

The Legislative Process (including the budget) in Indiana

February 20, 2017

Outline

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The state capitol was moved to Indianapolis in 1825. The current statehouse at 200 West Washington St., was opened in 1888 (below).

When Indiana became a state on December 11, 1816, the capitol was in Corydon (above) near the Ohio River.



When the General Assembly Meets

- Organization Day (ceremonial start of the session) is the 3rd Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November
(November 22, 2016)
- Sessions can begin any time after Organization Day, but must begin by the 2nd Monday in January
(January 9, 2017)
- The session when the two-year budget is passed is called the “long session” and must end by April 29th. It occurs in odd-numbered years.
- The other session is known as the “short session” and must end by March 14th. It occurs in even-numbered years.

How Much the General Assembly Gets Done

Year	Bills Introduced	Bills Passed	Percent Passed
2012	809	161	19.9
2013	1,232	295	23.9
2014	865	224	25.9
2015	1,235	257	20.8
2016	822	215	26.2

Numbers may be off slightly due to counting errors.

How Much the General Assembly Gets Done

Year	Chamber	Bills Introduced	Bills Passed	Percent Passed
2012	Senate	412	83	20.1
2013	Senate	619	147	23.7
2014	Senate	422	107	25.4
2015	Senate	569	122	21.4
2016	Senate	397	113	28.5
2012	House	397	78	19.6
2013	House	613	148	24.1
2014	House	443	117	26.4
2015	House	666	135	20.3
2016	House	425	102	24.0

Numbers may be off slightly due to counting errors.

Legislative Process

- Indiana has a bicameral legislature (House and Senate) and bills must pass through both chambers before the Governor can sign them into law.
- To become a law, a bill must receive three “readings” in each chamber. This means that the process is a slow one, but the process is intended to ensure that people have time to contact legislators and let their voices be heard.
- Every bill is assigned to a committee where the most substantive discussions often take place.



After the budget bill passes the House, it moves to the Indiana Senate (photo of Senate Chamber below).

Although all of the interested parties begin working on the budget before the session officially begins, the official process begins in the Indiana House of Representatives (photo of House Chamber above).



Legislative Process

- The budget bill (a.k.a. House Bill 1001 or HB 1001) was “authored” by the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Tim Brown (District 41, large portions of Boone and Montgomery counties as well as the southeast corner of Tippecanoe County) and received its first reading on January 10, 2017.
- The budget bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee on January 10, 2017, and they began holding hearings on January 11th.

Legislative Process

- After the Ways and Means Committee passed the budget on February 16th by a vote of 14 to 9, it was sent for debate by the entire House of Representatives.
- The House of Representatives will debate the budget during the “second reading.” At the end of the second reading, there will be a vote by all members of the House. A minimum of 51 representatives have to vote “yes” in order for the budget to move forward.
- The House will debate the budget further during the “third reading.” If there are at least 51 representatives who vote “yes” at the end of the third reading debate, the budget will be considered “passed” by the House and move to the Senate.
- The last day for house bills to have a third reading in the House is February 27th.

Legislative Process

- While the House has been developing and passing HB 1001, the Senate has been working on their own versions of the budget, but the budget bill the Senate considers will be HB 1001 because the budget must start in the House.
- After passing the House, HB 1001 will be sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Luke Kenley (District 20, Hamilton County), the Chair of the Appropriations Committee in the Senate.
- HB 1001 will receive its first reading in the Senate and be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Process

- The Appropriations Committee will hold hearings about the budget bill. This will be similar to what happened in the House Ways and Means Committee.
- After the Appropriations Committee passes the budget, it will be debated by the entire Senate.
- The Senate will debate the budget during the “second reading.” At the end of the second reading, there will be a vote by all members of the Senate. A minimum of 26 senators have to vote “yes” in order for the budget to move forward.
- The Senate will debate the budget further during the “third reading.” If there are at least 26 senators who vote “yes” at the end of the third reading debate, the budget will be considered “passed” by the Senate.
- The last day for House bills to have a third reading in the Senate is April 12th.

Legislative Process

- The versions of the budget that are passed by the House and the Senate are very likely to be different and that means a conference committee will be formed to resolve the differences between the two versions.
- The Conference Committee will have members from both political parties and both chambers.
- If the Conference Committee:
 - Can come to an agreement, then both chambers will vote on the compromise version of the budget.
 - Cannot come to an agreement, then the General Assembly will have to be called back into a special session before July 1st to work on the budget.
- If both chambers pass the same version of the budget, then the Governor can veto the budget or sign it into law. It only takes a simple majority to override a veto and that means that governors do not veto many bills.
- The last day for the General Assembly to meet and pass legislation is April 29th. It will not be surprising if the budget is passed on the last day of the session whether that day is April 29th or earlier.

Legislative Process

To see the agendas of the Ways and Means and Appropriations committees, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the “Committees” tab
3. Click on “Standing”
4. Click on “Appropriations” or “Ways and Means”
5. Click on a date
6. Click on “View Agenda” to see a PDF of the agenda

Legislative Process

To watch meetings of the Ways and Means and Appropriations committees, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the movie camera next to the committee name under “Upcoming Meetings on the right side of the home page

To watch sessions of the House or Senate, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the gold box with the words “Watch Live” on the right side of the home page

Researching a Bill

If you would like to research a bill, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the “Legislation” tab
3. There are four options for searching from the “Legislation” tab
4. Alternatively, you can search by bill number by clicking on the “Bills” tab in the upper right-hand corner of the home page
 1. House bills = xxxx (have four numbers)
 2. Senate bills = xx or xxx (have up to three numbers)

Who Represents You?

To find out who represents you, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the “Information” tab
3. Click on “Find Your Legislator” and fill in the requested information

Who Represents You?

To find out who serves on the Ways and Means and Appropriations committees, follow these steps.

1. iga.in.gov
2. Click on the “Committees” tab
3. Click on “Standing”
4. Click on “Appropriations” or “Ways and Means”

Simple rules for interacting with legislators

- What you are doing is providing information to legislators and administrators
- Thank elected officials and public employees for being elected officials and public employees
- Be bipartisan or nonpartisan
- Recognize and accept that many decisions about legislation are not made where you can see them

Simple rules for interacting with legislators

- Being effective is about:
 - Knowing about issues (research, legislation, and what has been done in the past)
 - Sticking what you know
 - Building relationships
 - Building coalitions
 - Endurance

Simple rules for interacting with legislators

- Be brief
- Be specific
- Humanize the issue
- Repetition is key
- Don't get greedy

Simple rules for interacting with legislators

- Meet with elected officials and public employees when you have the chance
 - One-on-one
 - In a group
 - With other groups
- Attend meetings
- Provide information
- Testify at meetings
- If a legislative body is in session,
 - Stick to the basics
 - Know the deadlines

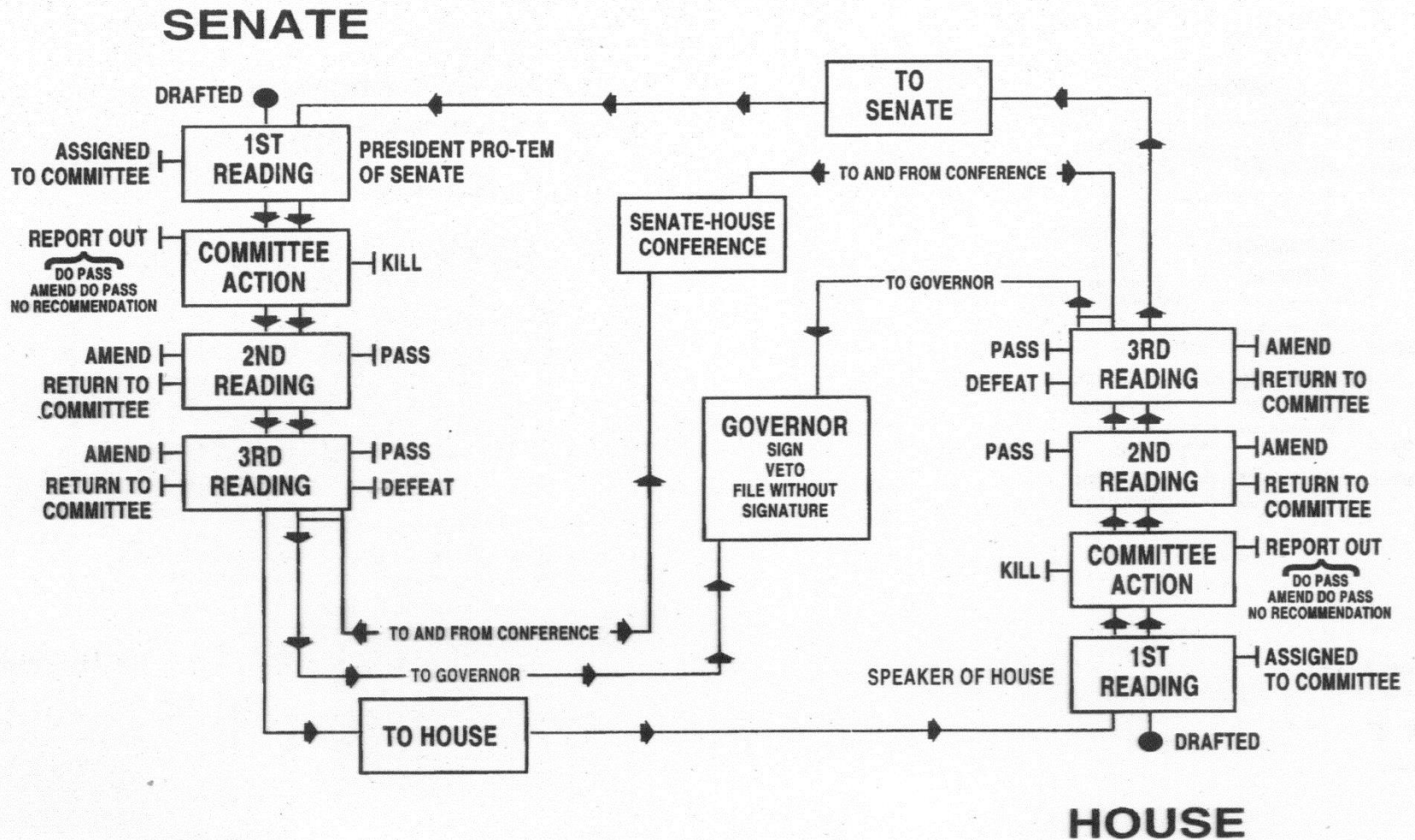
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission

- <http://www.in.gov/ilrc/> or (317) 232-9860
- IC 2-7-1-10. "Lobbyist" means any person who:
 - Engages in lobbying; and
 - in any registration year, receives or expends an aggregate of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) in compensation or expenditures reportable under this article for lobbying, whether the compensation or expenditure is solely for lobbying or the lobbying is incidental to that individual's regular employment
 - The following are not considered lobbyists:
 - A public employee or public official
 - The National Conference of State Legislatures
 - The National Conference of Insurance Legislators
 - The American Legislative Exchange Council
 - Women in Government
 - The Council of State Governments
 - The National Black Caucus of State Legislators
 - Any other national organization established for the education and support of legislative leadership, legislators, legislative staff, or related government employees
 - The annual registration fee imposed under IC 2-7-2-1 is not to be considered for purposes of determining whether a person is a lobbyist as defined in subsection (a).

Appendix

- The next two slides contain flowcharts of the legislative process and the conference committee process.

Legislative Process



Legislative Process

