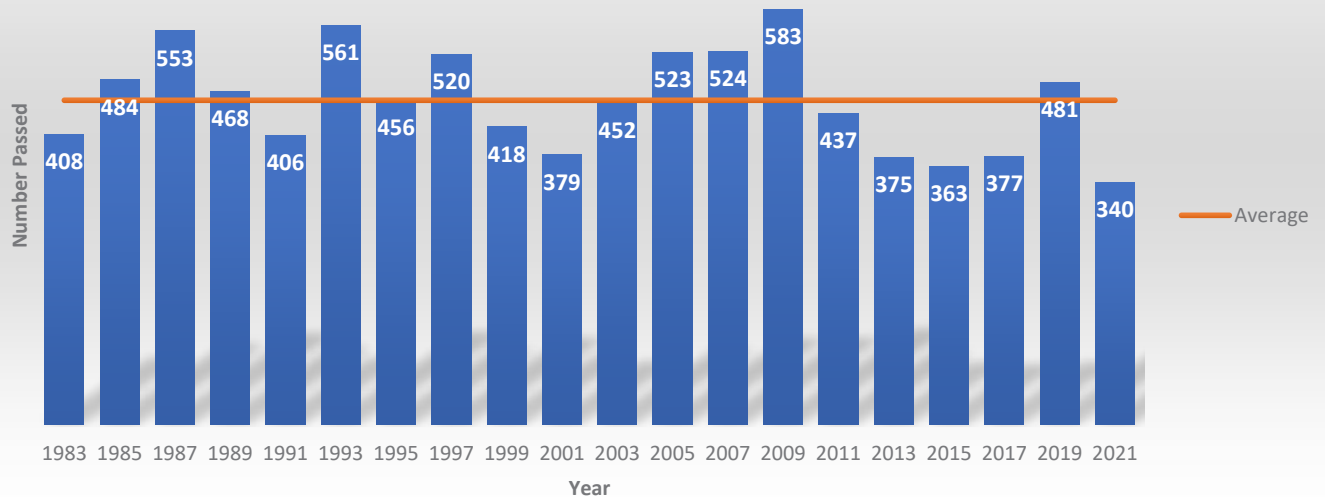
Bills Passed - Even Years

Total number of bills passed by both chambers for even years 1984 through 2020
 Note: Includes special sessions



Bills Passed - Odd Years

Total number of bills passed by both chambers for odd years 1983 through 2021
 Note: Includes special sessions



Summary of Regular and Special Sessions

Senate - average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2021

Sessions	Odd Years		Even Years	
	Average Number of Bills Passed	Number of Sessions	Average Number of Bills Passed	
Regular	206.2	19	141.5	
1st Special	10.5	17	5.9	
2nd Special	5.0	9	2.5	
3rd Special	12.0	7	0	

House - average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2021

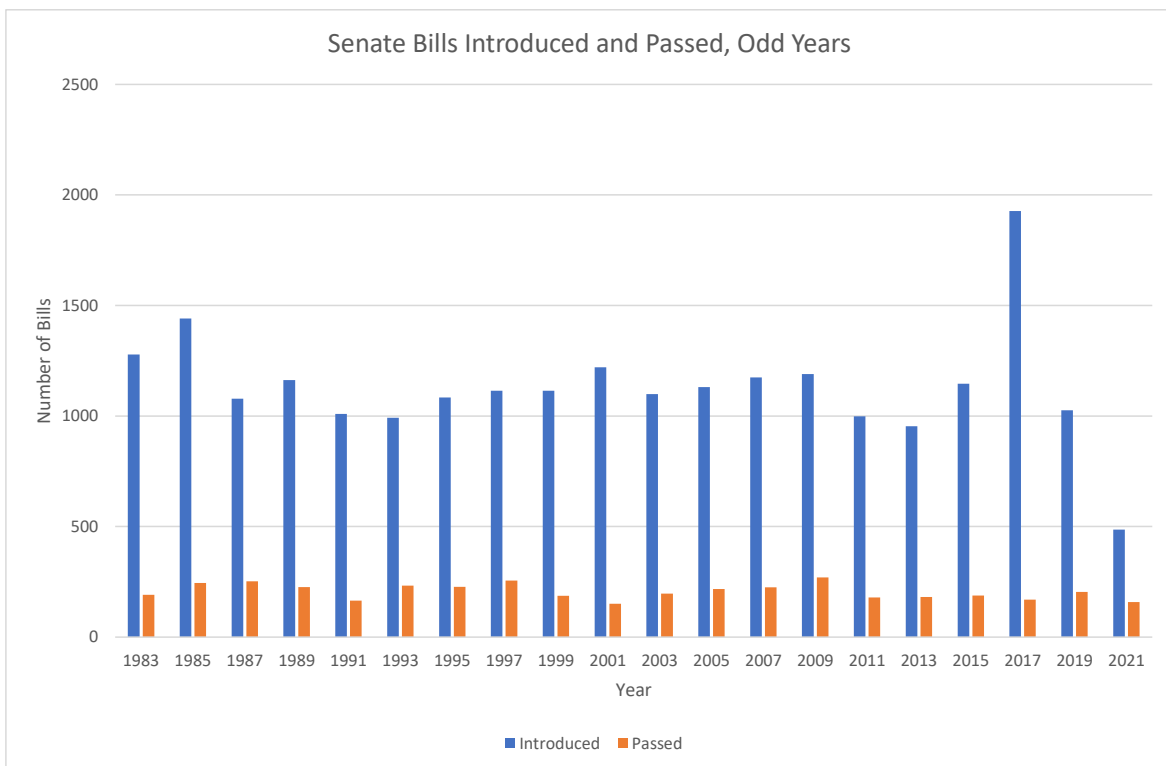
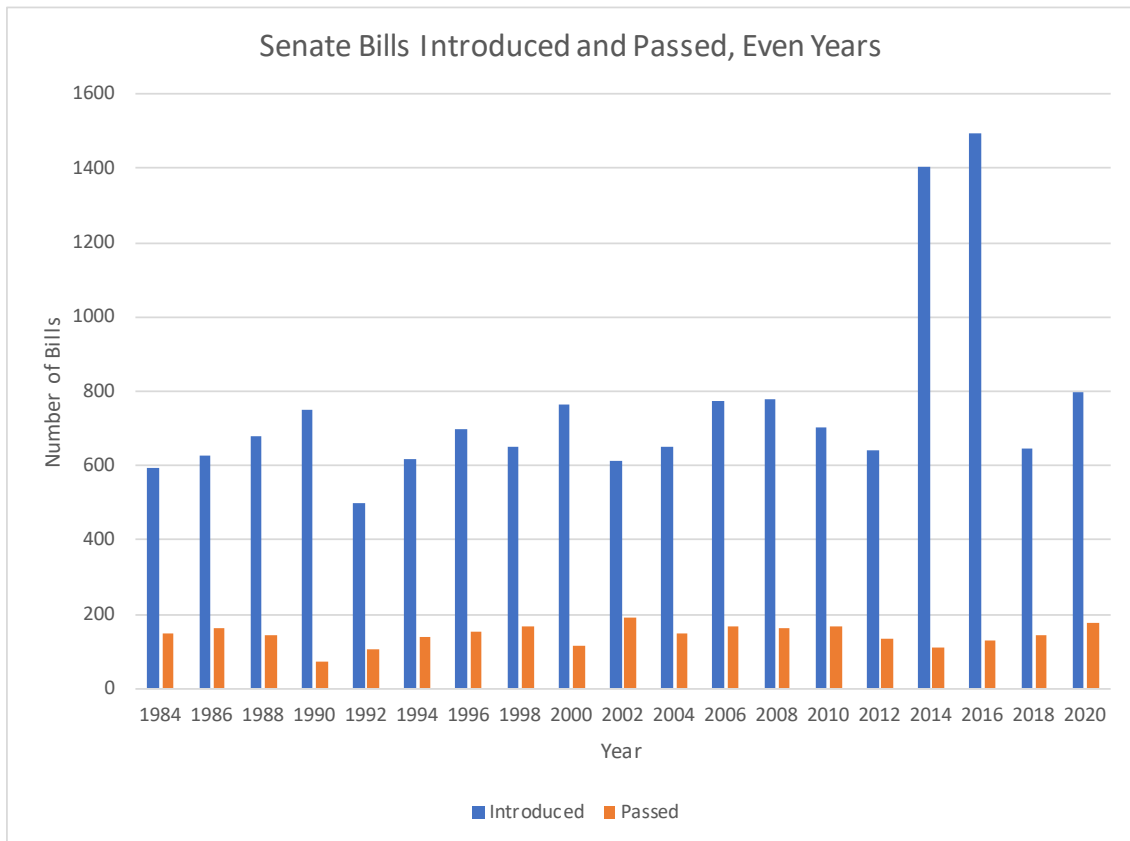
Sessions	Odd Years		Even Years	
	Average Number of Bills Passed	Number of Sessions	Average Number of Bills Passed	
Regular	234.1	19	163.2	
1st Special	9.8	17	6.9	
2nd Special	6.9	9	2.3	
3rd Special	6.7	7	0	

Both Chambers - sum of the average number of bills passed for years 1983-2021

Sessions	Odd Years		Even Years	
	Average Number of Bills Passed		Average Number of Bills Passed	
Regular	440.2		304.7	
1st Special	20.3		12.7	
2nd Special	11.9		4.8	
3rd Special	23.9		0	

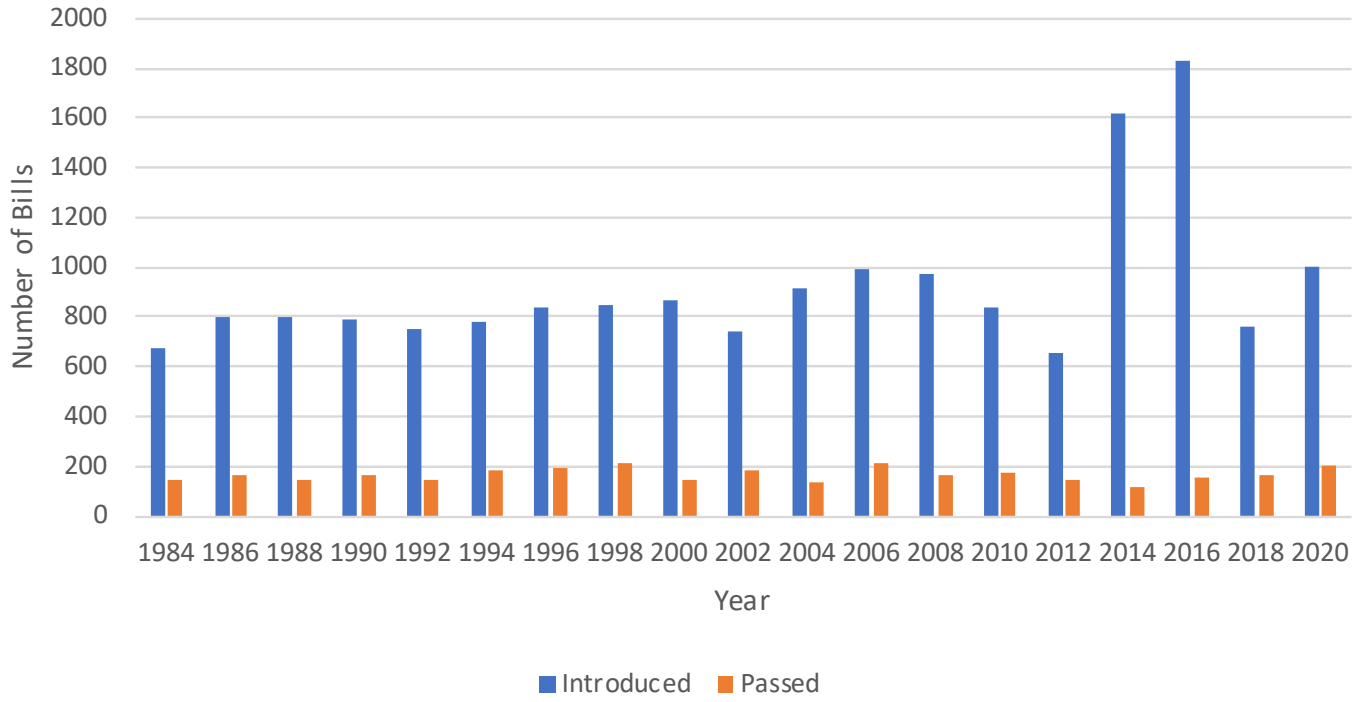
Statistical Summary of Bills Introduced and Passed By Chamber, Total and Year

Next are six statistical summary charts of bills introduced and passed.

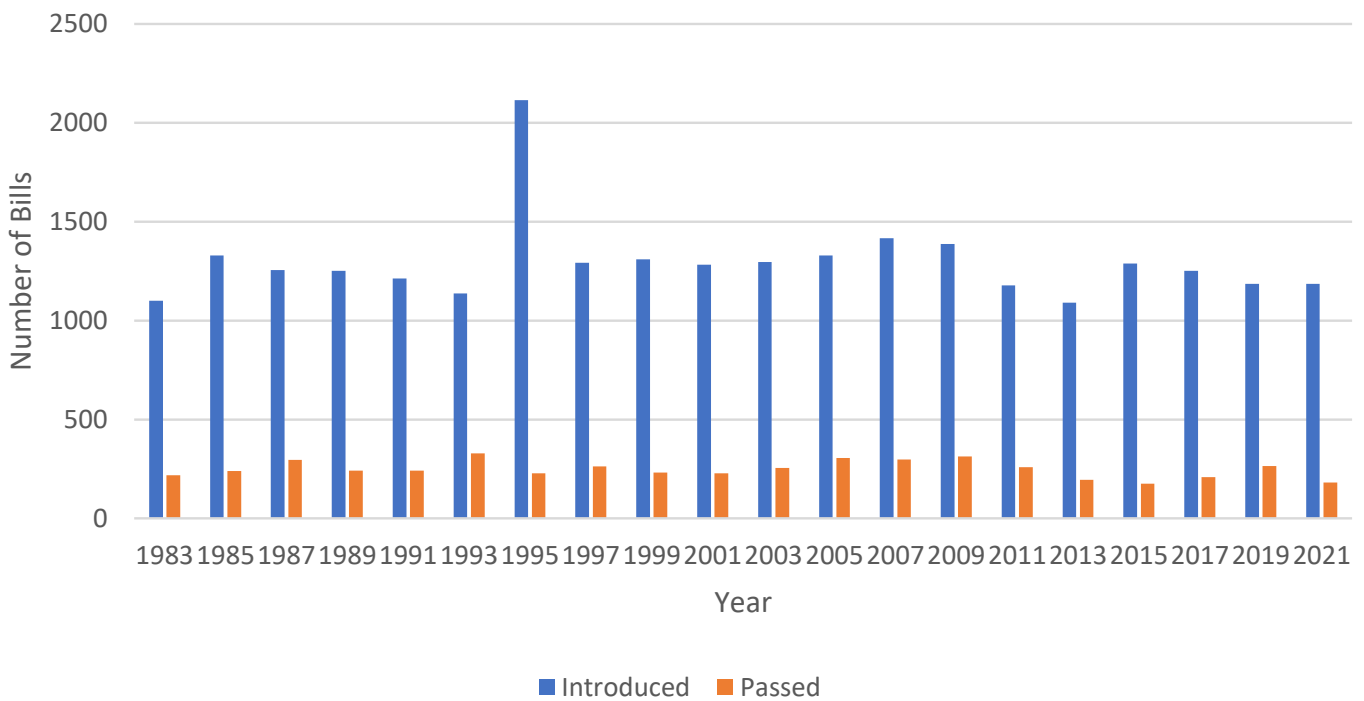


Statistical Summary of Bills Introduced and Passed By Chamber Total and Year *continued*

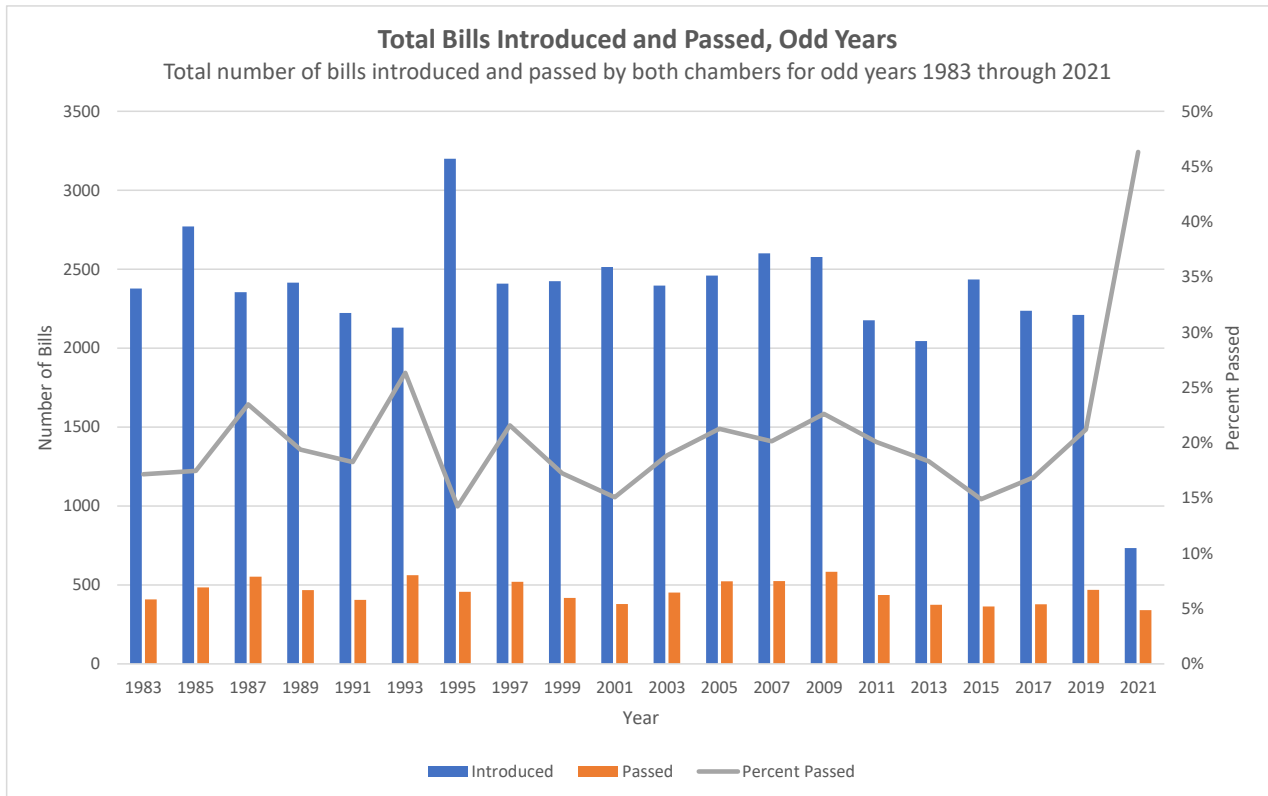
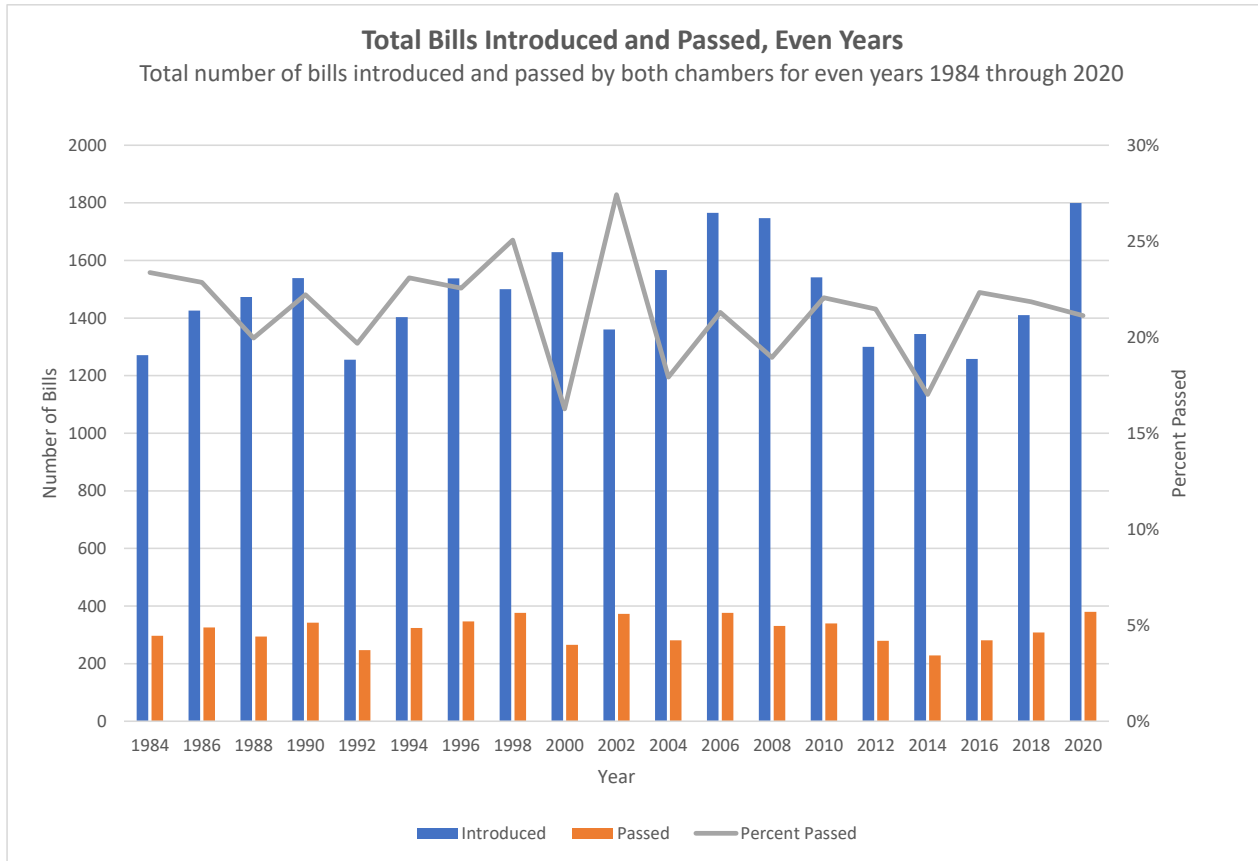
House Bills Introduced and Passed, Even Years 1984-2020



House Bills Introduced and Passed, Odd Years 1983-2021



Statistical Summary of Bills Introduced and Passed By Chamber Total and Year *continued*

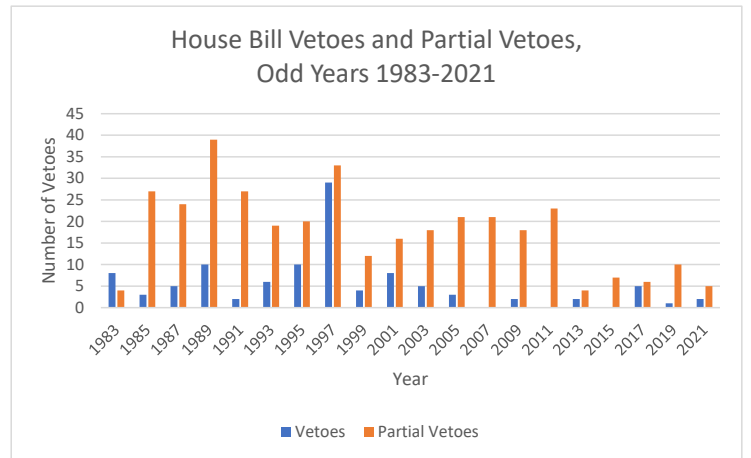
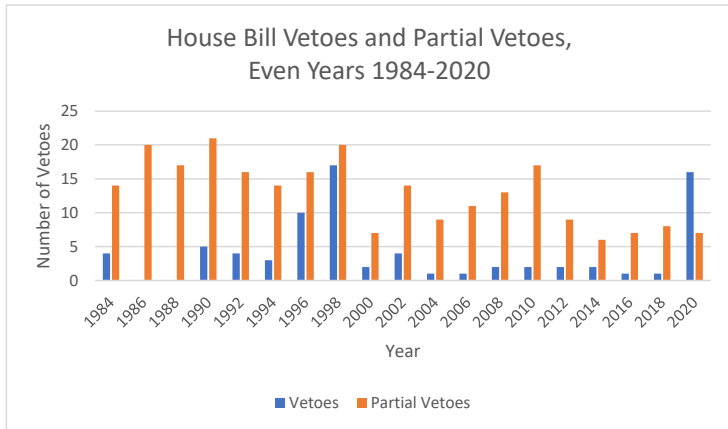
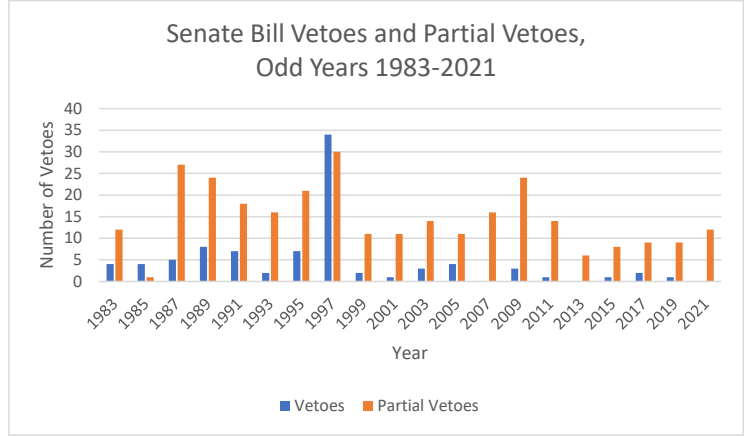
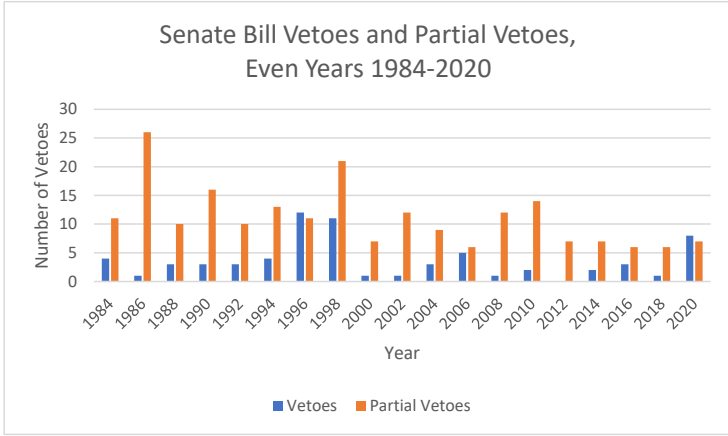


Statistical Summary of Bills Introduced and Passed By Chamber Total and Year *continued*

Bills passed as a percent of those introduced			
Year	Senate %	House %	Legislature %
1983	15%	20%	17%
1984	25%	22%	23%
1985	17%	18%	17%
1986	26%	21%	23%
1987	23%	23%	23%
1988	21%	19%	20%
1989	19%	19%	19%
1990	10%	21%	22%
1991	16%	20%	18%
1992	21%	19%	20%
1993	23%	29%	26%
1994	23%	23%	23%
1995	21%	11%	14%
1996	22%	23%	23%
1997	23%	20%	22%
1998	25%	25%	25%
1999	17%	18%	17%
2000	15%	17%	16%
2001	12%	18%	15%
2002	31%	24%	27%
2003	18%	20%	19%
2004	22%	15%	18%
2005	19%	23%	21%
2006	22%	21%	21%
2007	19%	21%	20%
2008	21%	17%	19%
2009	23%	23%	23%
2010	24%	20%	22%
2011	18%	22%	20%
2012	21%	22%	21%
2013	19%	18%	18%
2014	8%	7%	8%
2015	16%	14%	15%
2016	9%	8%	8%
2017	9%	17%	17%
2018	22%	22%	22%
2019	20%	22%	21%
2020	20%	22%	21%
2021	33%	31%	46%
Average	20%	20%	20%

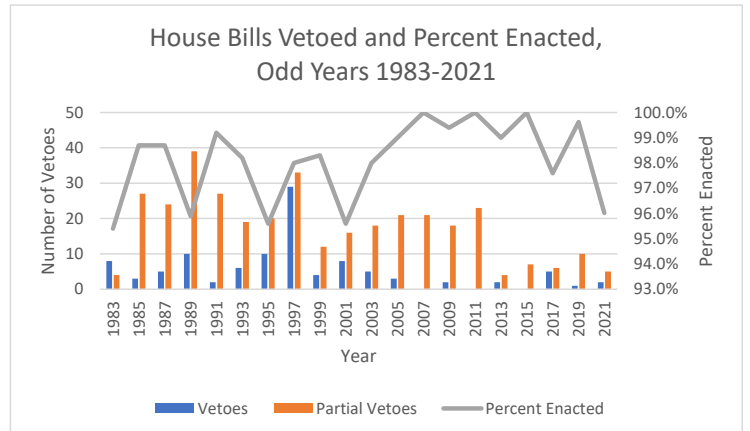
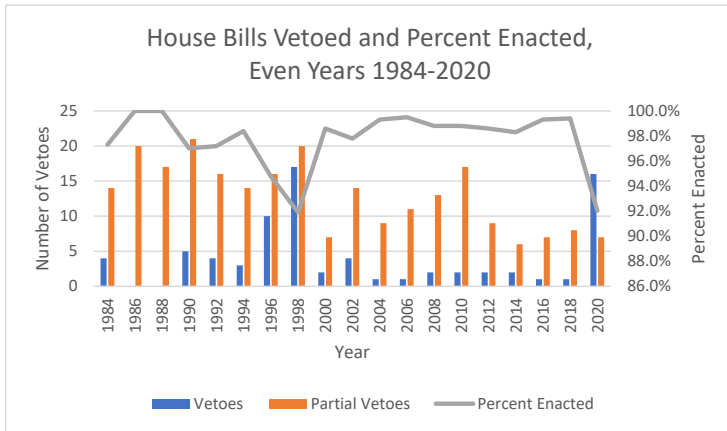
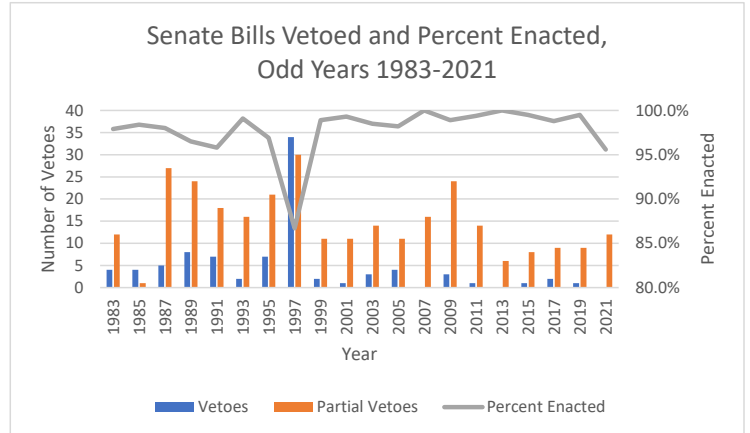
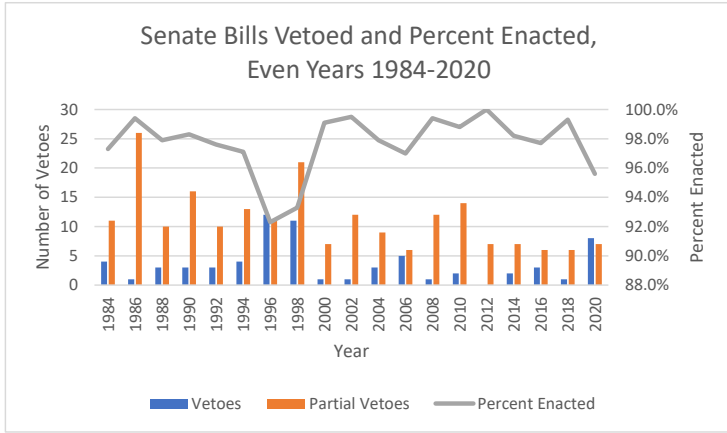
Charts of Veto Detail by Chamber and Year

This page gives horizontal dot plots for easy comparison of bills partially and fully vetoed versus odd and even years, also showing presiding governors and controlling party.

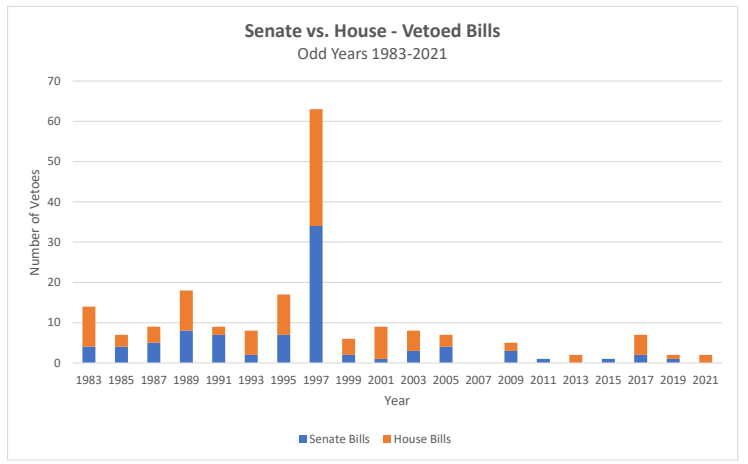
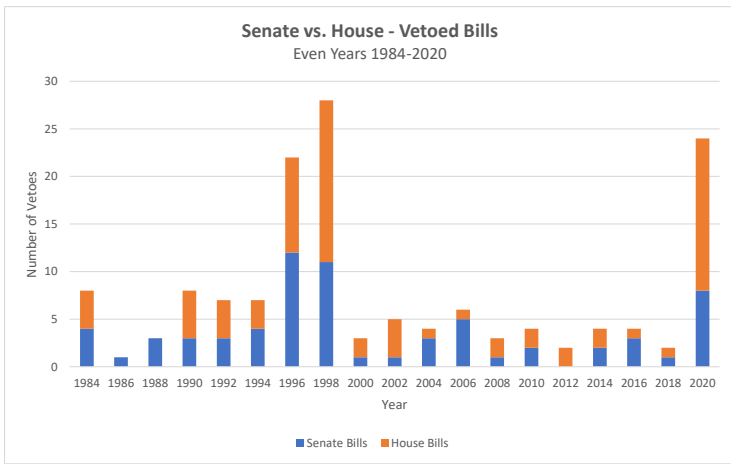
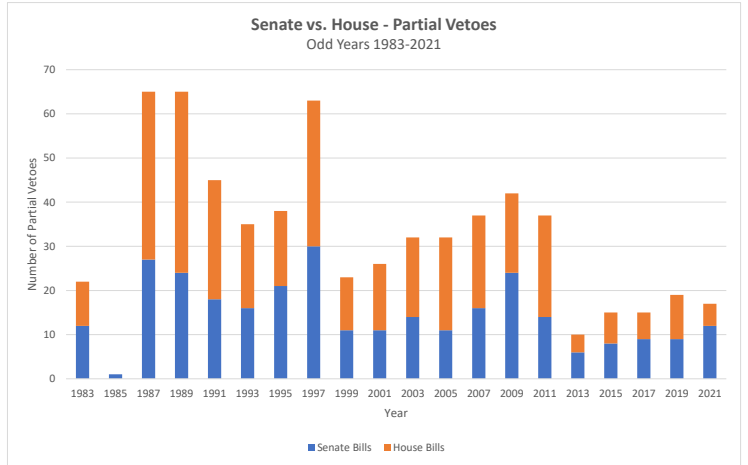
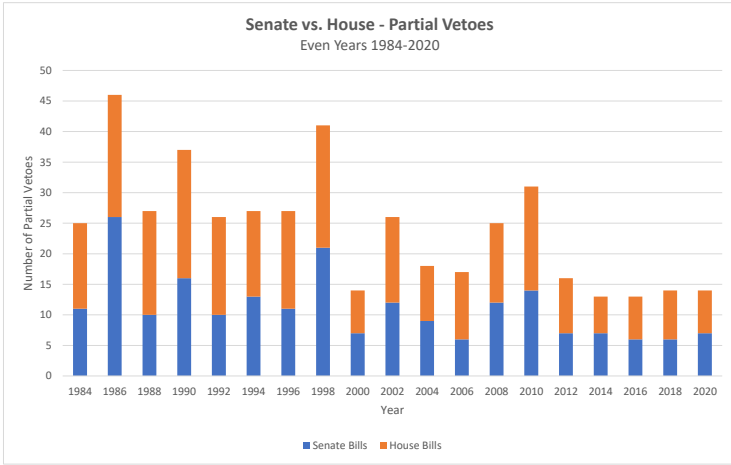


Charts of Bills Vetoed with Percent Enacted by Chamber and Year

Here we have plots similar to the preceding page but showing the number of bills vetoed and the percent enacted. The next page of box (or box-and-whisker) plots is used to contrast the Senate and House. These were used because the data are too skewed and variable for the mean to reasonably portray central tendency. This is followed by a summary table of percentages using medians.



Contrasting Bills Vetoes by Chamber



Summary Table of Percent Bills Vetoed by Chamber, Legislature And Year

On the average, the House introduces and subsequently passes more bills than the Senate. So one would expect the average number of bills vetoed to be somewhat higher in the lower chamber.

The following table looks at percentages. Again, for robustness the median was used, this time to calculate the percentages.

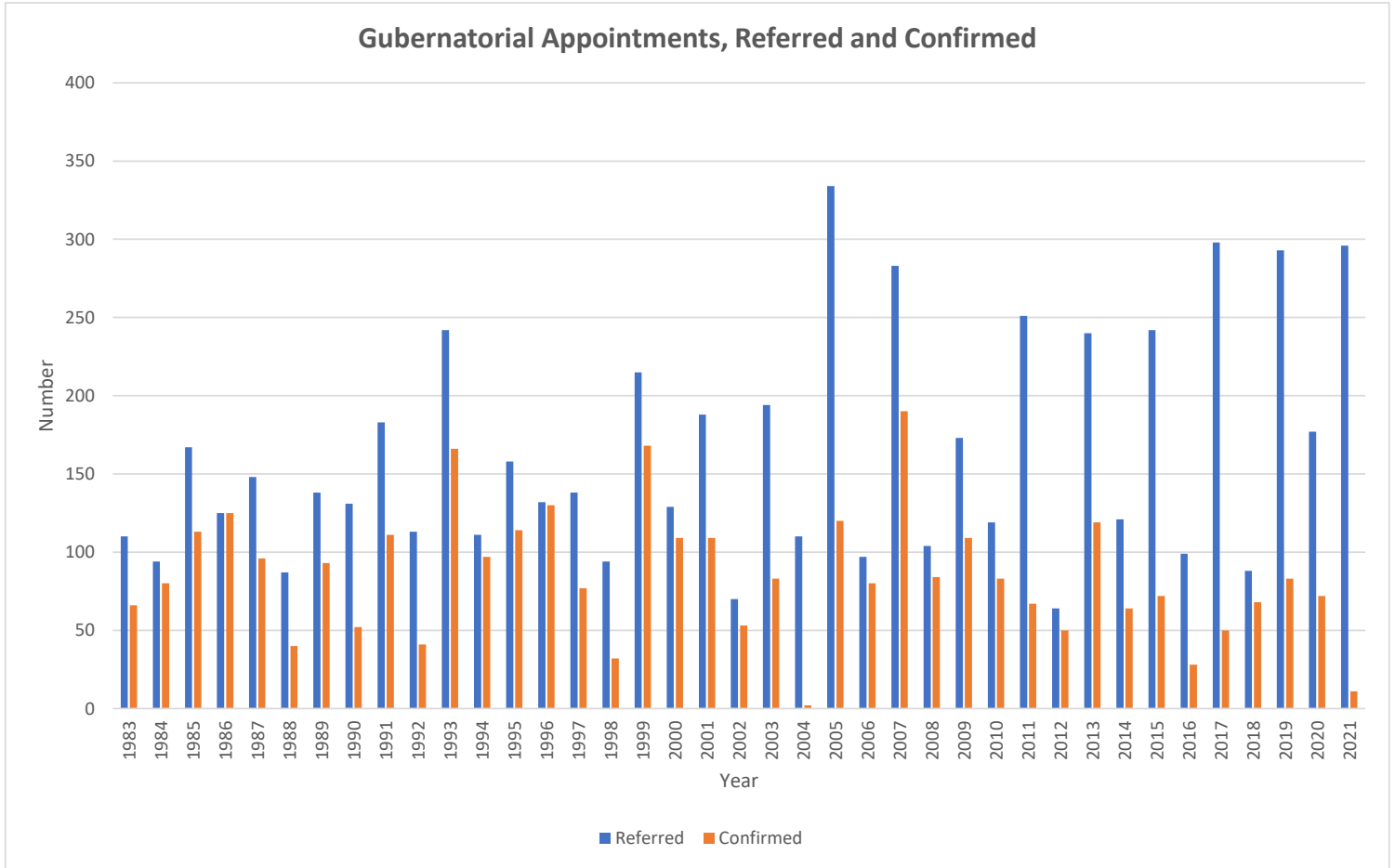
Average percent of partial and full vetoes for years 1983-2021

Action	Odd Years			Even Years		
	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Full Veto	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Partial Veto	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%

Median number of bills passed or vetoed for years 1983-2021

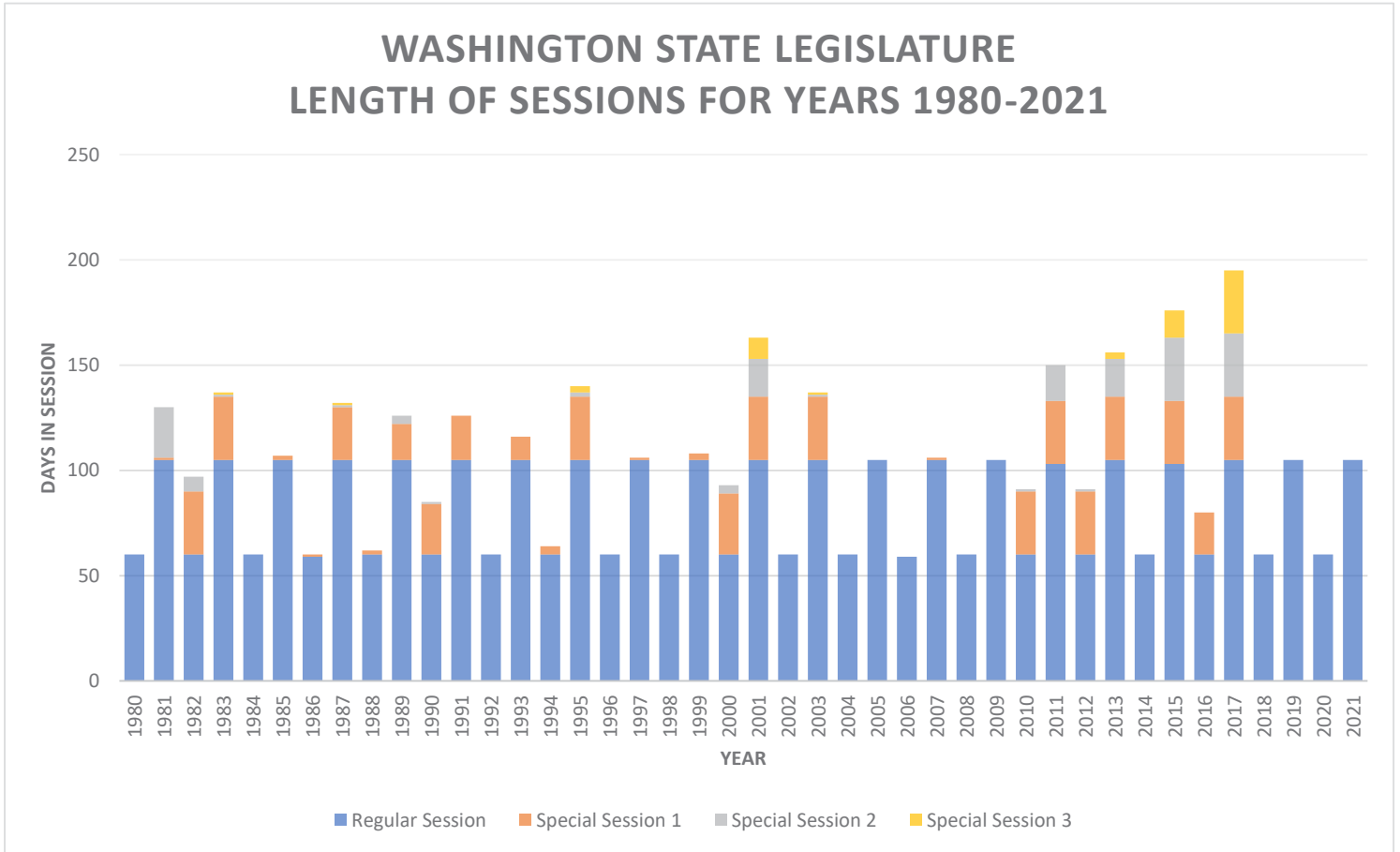
Action	Odd Years			Even Years		
	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Full Veto	2.5	4	7	3	2	4.5
Partial Veto	14	18.5	36	10	14	25
Bills Passed	200.5	241.5	453	146	165	324

Gubernatorial Appointments



Length of Session

The next graph summarizes length of sessions from 1980 through 2021, showing regular and special sessions.



Overview of legislative sessions since 1980

Regular Sessions

Scheduled length of regular sessions:

60 days in even years

105 days in odd years

Since regular annual sessions began in 1980, the shortest sessions occurred in 1986 and 2006, each being 59 days.

Overview of Sessions for 1980 - 2021

Special Sessions

Special Sessions	Count Since 1980	Average Length (Days)	Minimum num. days	Maximum num. days
1st	26	18.9	1	30
2nd	16	10	1	30
3rd	8	7.8	1	30

In 2017, three special sessions totaled 90 days to make it Washington's longest one-year session of 195 days.

Political Division Since 1889 by Chamber and Year

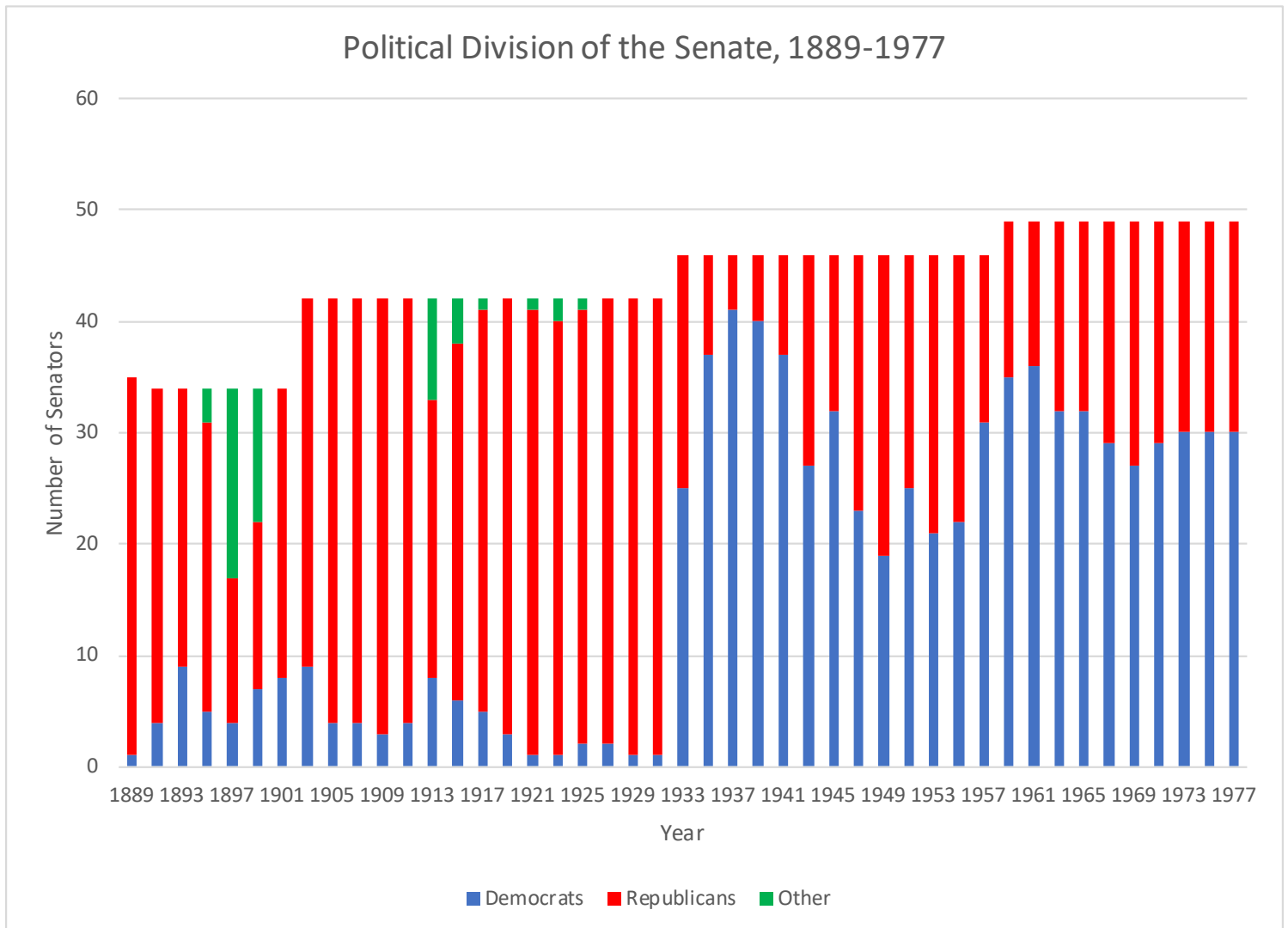
Next are four charts showing the political division of the Senate and House going all the way back to 1889, when Washington was still a territory. Following these political division charts, and completing this chart book, are three historical charts of women in our legislature.

A few highlights are:

- The Enabling Act of 1889 changed three territories into four states: Washington, Montana, N. & S. Dakota.
- In 1896, J.R. Rogers became Washington's only populist governor.
- The drop in the total number of seats in the House for the years 1905 and 1911 is surprising. Expected would be for the number of seats to steadily increase toward the constitutional maximum for the House of 99 seats.

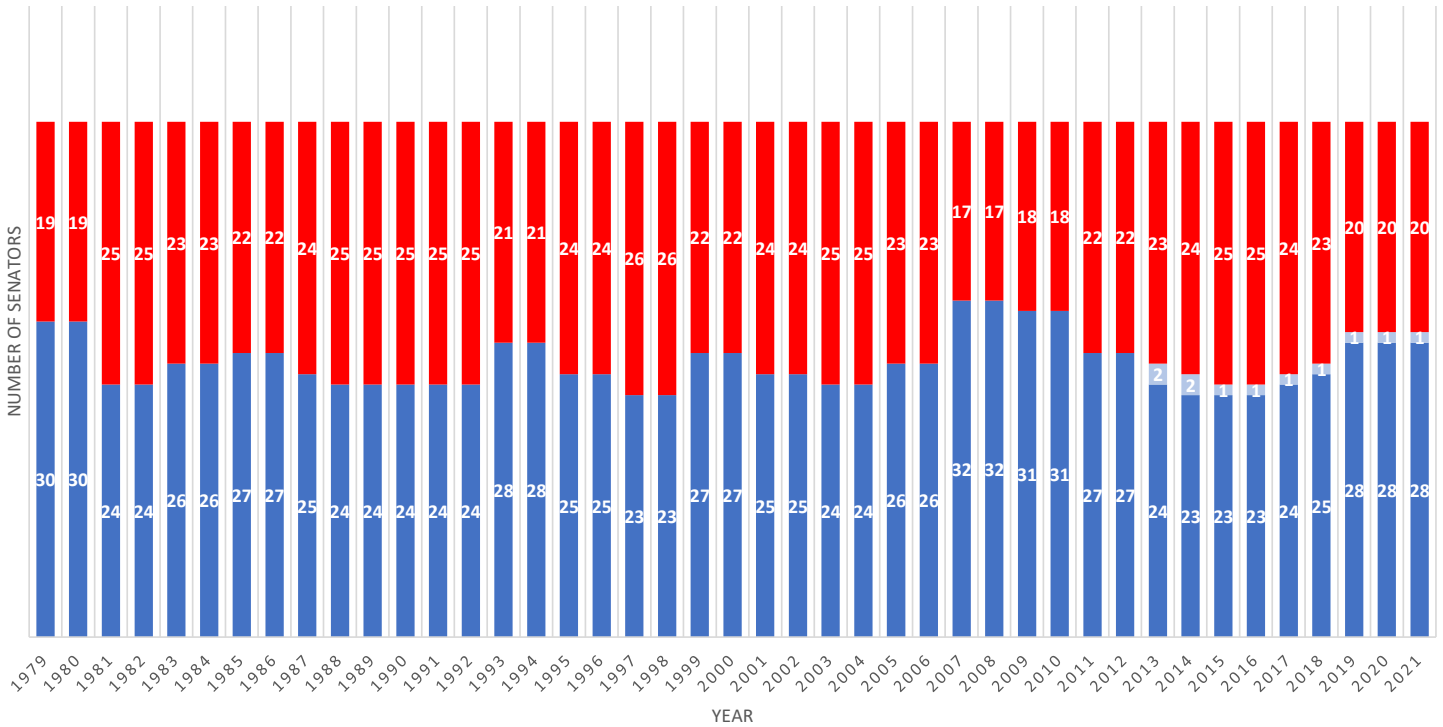
The charts suggest the influence of redistricting. For example, for the state Senate, from 1967 on (following the Supreme Court's decisions, Carr v. Baker in 1962 and Reynolds v. Sims in '64) there is less variability in the political division, and by 1981 political majority swings are even less, staying within a maximum of three seats.

Note the dominant Republican majority in both chambers after WWI, followed by the significant switch to the Democrats during the Great Depression and the New Deal.



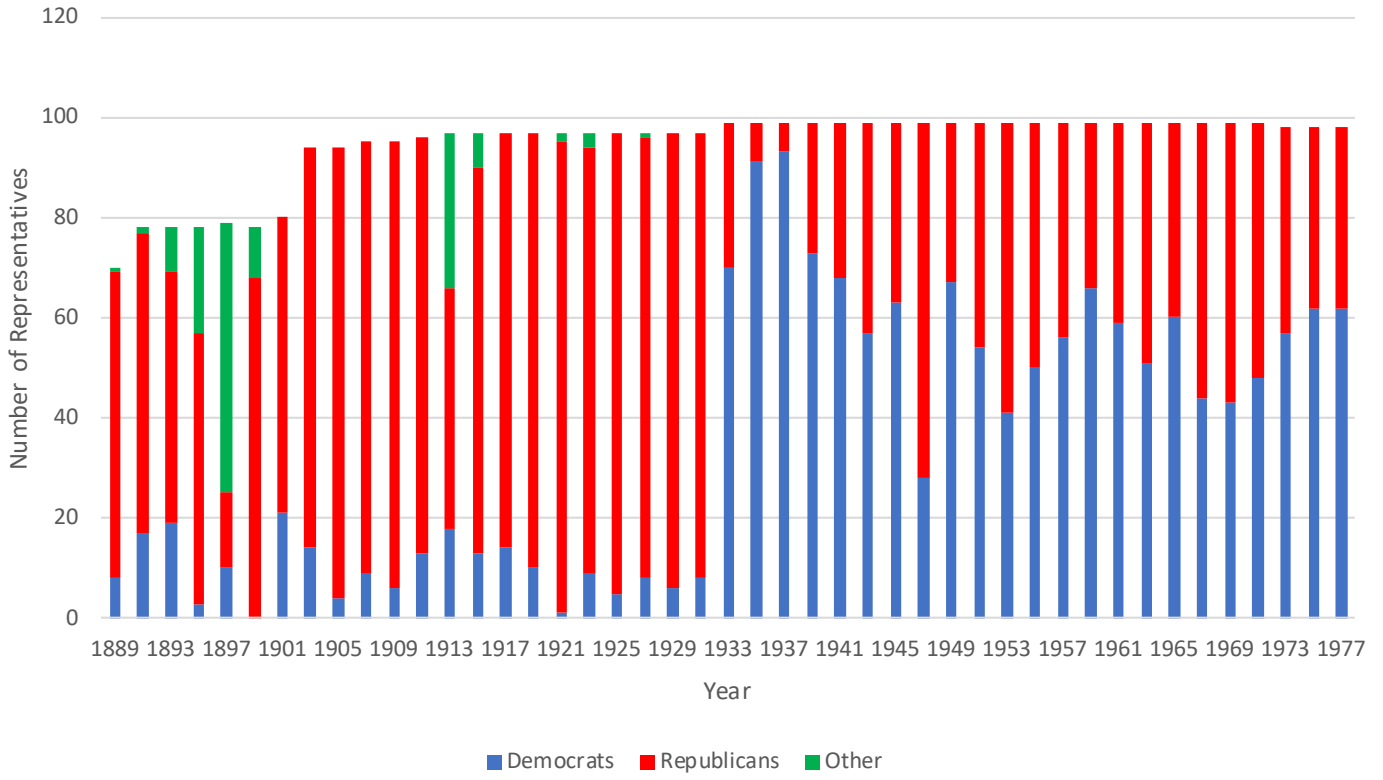
POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE SENATE, 1979-2021

■ Democrats ■ Ds Caucused with Rs ■ Republicans

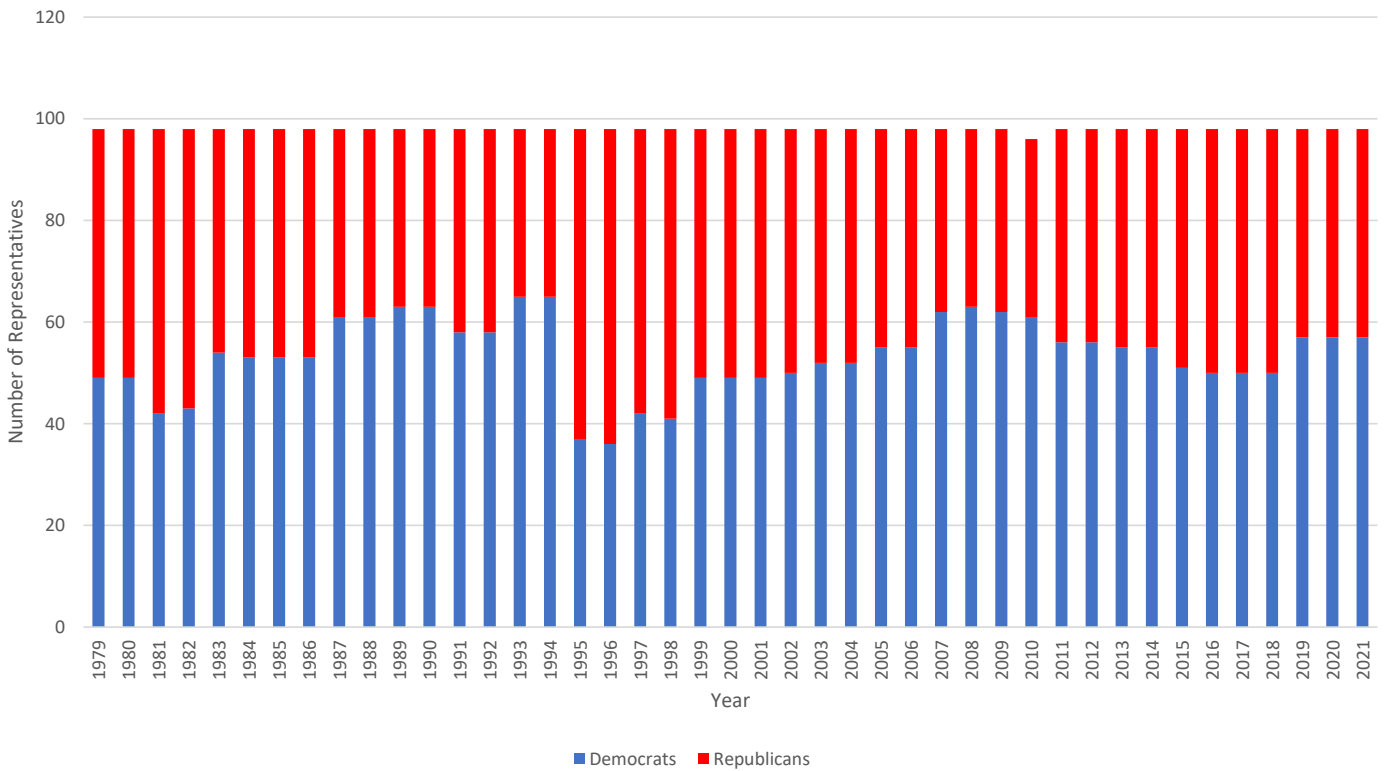


Political Division Since 1889 by Chamber and Year *continued*

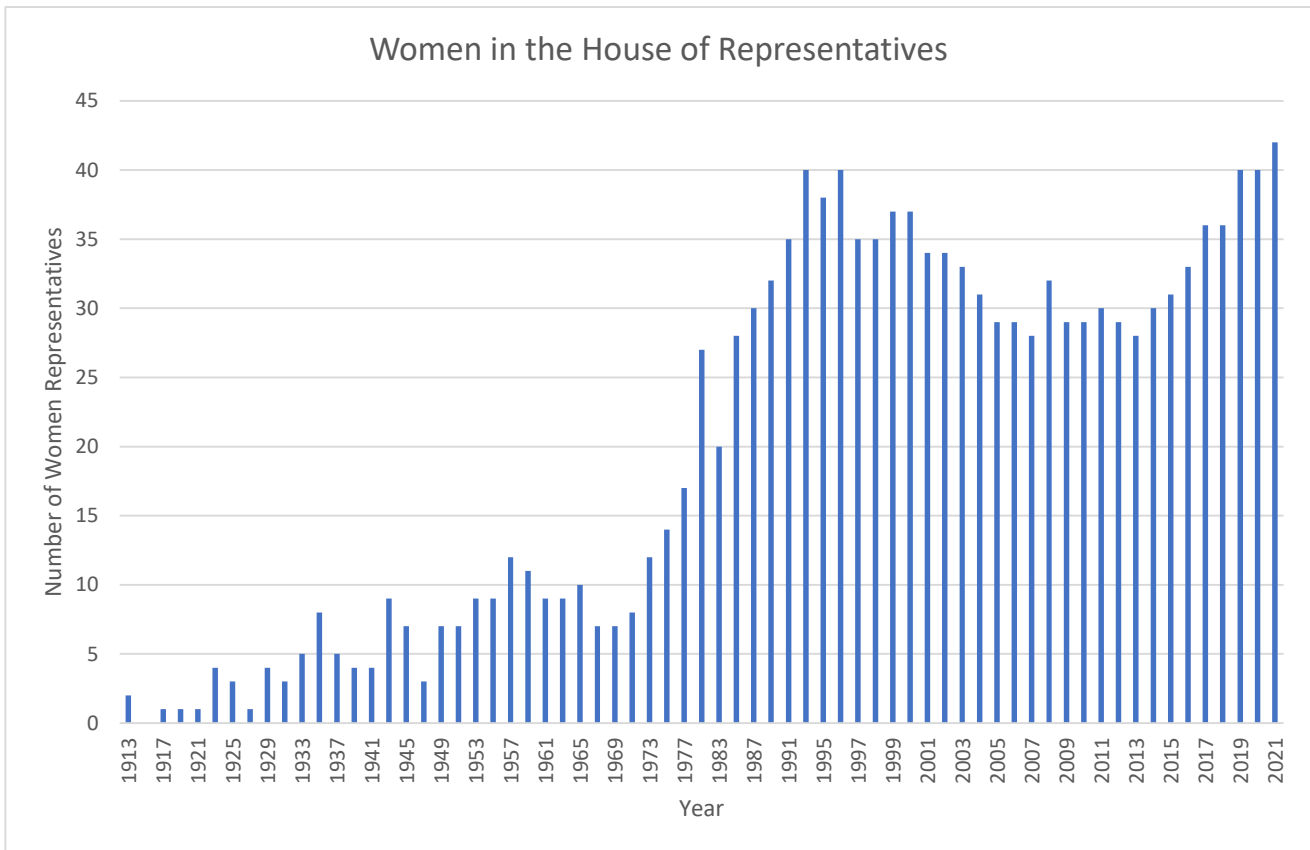
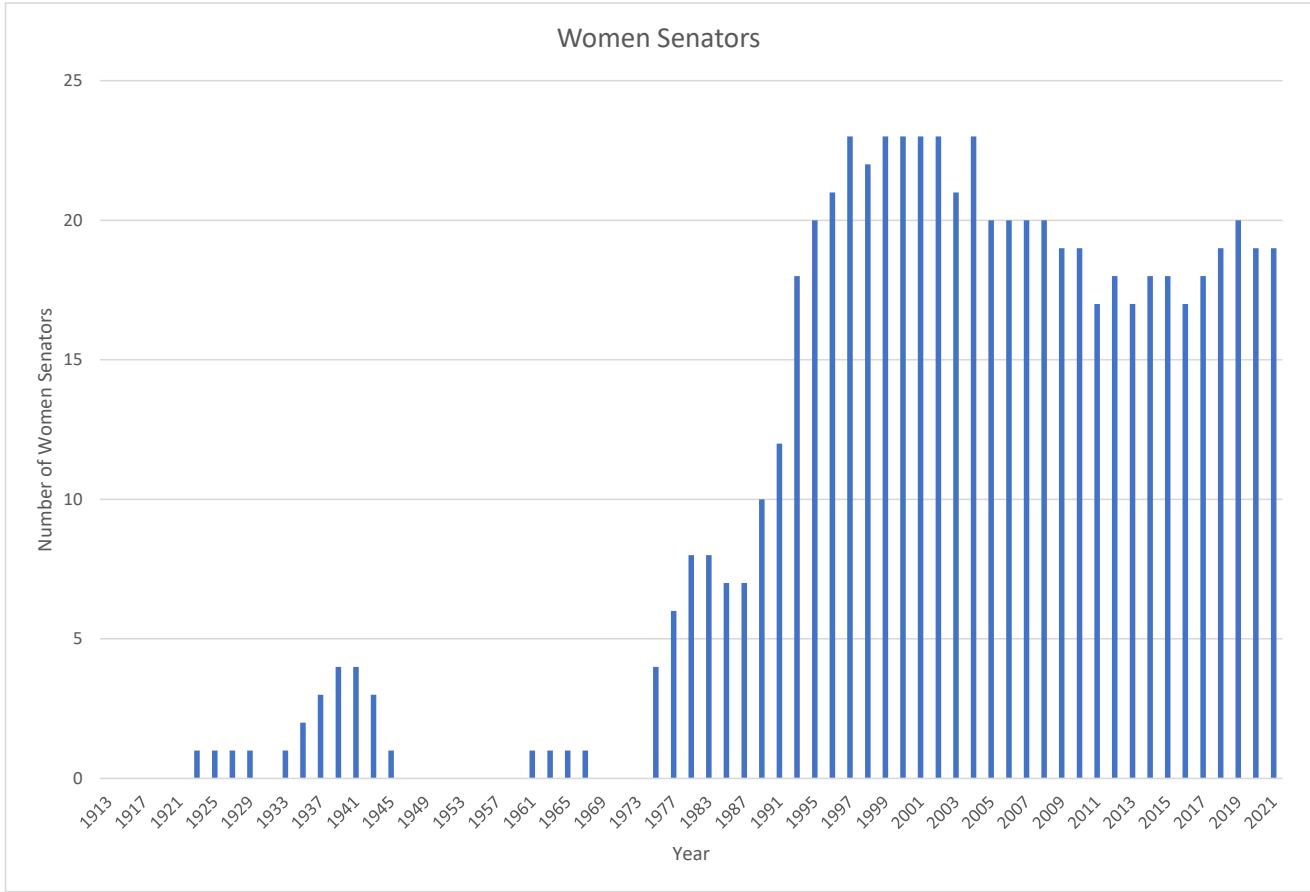
Political Division of the House of Representatives, 1889-1977



Political Division of the House of Representatives, 1979-2021



Women in Legislature



Women in Legislature *continued*

