



Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts

Presentation Conducted By:
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The Illinois General Assembly

- A bicameral legislature comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- The Senate has 59 members while the House has 118 members
 - Two Representatives per Senate seat
- This year will begin the 101st General Assembly

The Senate | Upper Chamber

- 59 Senators
 - 40 Democratic
 - 19 Republican
- 30 votes needed to pass legislation
- 36 votes needed to override Governor's veto
- Senate President: Don Harmon
- Minority Leader: Bill Brady

The House | Lower Chamber

- 118 Representatives
 - 72 Democrats
 - 46 Republicans
- 60 votes needed to pass legislation
- 71 votes needed to override Governor's veto
- House Speaker: Michael Madigan
- Minority Leader: Jim Durkin

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN ILLINOIS

1. **Bill Drafted:** When a lawmaker has an idea for a bill, often at the suggestion of a constituent, he or she passes the information on to the Legislative Reference Bureau to be written in proper technical form.
2. **Bill Introduced:** Every bill must be read in front of the legislative body on three separate occasions before it can be passed. When the bill is first filed with the Clerk, it is assigned a bill number and read before the body for the first time.
3. **Referred to Committee:** The Rules Committee, made up of 3 members from the majority party and 2 from the minority party, refers the bill to the appropriate committee for review.
4. **Committee Hearing:** The bill's sponsor explains the legislation to committee members, who can then ask questions. Lobbyists, representatives of concerned groups and members of the public can voice support or opposition. Only if a majority of the committee votes in favor of the bill is it considered before the entire chamber.
5. **Second Reading:** The bill is read for a second time before the full legislative body. Changes, or "amendments", can still be proposed at this stage.
6. **Third Reading:** The bill is read for a third and final time before the full chamber. After the sponsor explains the bill, members of the chamber can ask questions. When debate is completed, the chamber votes on the bill. A simple majority is needed – 60 in the House, 30 in the Senate – for the bill to pass. Bills that are approved on Third Reading move over to the other chamber where they go through the same process.
7. **Second Chamber:** If the second chamber approves the bill as it is written, it is sent directly to the Governor. If a bill is amended in the second chamber and then passed, it must return to the chamber in which it originated so the members can vote to "concur", or agree with the change. If the vote to concur is successful, the bill is sent to the Governor.
8. **Governor's Action:** The Governor may sign the bill into law, veto it with recommendations for changes, or veto it absolutely.
9. **New Law:** The bill becomes law when the Governor signs it. If a bill is vetoed, it can become law if both chambers of the General Assembly vote by two-third majorities to override the Governor's veto.

For a detailed flow chart, visit:

http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lis/98bill_law.pdf

How a Bill Becomes Law

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How a Bill Becomes Law

Bill Introduced:

- Every bill must be read in front of the legislative body on three separate occasions before it can be passed. When the bill is first filed with the House or Senate Clerk, it is assigned a bill number and read before the body for the first time.

How a Bill Becomes Law

Referred to Committee:

- The Rules Committee in the House and Assignments Committee in the Senate – both made up of 3 members from the majority party and 2 from minority party – refers the bill to the appropriate committee for review.

How a Bill Becomes Law

Committee Hearing:

- The bill's sponsor explains the legislation to committee members, who can then ask questions. Lobbyists, representatives of concerned groups, and members of the public can voice support or opposition. Only if a majority of the committee votes in favor of the bill is it moved to the entire chamber.

How a Bill Becomes Law

Second Reading:

- The bill is read for a second time before the full legislative body. Changes, or “amendments”, can still be proposed at this stage.

How a Bill Becomes Law

Third Reading:

- This bill is read for a third and final time before the full chamber. After the sponsor explains the bill, members of the chamber can ask questions. When debate is completed, the chamber votes on the bill. A simple majority is needed – 60 in House and 30 in Senate – for the bill to pass. Bills that are approved on third reading move over to the opposite chamber where it goes through the same process.

How a Bill Becomes Law

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How a Bill Becomes Law

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Tracking Your Legislation

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
1/30/2018	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Cristina Castro
1/30/2018	Senate	First Reading
1/30/2018	Senate	Referred to Assignments
2/7/2018	Senate	Assigned to Human Services
2/9/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Omar Aquino
2/16/2018	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Daniel Biss
2/21/2018	Senate	Do Pass Human Services ; 009-000-000
2/21/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading February 22, 2018
2/27/2018	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins
4/10/2018	Senate	Second Reading
4/10/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading April 11, 2018
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Emil Jones, III
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford
4/17/2018	Senate	Third Reading - Passed; 053-000-000
4/17/2018	House	Arrived in House
4/17/2018	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Anna Moeller
4/17/2018	House	First Reading
4/17/2018	House	Referred to Rules Committee
4/18/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Pat McGuire
4/26/2018	House	Assigned to Aging Committee
5/18/2018	House	Do Pass / Short Debate Aging Committee ; 013-000-000
5/21/2018	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
5/23/2018	House	Second Reading - Short Debate
5/23/2018	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate
5/24/2018	House	Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 108-000-000
5/24/2018	Senate	Passed Both Houses

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 1: Identify the parties involved

- Lawmakers
- Staff
- Advocacy groups
- Lobbyists
- Citizens

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 2: Work the bill

- Amendments to legislation
- Educate members about your issue or legislation
- Committee Testimony

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 3: Roll Call

- Committee members
- Full chamber

Key Lawmakers | House

- Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D)
- Leader Kathleen Willis (D), Fire Caucus Co-Chair
- Rep. Art Turner (D) – Leadership
- Rep. Greg Harris (D) – Budget Lead
- Rep. Kelly Burke (D) – Budget Lead
- Leader Jim Durkin (R)
- Rep. Tom Demmer (R) – Leadership
- Rep. Dan Brady (R) – Leadership

Key Lawmakers | Senate

- President Don Harmon (D)
- Andy Manar (D) – Budget Chair
- Sen. Heather Steans (D) – Budget Chair
- Sen. Neil Anderson (R) – Fire Caucus Co-Chair
- Minority Leader Bill Brady (R)
- Sen. Chapin Rose (R) - Leadership

How do you set up a meeting with your legislator?

Do you know who your legislators are?

- To find your elected officials, visit the State Board of Elections website to use the district locator tool.
 - <http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/addressfinder.aspx>

Contacting your legislators

- The best way to coordinate a meeting with your lawmaker is to contact their district office...even if you have their personal cell or email.

Talking to Lawmakers

KISSS

- **Keep**
- **It**
- **Short** – two minutes at most
- **Simple** – use a group's whole name – no initials
- **Stick to the facts** – don't make things up

Q&A