

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

- The General Assembly convenes in mid-November for Organization Day.
- The General Assembly reconvenes for a long or short session in January.
- Long legislative sessions must adjourn by April 29 and short sessions must adjourn by March 14.
- Special sessions may be called by the governor.
- Between sessions, legislators participate in interim study committees where they develop legislative proposals for the following year.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



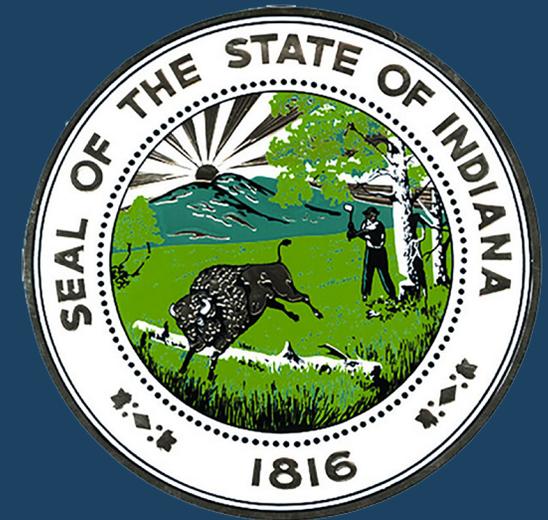
CALL TOLL-FREE:
1-800-382-9467

SEND A LETTER:
Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

ONLINE:
www.in.gov/iga



A GUIDE TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE



DISTRIBUTED BY:

THE INDIANA SENATE

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

1. PROPOSAL



A LAW BEGINS WITH AN IDEA FROM LEGISLATORS OR CITIZENS.

2. BILL DRAFT



THE IDEA IS WRITTEN IN LEGAL FORM.

3. FIRST READING



THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OR SENATE, THEN SENT TO A COMMITTEE.

4. COMMITTEE REVIEW & ACTION



THE COMMITTEE STUDIES THE BILL AND MAKES ANY CHANGES DEEMED NECESSARY. THE PUBLIC MAY COME TO TESTIFY ON THE BILL. IF THE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE BILL, IT GOES TO THE FULL CHAMBER.

5. SECOND READING



ANY MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER CAN SUGGEST AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL. AN AMENDMENT PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE FULL CHAMBER

6. THIRD READING



THE BILL PASSES IF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTE YEA.

7. SECOND HOUSE



THE BILL REPEATS THE PROCESS IN THE OTHER CHAMBER. IF NO CHANGES ARE MADE BY THE SECOND CHAMBER, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

8. CONCURRENCE OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



IF THE SECOND CHAMBER AMENDS THE BILL, THE FIRST CHAMBER HAS TWO CHOICES:

- 1) IT CAN CONCUR BY A MAJORITY VOTE, SENDING THE BILL TO THE GOVERNOR.
- 2) IT CAN DISSENT AND SEND THE BILL TO A 4-MEMBER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. IF THE COMMITTEE'S COMPROMISE PLAN IS PASSED BY BOTH CHAMBERS, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

9. GOVERNOR'S ACTION



THE GOVERNOR MAY SIGN A BILL, VETO IT OR LET IT BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE.

VETOED BILLS MAY STILL BECOME LAW IF THE VETO IS OVERRIDDEN BY A MAJORITY VOTE IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.