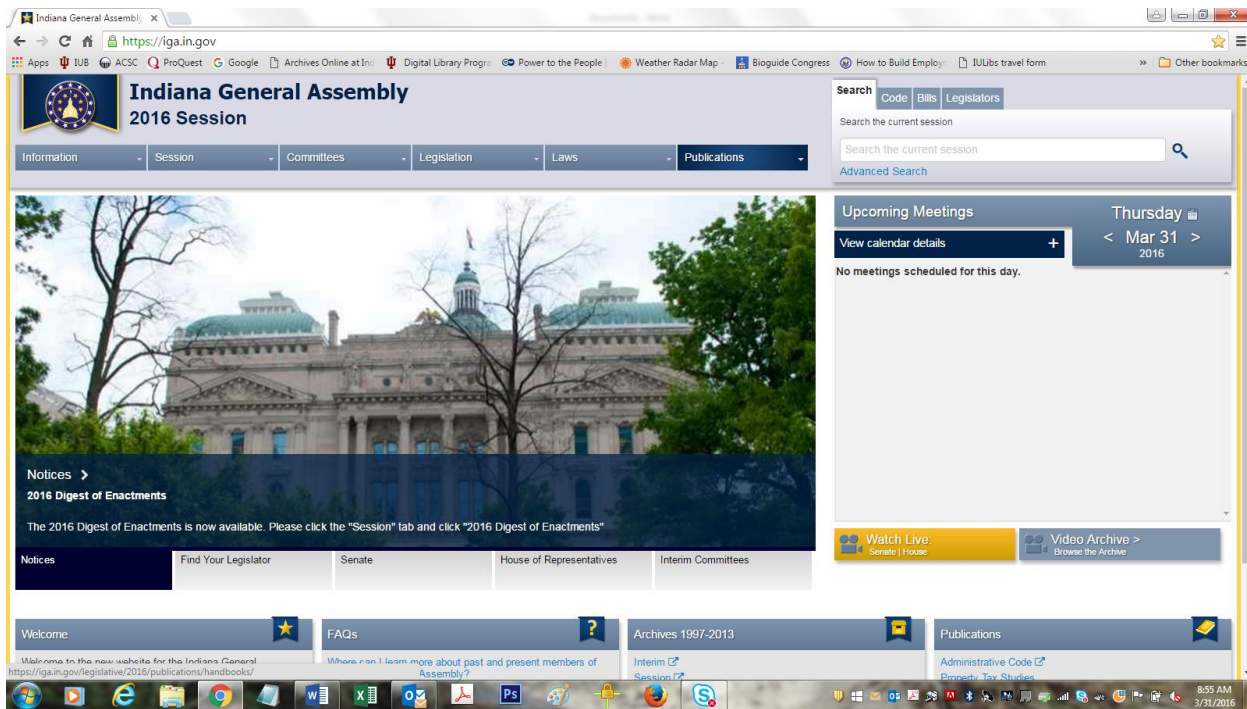


Tracking Legislation Using the Indiana General Assembly Website (<https://iga.in.gov>)

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(Window at right is not going to be live unless in session.)

Main tabs to use: Session, Committees, Legislation

BACKGROUND

Basics: Find Your Legislator:

Click on: **Information/Find Your Legislator**

Basics: Timelines

The IGA meets annually beginning the first week of January.

Long sessions (ending by April 29) are in odd-numbered years and include budget.

Short sessions (ending by March 14) are in even-numbered years.

Every session is divided roughly in half:

First half: House bills are considered in the House, Senate bills in the Senate.

Second half: bills that passed the House go to the Senate, and vice versa.

For short sessions, the "crossover" is Feb. 1, for long sessions about March 1.

The Rules of the Game

Click on: **Session/2016 Session/Rules.**

Joint House and Senate Rules

Senate Rules

House Rules

Basics: Leadership and Structure

Leaders of each house are chosen from the party having the most members in that house.

The leader of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House.

The leader of the Senate is the President Pro Tempore (President Pro Tem).

Chairmen of committees are from the party having the most members in their house.

Committees

Click on: **Committees/Standing**

Click on the name of the committee.

Legislative Timetable

Session work begins on Organization Day, Tuesday of the week before Thanksgiving.

Leadership of both houses is selected.

Senators can file bills starting in late October, Representatives on Organization Day.

Deadline for filing Senate bills is Friday of the first week, for the House the following Monday.

Senate bills must be assigned to committees seven days after filing deadline.

House bills must be assigned to committees ten days after filing deadline.

The Legislative Path of a Bill (Overview)

Members file bills with the clerk, the leaders assign them to committees ("1st reading").

Committees may or may not meet.

Committee chairs may choose to give the bill a hearing in committee or not.

Committees may receive testimony on a bill.

Bills may be amended in committee.

Bills that pass committee go to the full house ("2nd reading") and may be amended there.

Bills are presented for vote in the house of origin ("3rd reading").

If passed, bills then go to the other house and start over.

If the versions passed by each house are different, a conference committee is created to resolve the differences; this often takes place in a rush at the very end of the session.

POINTS WHERE WE CAN EXERT INFLUENCE:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE:

Email chairman and/or your own rep to urge chairman's consideration of the bill.

WHEN COMMITTEE IS RECEIVING TESTIMONY:

Submit statement by date testimony is being received or read it in person at hearing.

BEFORE COMMITTEE VOTES

Email your representative on the committee.

WHEN THE BILL IS PASSED IN COMMITTEE.

Email your representative.

WHEN THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR 2ND READING.

Email your representative before 2nd reading if you support amendment of it.

WHEN THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR 3RD READING

Email your representative before 3rd reading.

After the “crossover,” the whole process starts again, with the same potential for impact.

SO HOW DO WE FIND THOSE POINTS IN TIME?

Routine Deadlines

Click on: **Session/2016 Session/Deadlines.**

Click on: **Information/Archives/Archives 1997-2003**

Click on: **Regular Sessions**

Click on: **2013 Regular Session/ Deadlines for Legislative Action**

2012 Regular Session/ Deadlines for Legislative Action

Calendars:

Senate: *Click on:* **Session/Senate/Senate Session Calendar**

House: *Click on:* **Session/House/House Session Calendar**

Click on: **Session/House/Master Committee Schedule**

WATCHING THEM LIKE A HAWK: Tracking Bills (example: HB 1005)

What bills have been filed?

Click on: **Legislation/Bills.**

This will give lists for both houses.

How do I find the details of a bill?

Click on: the bill number. This will open up information on the bill:

Summary of its content

Authors and co-authors

What does the actual bill look like?

Click on: *the bill number*

Click on: **Bill Versions.**

(Original is at bottom.)

What will its fiscal impact be?

Click on: *the bill number*

Click on: **Fiscal Note**

To which committee has it been assigned?

Click on: *the bill number*

Click on: **Bill Actions.**

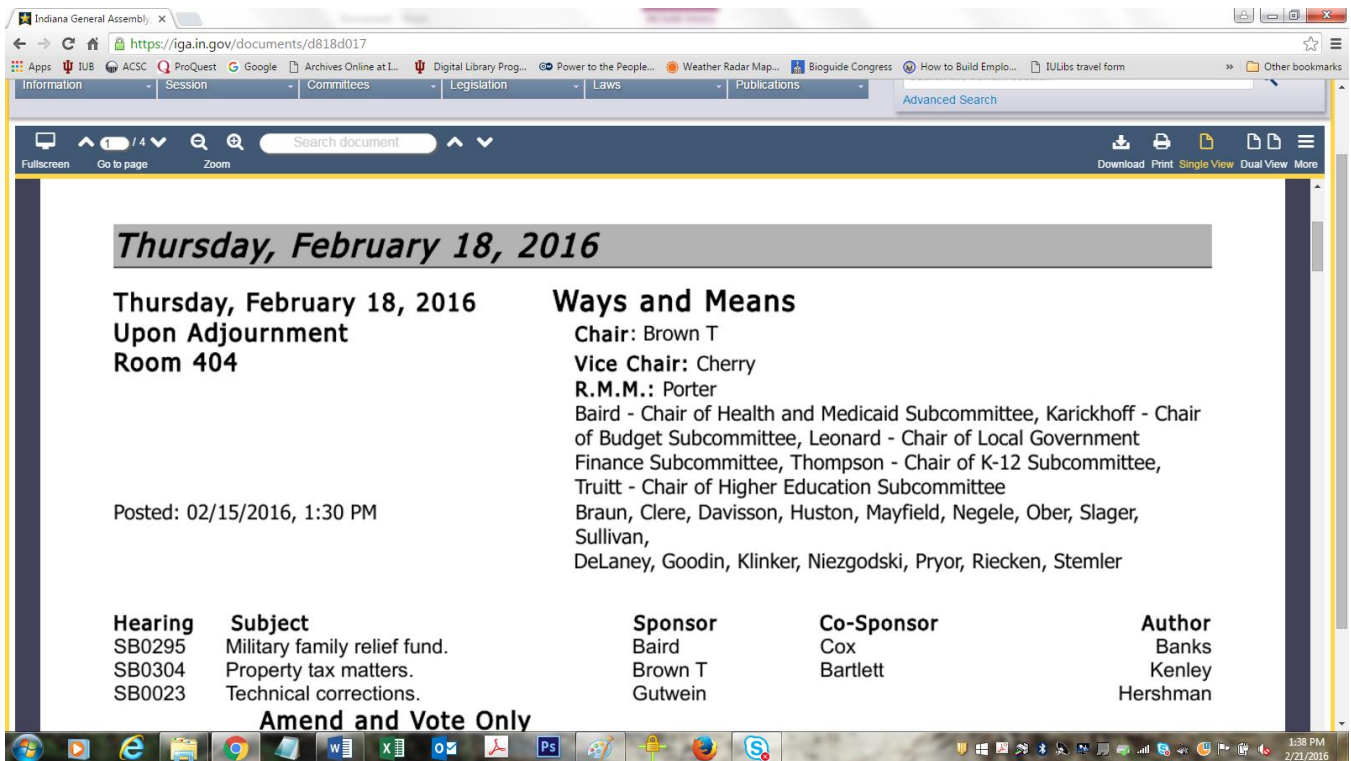
(Read from bottom up.)

When will the committee consider it?

Click on: **Session/House/Master Committee Schedule**

This is when they're supposed to meet IF they meet.

Click on: **Committees/House Committee Schedule**



View the committee hearing online:

Click on: **Committee Schedule/Watch Live.**

What action did the committee take?

Click on: **bill number/Bill Actions**

Click on: **Committee Report** (for the report itself)

Click on: **Vote Sheet** (to get individual votes)

When will the full House consider it?

Click on: **Session/House Daily Calendar.**

Look for bills listed under "2d reading."

The screenshot shows the State of Indiana 119th General Assembly website. The page is titled "State of Indiana 119th General Assembly" and is dated February 22, 2016. The meeting day is Monday, and the convening time is 01:30. The President Pro Tempore is David C. Long, and the Principal Secretary is Jennifer Mertz. The page displays a list of bills under the heading "HB ON 2ND READING". The bills listed are HB 1004, HB 1005, HB 1012, HB 1013, HB 1025, and HB 1038. Each bill entry includes the bill number, a brief description, and the names of the authors or sponsors. For example, HB 1004 is titled "School pension plans and other education matters" and is sponsored by Kruse, Bassler, and Banks. The page also includes a search bar and a "records per page" dropdown menu set to 10.

View the session online:

Click on: Session/House Daily Calendar/Watch Live.

Once it has had "2d reading," look for bills listed under "3d reading."

(Contact members of the House or Senate before the 3rd reading -- last chance!)

What happened to it?

Click on bill number, then click on Bill Actions.

If passed, it goes to the other house and the names of sponsors are added.

And then whole process is repeated in the other house.

MINING "BILL ACTIONS" FOR INFORMATION: HB 1005