

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

- The Indiana General Assembly (IGA) convenes in mid-November for Organization Day.
- The IGA reconvenes for a long session in even years and a short session in odd years.
- 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.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



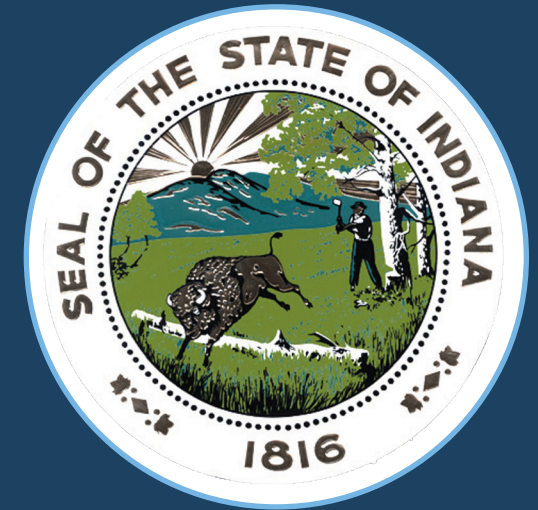
CALL TOLL-FREE:
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SEND A LETTER:
Indiana Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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www.in.gov/iga



A GUIDE TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE



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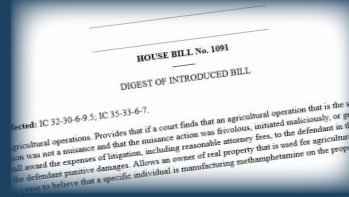
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

1. PROPOSAL



A LAW BEGINS WITH AN IDEA FROM LEGISLATORS OR CITIZENS.

2. BILL DRAFT



THE IDEA IS WRITTEN IN LEGAL FORM BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY.

3. FIRST READING



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

4. COMMITTEE



THE COMMITTEE STUDIES THE BILL AND HEARS PUBLIC TESTIMONY. THE COMMITTEE CAN CHANGE THE BILL IN COMMITTEE. IF APPROVED, THE BILL GOES TO THE FULL CHAMBER FOR CONSIDERATION.

5. SECOND READING



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

6. THIRD READING



THE BILL WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IF THE BILL PASSES WITH A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS IN THE FIRST CHAMBER VOTING YEA.

7. SECOND HOUSE



THE BILL REPEATS THE ENTIRE PROCESS IN THE SECOND CHAMBER. IF THE BILL PASSES WITH NO CHANGES MADE BY THE SECOND CHAMBER, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR CONSIDERATION.

8. CONCURRENCE OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



IF THE SECOND CHAMBER AMENDS THE BILL:
1) THE FIRST CHAMBER CAN CONCUR, SENDING THE BILL TO THE GOVERNOR.
2) IT CAN DISSENT AND SEND THE BILL TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. IF THE COMMITTEE'S COMPROMISE 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.