Legislative processes as sequences

Exploring temporal patterns of Italian law-making by means of sequence analysis
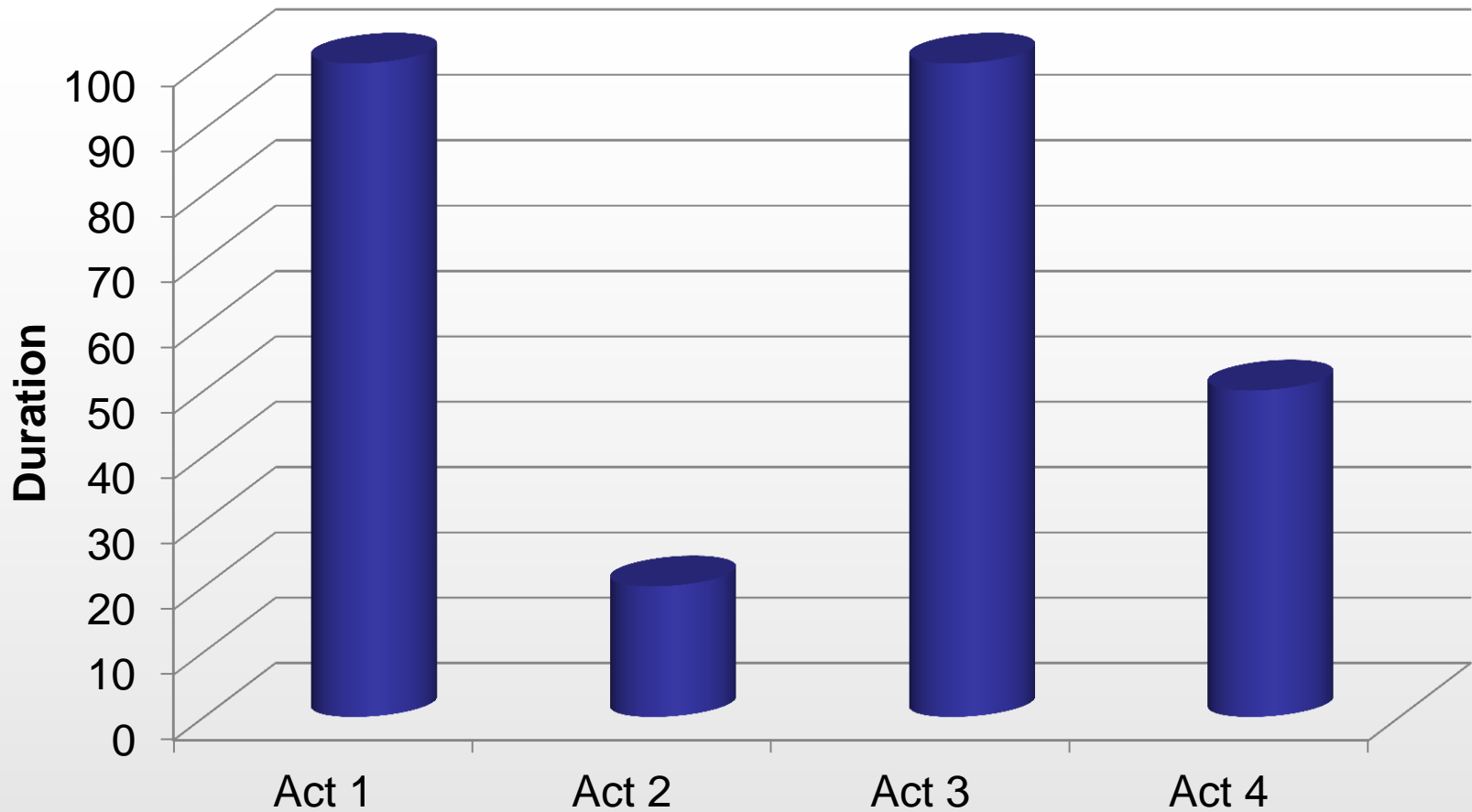
Enrico Borghetto (Post-doc)
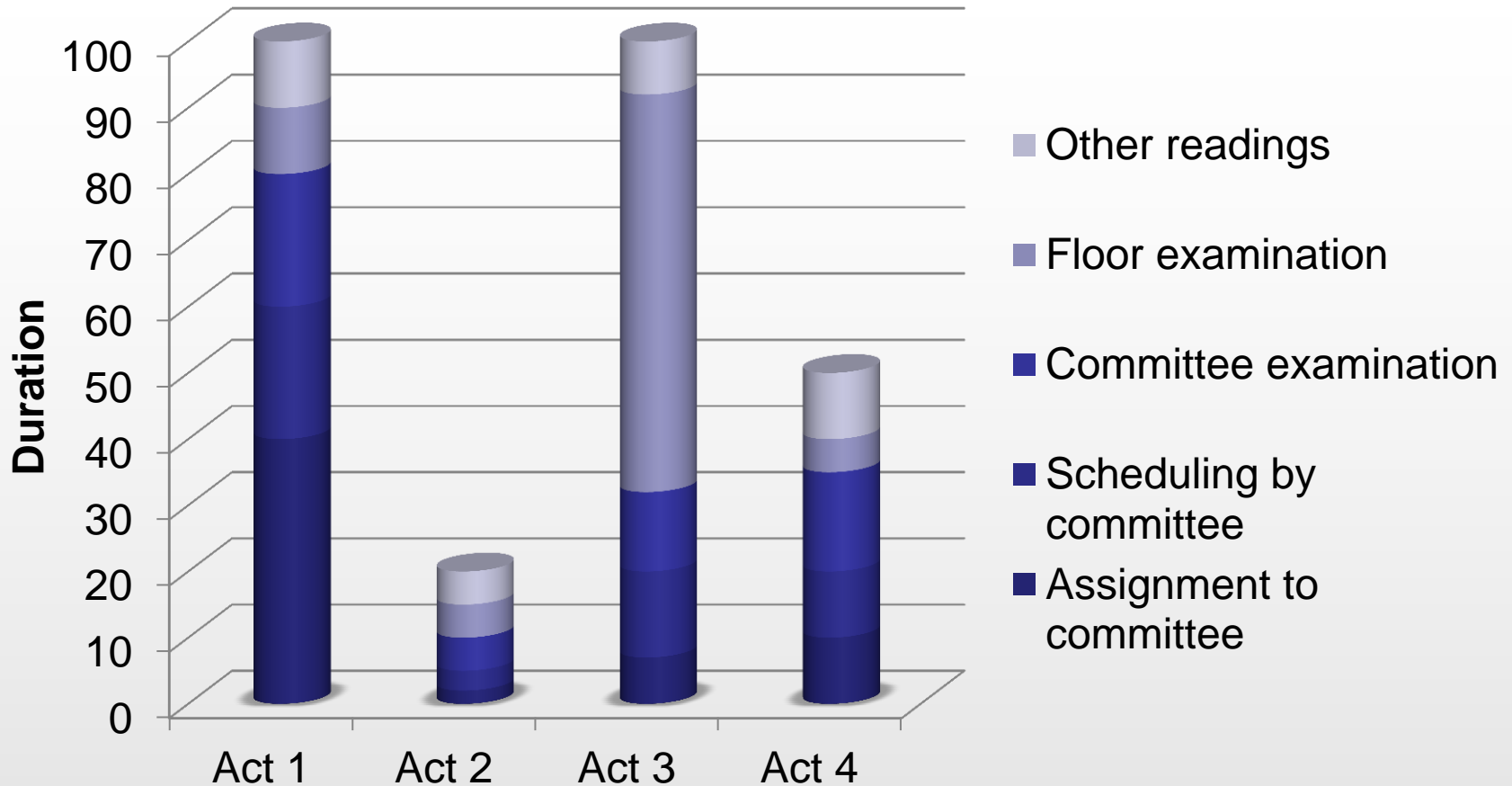*enrico.borghetto@unimi.it*

Summary

- The subject: time and law-making

- Why sequence analysis
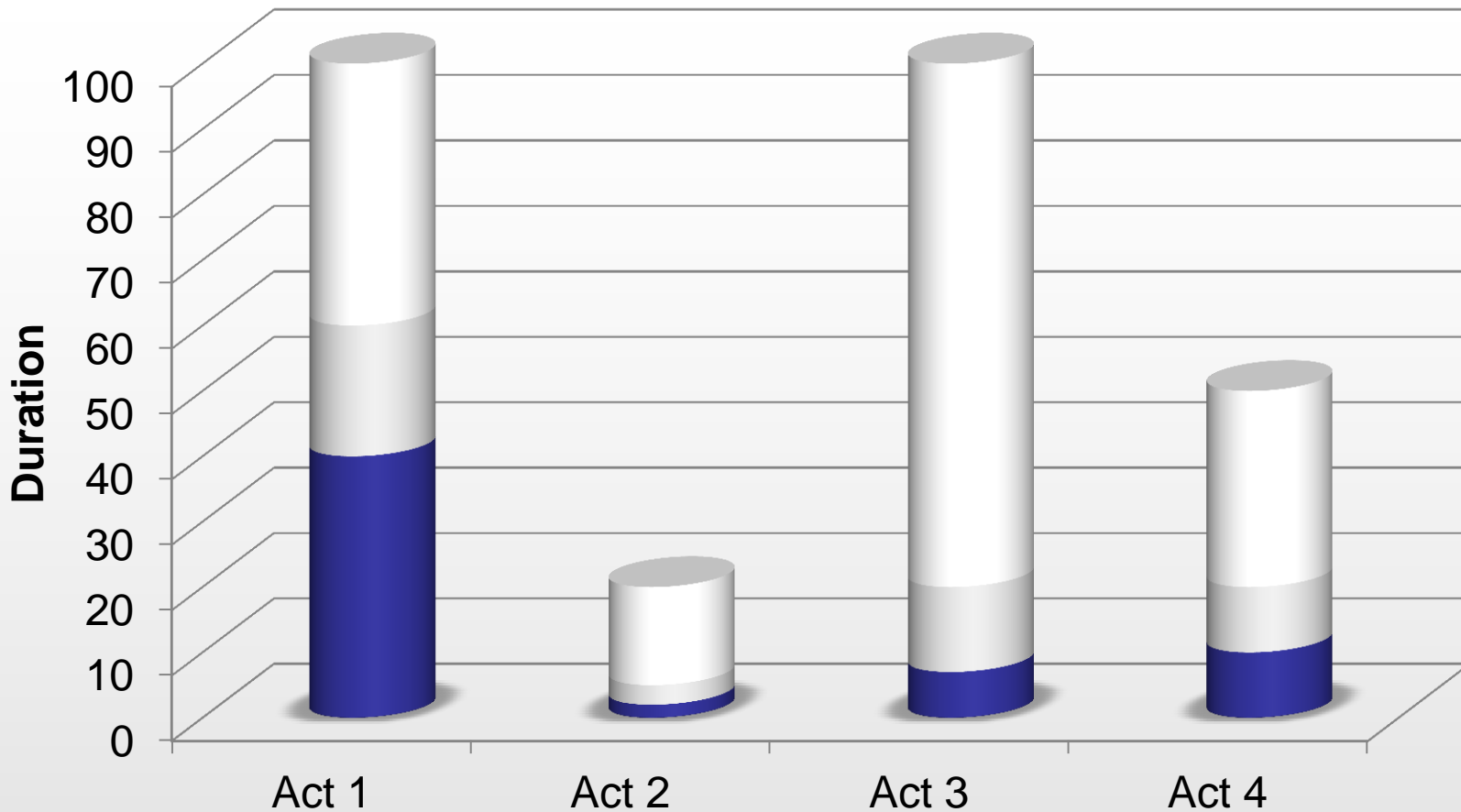
- Methodological issues

- Preliminary results

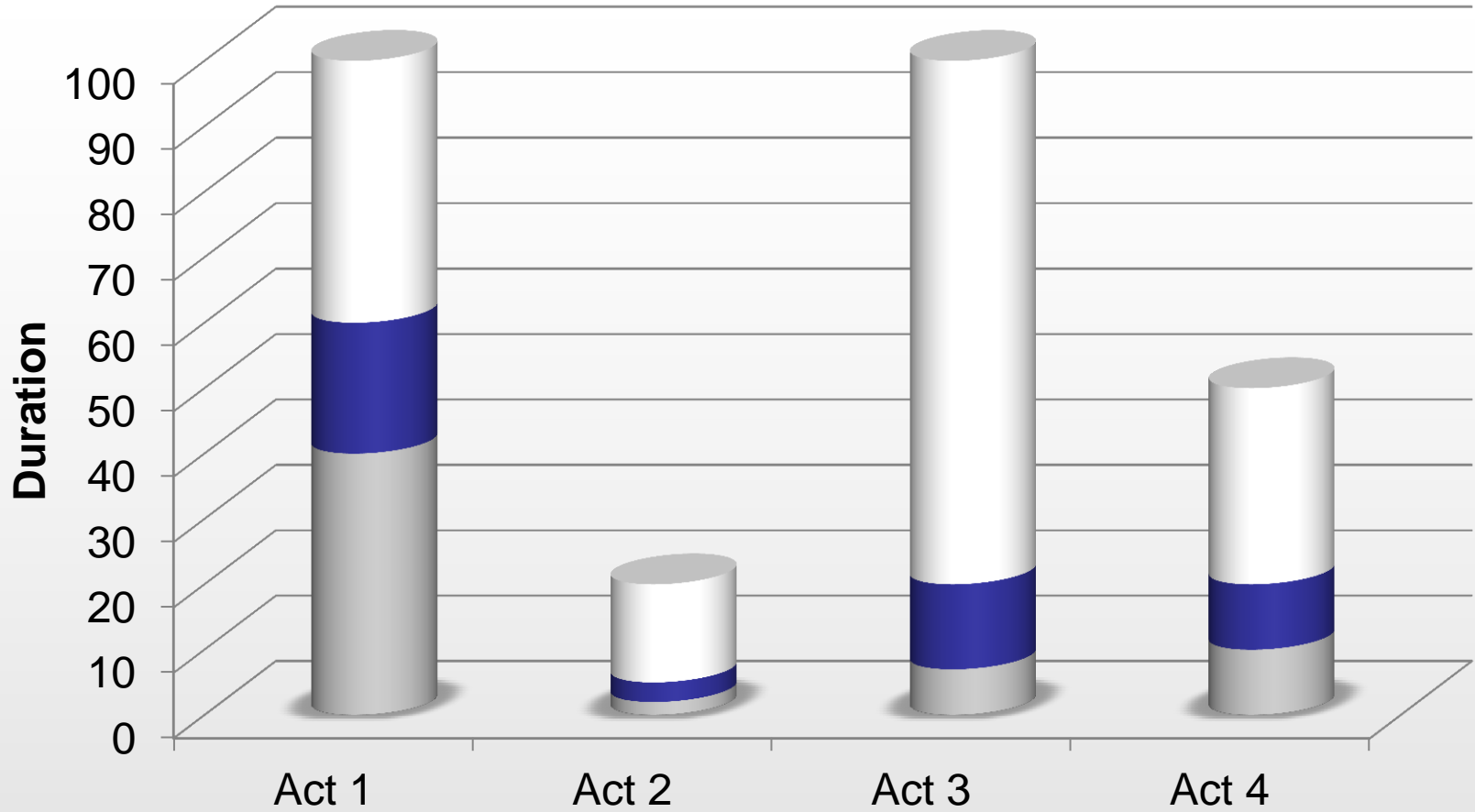# Studying the *duration* of legislative processes: Event History Analysis
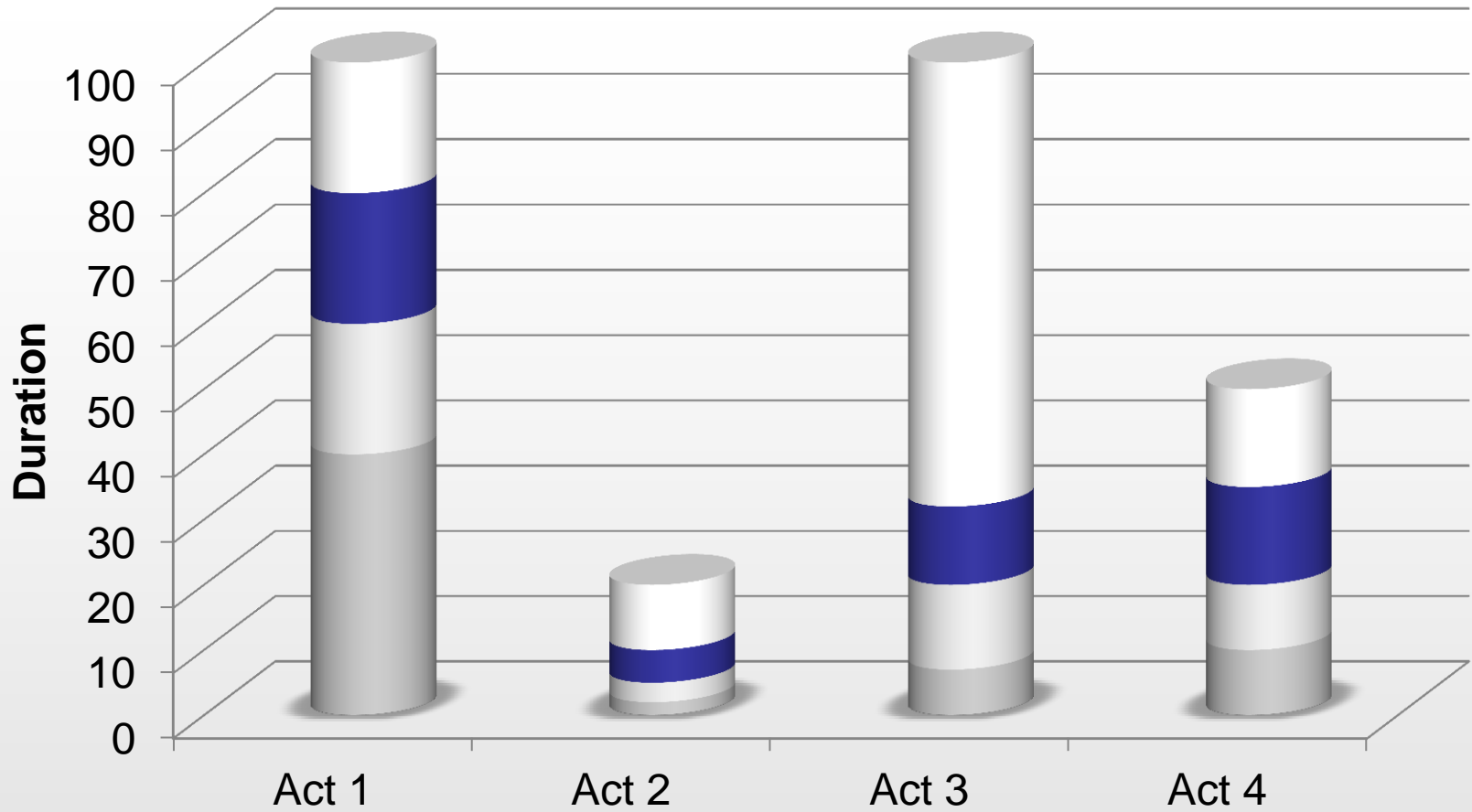
Stages of legislative processes
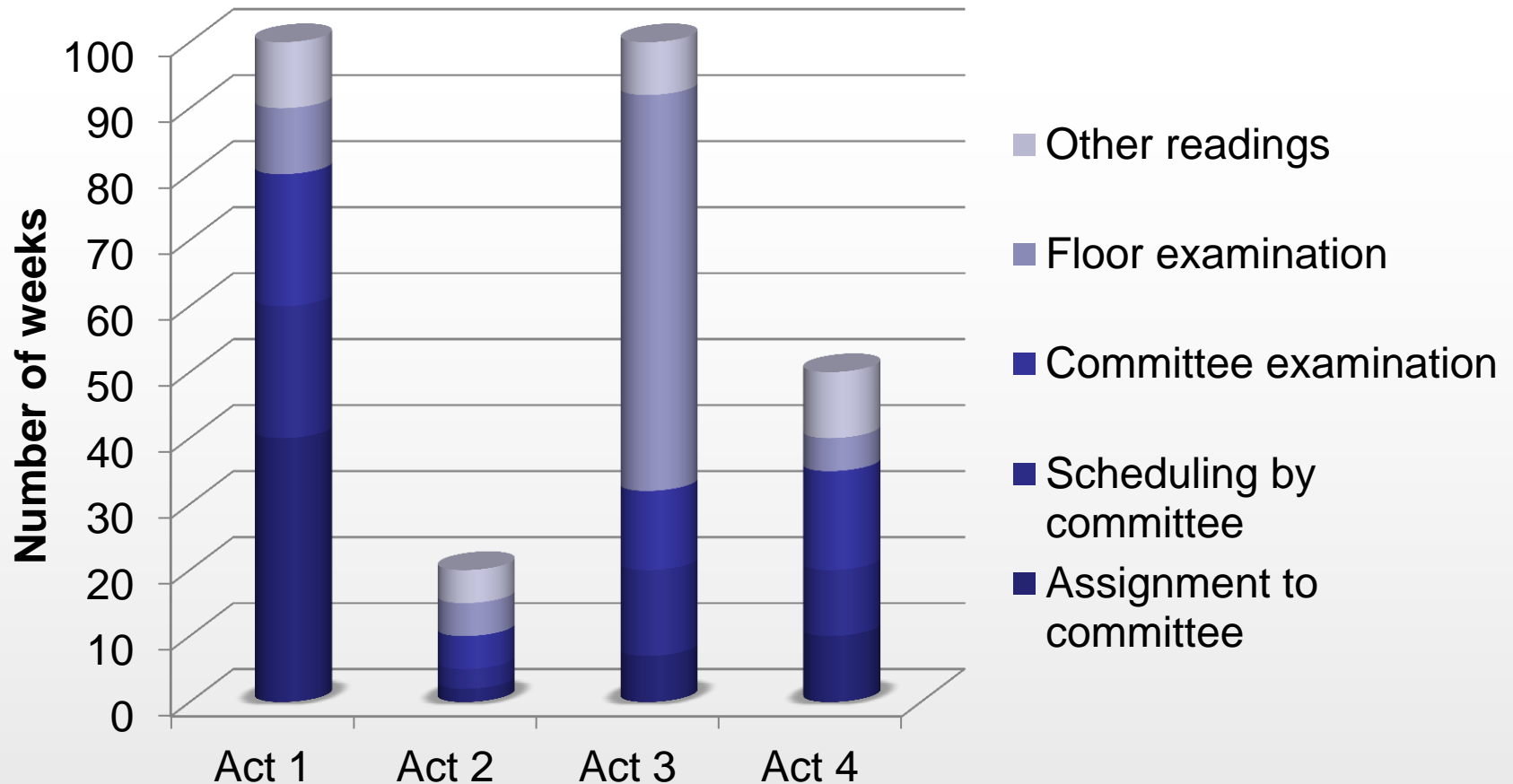
Assignment to committee

Scheduling by committee
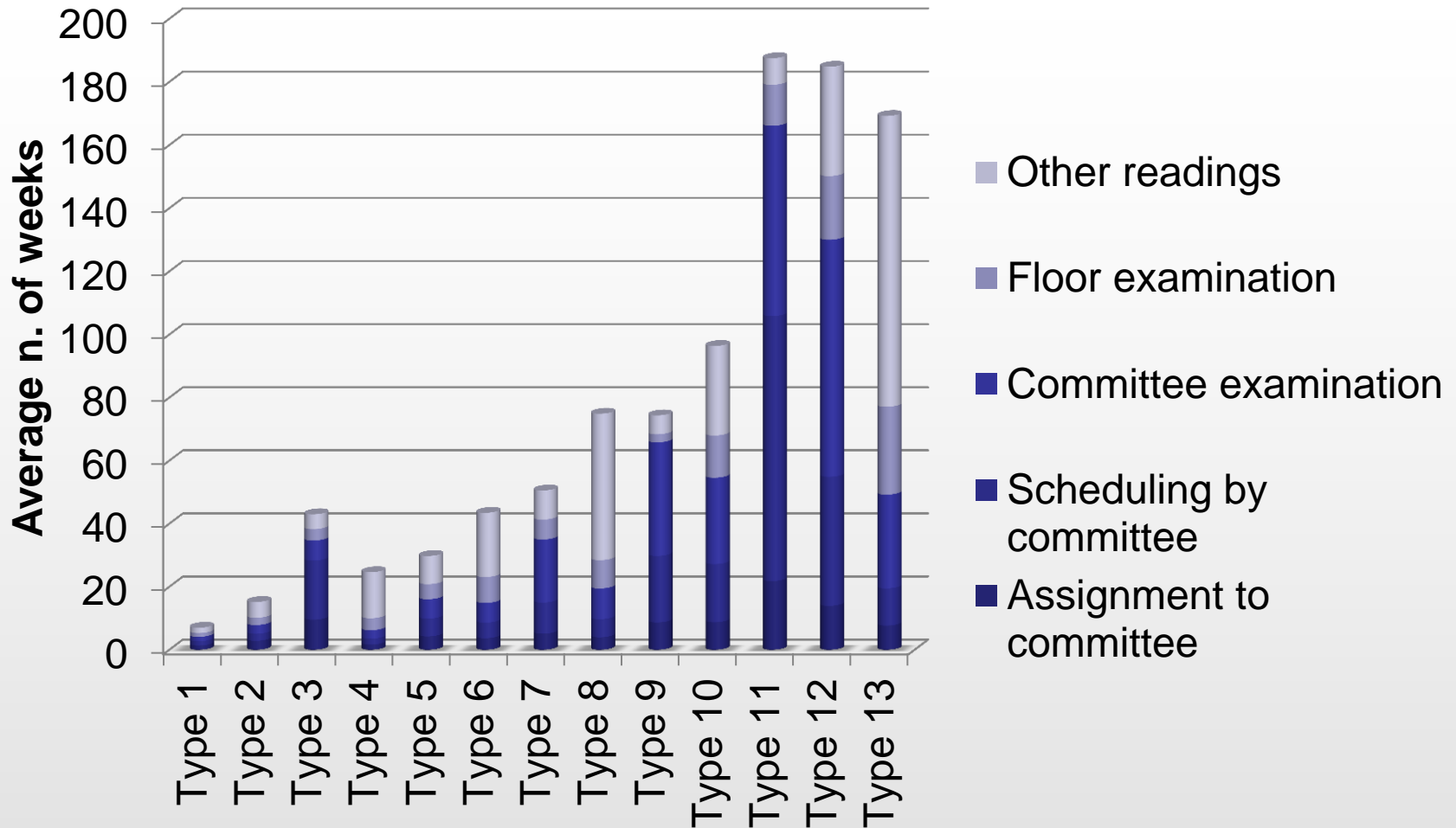
Committee examination

Legislative processes as sequences

Methods

- Pairwise dissimilarity: OMA
  - Substitution costs: distance between states
  - Indel costs: higher than half the maximum substitution cost
  - Transformation costs standardized by division through the length of the longer sequence

- Cluster analysis
  - Ward's agglomerative hierarchical method
  - Cut-off criterion selected using the dispersion of within- and between- cluster distances (Aisenbrey & Fasang 2010)
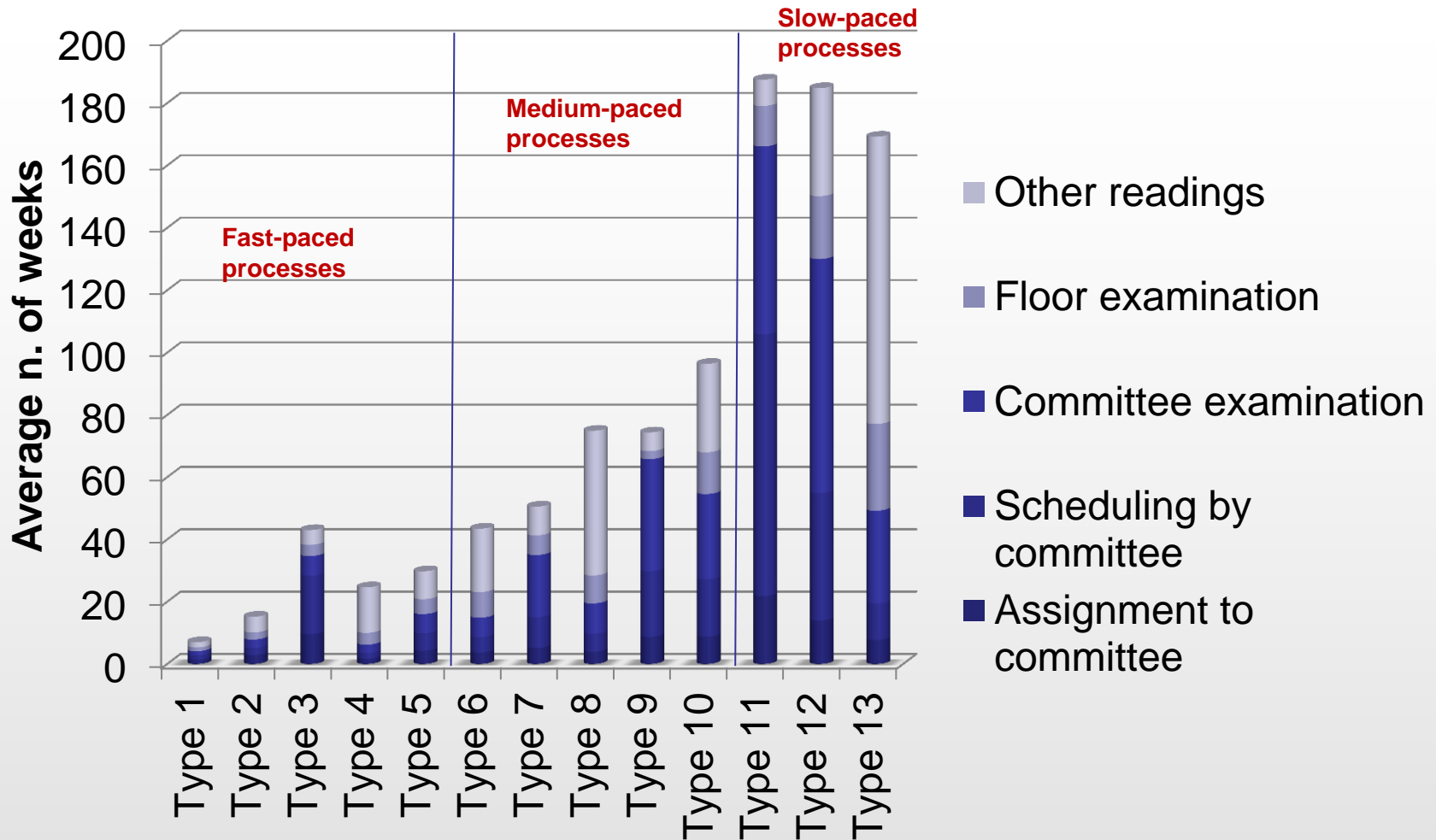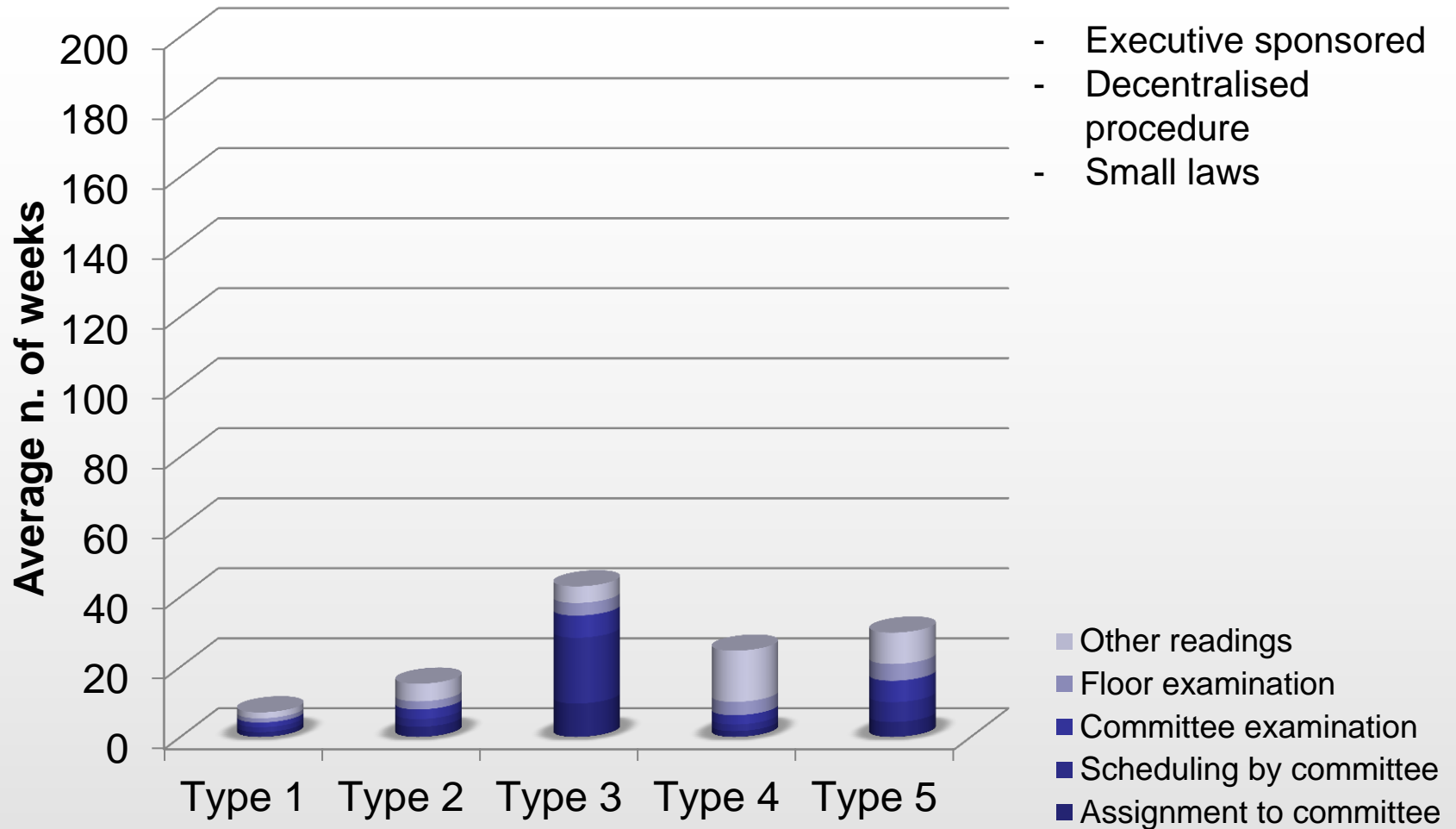
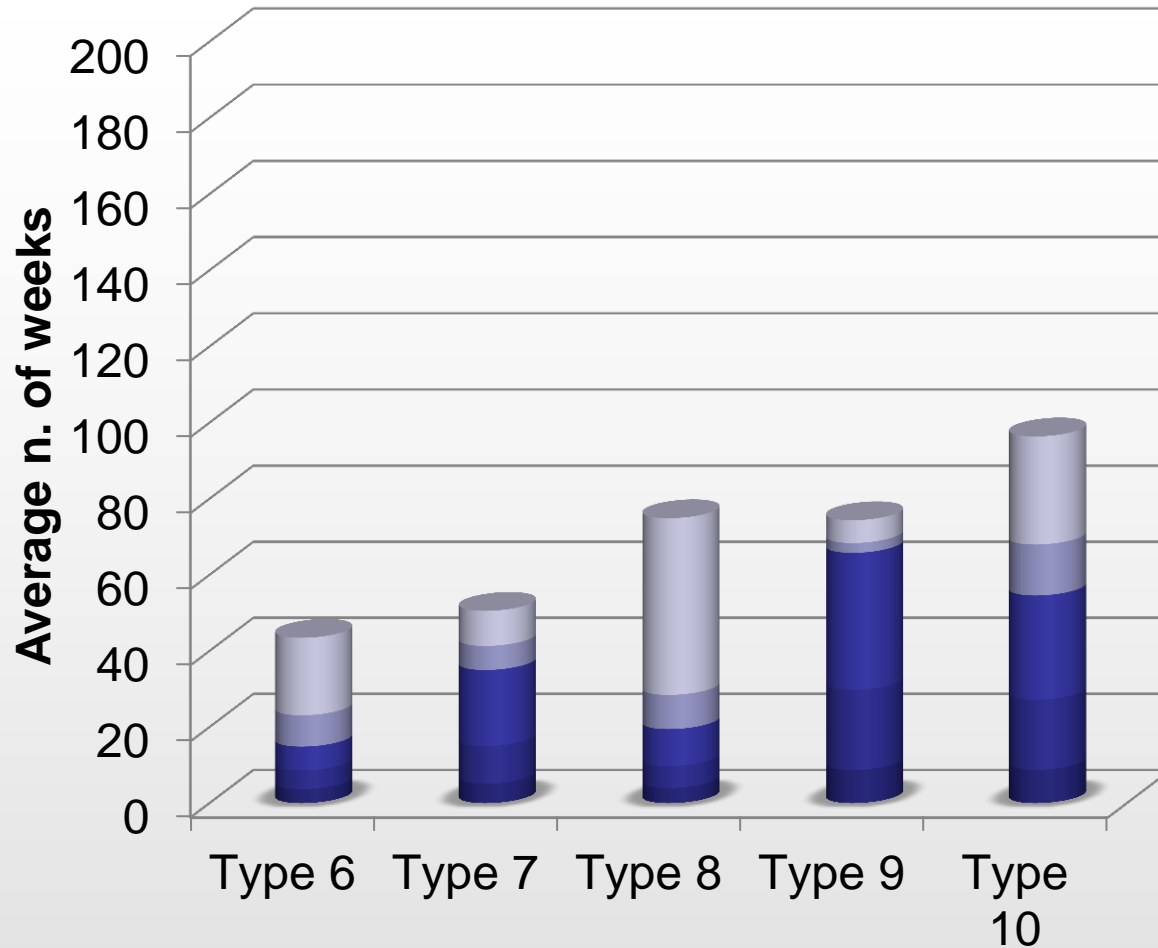# Types of legislative processes

Types of legislative processes

Inspecting patterns:

- Decentralized procedures(floor or committee adoption)
- Sponsorship (executive or private)
- Size (number of laws and articles)
- Policy Sector (policy agenda coding)
- Timing (time point in the legislature)

Conclusion: fast-paced bills

- Executive sponsored
- Decentralised procedure
- Small laws

Legend:
- Other readings
- Floor examination
- Committee examination
- Scheduling by committee
- Assignment to committee

Chart axis: Average n. of weeks (0 to 200)
Categories: Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, Type 4, Type 5

Conclusion: medium-paced bills

- 6 and 8: presence of omnibus consensus bills
- 7 and 9: most of the time spent in committee
- 10: mostly floor

Conclusion: slow-paced bills

- MP sponsored
- 11 and 12 mostly decentralised procedure
- 13 longest floor discussion and other readings