

# Navigating Indiana Legislation and the Indiana General Assembly

Whether you are a patient, provider, healthcare organization, etc., it is important to be aware and engaged with the legislative side of healthcare.

This is a guide to help users locate and utilize information on the Indiana General Assembly website, aiding them in being more informed and engaged in state laws about healthcare.

## How does a bill become a law?



- An idea for a bill is proposed
- A legislator in the house or senate sponsors it
- A draft of the bill is written
- The draft is assigned to a committee
- The bill must pass three readings in the originating chamber (house or senate)
- When all three are passed, it goes to the other chamber to be reviewed.
- When both house and senate have a majority vote, the bill is passed.
- It goes to the governor to be signed, not signed and passed in seven days without action, or vetoed.
- When vetoed, it can be passed without signature with a majority vote in both chambers

IN.gov - bills becoming law

## How does the General Assembly operate?

The Indiana General Assembly operates during the first half of each year, from January through the end of April.

If the allotted time is not enough to complete needed work, the governor has the ability to call a special session.

There are 50 legislators who make up the Senate and 100 legislators make up the House of Representatives. Senators serve 4 year terms while House Representatives serve 2 year terms. Neither has a limit to the number of terms they can serve.

Bills can be drafted by either the House or Senate but, it must pass both houses to become law.



## Welcome to the Indiana General Assembly Website

There are numerous tabs and resources that can be navigated within the site that can be useful. There are a select few of those that are going to be focused on here.

At any time, you can select the seal in the top left to return to the home page.

The screenshot shows the Indiana General Assembly website for the 2021 Session. The header includes the Indiana state seal and navigation tabs for Information, Session, Committees, Legislation, Laws, and Publications. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a large image of the Indiana Statehouse dome. A 'Find Your Legislator' section is visible, along with a 'Watch Live' button and a 'Video Archive' button. The footer contains an 'FAQs' section with questions like 'Learn who your and former members of the Indiana General Assembly' and an 'Archive' section with links for 'Session (2000 - 2013)', 'Session (2008 - 2013)', and 'Indiana Code (2009 - present)'. There is also a 'Publications' section with links to 'Constitutional Code of Indiana', 'Property Tax Studies', 'Reports from Agencies', 'Indiana Tax Incentive Database', and 'B-Smart Agency Reports'.

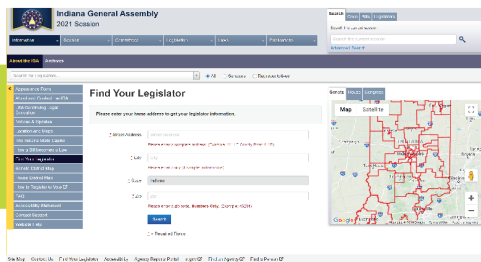
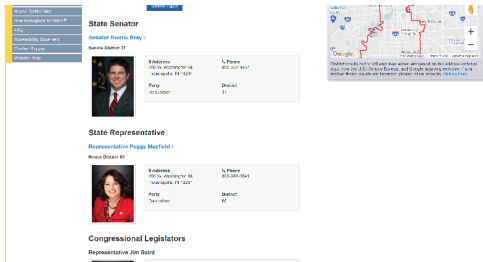
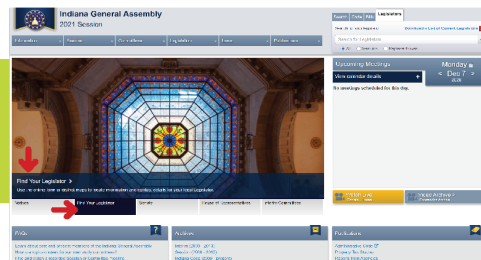
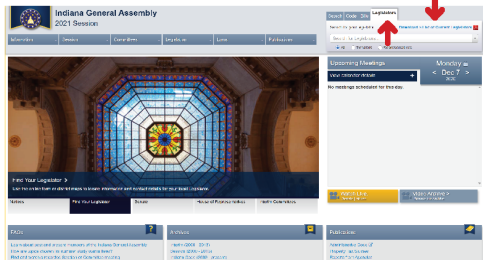


## Who are my legislators?

Knowing who your legislators are is a big step in following policy. Indiana's website allows you to search who your representatives are.

>For a full list of all legislators, you can select the legislators tab in the top right and download the pdf file, or you can find a specific legislator using the search bar.

>To find your specific legislators, click the find your legislators tab, the second from the left, and then select "find your legislator" with the arrow next to it.

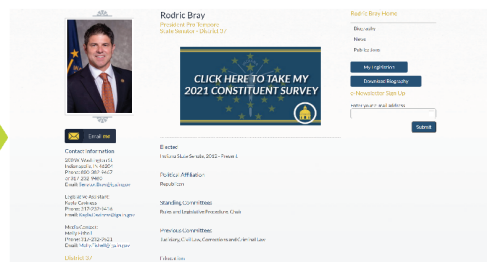


>Entering your address will show you your state senator and your state representative, as well those who are your congressional legislators.

## How can I contact them?

>By clicking on their name, you can find more information on them, like what bills they have authored/sponsored and what committees they are a part of. By clicking on "Visit Caucus Page" on the left, you can get more details on how to contact them.

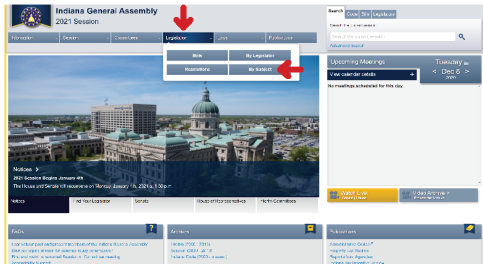
>You can email them directly, but you will have better results emailing or calling their Legislative Assistant. Sending a letter to 200 W. Washington St. addressed to them is also an effective way to reach out to them.



## What bills are there involving healthcare?

>To find bills about healthcare go to the "Legislation" drop down and select "By Subject." By going to the "Bills" tab instead of "By Subject," you can look at the bills in the order they were introduced.

>Use the session bar on the right to choose the year of bills you want to look at. After that is selected, bills can be searched for by subject, with a majority of health related bills under "H."



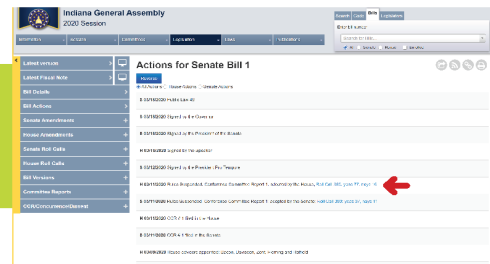
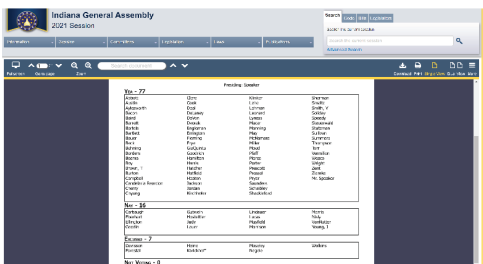
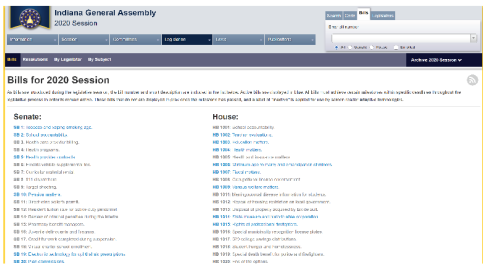
## What are they voting for?



Once you know who is representing you, it is key to know how they are voting on different bills. This helps you to identify what bills they are supporting and if you would like to keep them in office.

>From the "Bills" tab above, you can see the bills from both houses and can choose the year in the top right. Ones in blue have become law, while those in grey did not become law, for a variety of potential reasons.

>This gives you general information about the bill. By going into bill actions on the left, you can see where the bill is at, if it has been voted on, and how votes were cast.

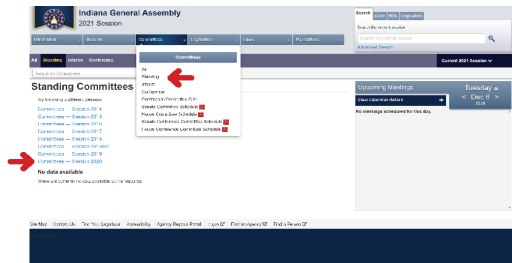


>For bills that have been passed, there will be multiple roll calls as more than one session is required in the process of a bill becoming law.

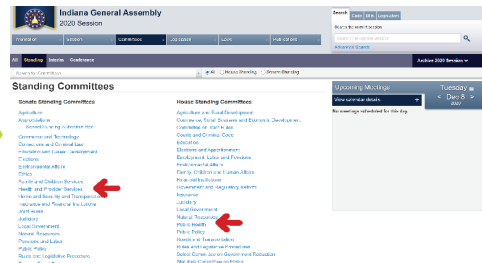
>Now you can see all of the actions that have been taken in regards to getting the bill passed. To see how the legislators voted on this bill, click on the roll call.

## What health committees are there?

>Under the "Committees" tab select "Standing" and then select the session year you would like to look at.

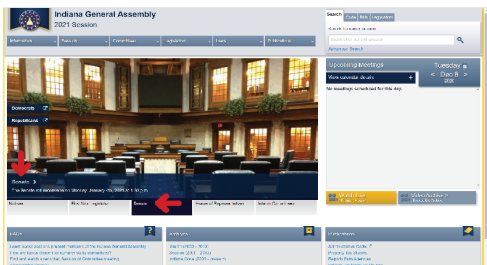


>Then you can look at all the committees for both the house and senate for that year. The prominent health committees are noted below.

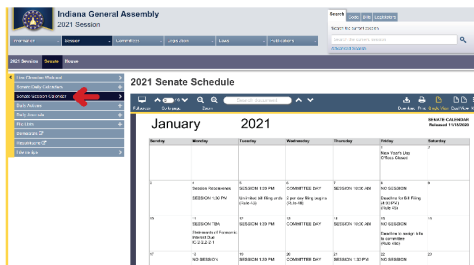


## When do the House and Senate meet?

>To see the Assembly's schedule, you can navigate the calendar to the right or choose the Senate or House tabs at the bottom.



>Then select the calendar bar on the left of the screen. This will pull up the scheduled sessions for that branch of the Assembly.



It is important for your voice to be heard and for you to be engaged in decisions that can impact your health. This can be done by staying up-to-date with the legislation that is being passed by the state government. Being active in this process keeps you more informed, and helps you come election time.



For information about how to vote and register to vote, visit one of these websites

<https://indianavoters.in.gov/>  
<https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2403.htm>  
<https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote>



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