

WHERE AND HOW TO GET LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

The Legislative Information Office (LIO) is a primary contact for information concerning the Iowa General Assembly. As a division of the nonpartisan Legislative Service Bureau, the Legislature's legal services agency, LIO has access to the most current information on the actions and procedures of the Iowa Legislature. LIO responds to inquiries from the general public, public and private agencies, and business interests with nonpartisan information about the Iowa General Assembly. The office includes a public access computer terminal, for any member of the public to access legislative information using the Legislature's computer system, called the "Mapper system".

The mission of the Legislative Information Office is to provide information about the Iowa General Assembly and legislative actions to the general public.

Location of the Legislative Information Office

The Legislative Information Office is located on the ground floor of the Iowa State Capitol (Room 16) at the foot of the east stairs.

Hours: are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, (extended hours when the Iowa Legislature is in session). Mailing address: Legislative Information Office, Room 16, Iowa State Capitol, East 9th and Grand, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Legislative Information Office Phone Numbers

(515) 281-5129, LIO has no toll-free phone number and no fax machine available.

(515) 281-5869, provides a voice recording of daily schedules for "Today in the Senate" and "Today in the House" as well as interim schedules.

Services/publications available to the public through the Legislative Information Office

Questions answered via telephone; current bill status, finding bill numbers of pending legislation, information on legislators, their addresses and telephone numbers.

Copies of Bills (current) and other legislative documents mailed free upon request.

"Today in the Senate" and **"Today in the House"**, published daily, distributed only at the Capitol during the legislative session (recorded schedules, 515-281-5869).

Legislative Redistricting Guide, a biennial publication listing all legislative districts.

Legislative district wall map, 22 by 34 inch wall map, \$1.50 fee when mailed.

Bill Summary, published by the Legislative Service Bureau at the end of each legislative session, listing the bills that became law during the previous session.

Educational materials, many informational flyers/brochures on the Iowa Legislature.

Distribute Official Directory of the Legislature, produced by the Senate and House.

Presentations on the legislative process at on-site and off-site locations.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

Another primary source for information concerning the Iowa General Assembly.

Location: Third floor of the Iowa State Capitol.

Phone: (515) 281-3566

Interim Calendar, published weekly, during the interim a schedule of legislative activities mailed upon request (\$5.25 mailing fee charged) (recorded schedules, (515) 281-5869).

Interim Briefings and Study Committee minutes, copies available upon request.

COMPUTER ACCESS TO LEGISLATION

On-line access to the Mapper system may be purchased from the Legislature's Computer Support Bureau. Subscriber costs range from \$600 for basic legislative information to \$1,000 for both the basic legislative information and access to the Code of Iowa data base.

The Computer Support Bureau may be contacted by telephone at (515) 281-7840 or by mail at: Legislative Computer Support Bureau, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

INTERNET ACCESS/HOME PAGE

www.legis.state.ia.us

LEGISLATIVE BILL SERVICE

To receive all the Senate and House Journals, Clip Sheets and Bills contact Wallace Homestead Printing, Inc. (515) 282-5168. A fee is charged and a deposit is required. Bill packets may also be picked up daily at the Capitol, House Finance Office, (515) 281-5879.

TO REACH A LEGISLATOR DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Iowa Senate, Switchboard: (515) 281-3371, T.D.D. number: (515) 281-3789

The Iowa House of Representatives, Switchboard: (515) 281-3221, T.D.D. number: (515) 281-8455

To reach your legislators during the interim, contact them at their home addresses and telephones.

LAW LIBRARY

Location: The Law Library is located on the second floor, west end at the Iowa State Capitol.

Phone number: (515) 281-5124

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Information and research on the Code of Iowa; research on past legislation (1846 to present).

Codes and case law information for all 50 states, legal journals and individual titles on special subjects, federal laws, regulation and case law. The Law Library has a public access photocopier and fax machine for out-going information.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU RESEARCH LIBRARY

Phone number: (515) 281-3312

Research on legislation from previous years.

TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

General building, dome and educational tours, Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: The Tour Desk is on the first floor in the rotunda.

Phone number: (515) 281-5591, to schedule tours of the Iowa State Capitol Building.

Building hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

U.S. Congressional Office of Legislative Information and Status, 2nd and D Street S.W., Ford Office Building, Room 696, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-1772.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

LEGISTATS, 302 Lincoln, Pella, Iowa 50219. (515) 628-8100.

Provides individual information such as roll call votes, attendance records, and campaign contributions as well as other information for a fee.

IOWA LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE, P.O. Box 8370, Des Moines, Iowa 50301-8370.

(515) 266-6066. Provides a daily bulletin that summarizes all the previous day's activities for a fee.

PROFILE

PROFILE OF THE 76th IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY-1996 SESSION

THE SENATE

The Iowa Senate has 50 members.

The length of term is four years, alternate elections on even years between the even-numbered and odd-numbered Senate districts

There are 27 Democratic members and 23 Republican members.

There are 40 male Senators and 10 female Senators.

There are 6 Senators who are attorneys.

There are 18 Senators who are farmers.

There are 4 Senators who are educators.

There are 15 Senators who are self-employed or employed by the private/public sector.

There are 4 Senators who are retired.

There are 3 Senators who list their occupation as legislators.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House has 100 members.

The length of term is two years, elections held in even years.

There are 63 Republicans and 37 Democrats.

There are 83 male Representatives and 17 female Representatives.

There are 7 Representatives who are attorneys.

There are 24 Representatives who are farmers.

There are 10 Representatives who are educators.

There are 40 Representatives who are self-employed or employed by the private/public sector.

There are 12 members who are retired.

There are 2 Representatives who list their occupation as legislators.

SALARIES FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Both Senators and Representatives are paid \$18,800 annually.

Senate President is paid \$29,000.

Senate Majority Leader is paid \$29,000.

Senate Minority Leader is paid \$29,000.

Senate President Pro tempore is paid \$19,900

Speaker of the House is paid \$29,000.

House Majority Leader is paid \$29,000.

House Minority Leader is paid \$29,000.

Speaker Pro tempore of the House is paid \$19,900.

All Legislators receive \$125.00 per month to cover legislative constituency expenses of mailing, telephone and travel within their district.

While the Iowa Legislature is in session Legislators receive \$60.00 per day for the expenses of the office, members from Polk county receive \$45.00 per day for expenses for 110 days in odd-numbered years and 100 days in even-numbered years.

Travel expenses to and from the Legislator's residence are reimbursed at the rate of .24 per mile weekly during the legislative session.

In addition, Legislators receive \$60.00 per day plus actual expenses and mileage during legislative interim for official legislative business activities mainly conducted at the Capitol.

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HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

IDEA

A legislator decides to sponsor a bill. Ideas come from many sources: constituents, interest groups and government agencies.

BILL DRAFTED

The legislator requests the idea be drafted into a bill by the Legislative Service Bureau.

BILL INTRODUCED OR FILED

The bill draft is sent to the Senate or the House where it is assigned a number and is then sent to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

The President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House assigns the bill to a standing committee. A subcommittee then studies the bill and reports its conclusions to the full committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee may report the bill to the full chamber with a recommendation to pass the bill or pass an amended version of the bill. The committee may also send the bill to the floor without recommendation.

FLOOR DEBATE

The bill is placed on the calendar, a listing of all bills officially eligible for debate. At this time legislators may file amendments to the bill.

AMENDMENT

The bill and any amendments filed are debated by the whole chamber. Amendments must be approved by a simple majority of those legislators voting.

VOTE

A constitutional majority, at least 26 Senators or 51 Representatives, must vote "yes" in order for the bill to proceed to the second chamber.

SECOND CHAMBER

The bill goes through the same process in the second chamber. If the bill passes the second chamber without amendment, it is sent to the Governor. If the second chamber amends the bill it must be sent back to the chamber of origin for approval of those amendments. If the chambers cannot come to an agreement on the version of the bill, a conference committee is appointed.

GOVERNOR

After the bill passes both chambers in identical form, it is sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign the bill, veto the bill or take no action on the bill.

LAW

The bill becomes law upon the Governor's signature or after three days during the session if the Governor takes no action. Bills received by the Governor during the last three days of the session have to be signed or vetoed within 30 days.



STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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