Legislative

HOW TO TRACK LEGISLATION YOURSELF

The official website of the Illinois General Assembly is ilga.gov. On the site, you can search by bill number, see what bills legislators sponsored, find contact information for legislators, view all pieces of legislation filed in the current session and review state statues.

Ilga.gov also has a link for a "Legislator Lookup," where you can identify who your local lawmakers are. Contact information for each legislator can be found by clicking "Members" under House or Senate and then clicking on the name of the lawmaker.

The easiest way to look up a bill is to know the bill number. Input that information in the search bar on the left side of the ilga.gov homepage. This will send you to a Bill Status page, where you can learn where the bill is at in the legislative process, view a synopsis of the bill, click a link to view the full text or see how legislators voted.

You can also search for a representative or senator and see what legislation he or she sponsored, or search by looking up the committee the bill has been assigned to.

A good tip is to always be mindful to check if an amendment has been filed. Amendments are listed on the Bill Status page and full text link page. This is important because an amendment can replace the entire language of the bill or change the legislation in minor and major ways.

Remember, if an amendment has been filed, the synopsis can become misleading or incomplete because the thrust of the legislation may have changed. Lawmakers also sometimes vote on some amendments and not others, so it can be confusing at times, even for people familiar with the legislative process.

If you decide to read the full text of the legislation, keep in mind all new language of bills will take two forms. First, if the bill is an act to amend current statute, the new wording will be underlined. Second, if the bill is a new act entirely, the new wording will be regular type.

IN ADDITION:

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IASA's Director of Governmental Relations, Madeline McCune. Her email is mmccune@iasaedu.org and the office phone is 217–753–2213.