

# Illinois General Assembly



The Illinois General Assembly is the state's legislative body. It is a bicameral structure composed of a 59-member Senate and a 118-member House of Representatives. It is charged with the following legislative responsibilities: enacting, amending or repealing laws; passing resolutions; adopting appropriation bills; and conducting inquiries on proposed legislation. In addition, the Senate is charged with advising and consenting on most gubernatorial appointments to state offices, boards, and commissions.

The General Assembly normally convenes on the second Wednesday in January every year and adjourns at the end of May, although this calendar can be extended depending on the legislative needs in a given year. In the fall, it reconvenes for two weeks for a veto session.

Legislators work in committees on specific subjects, such as education, transportation, or labor. Most of the detailed work on bills is done in committee before they go to the chamber floor for discussion and voting.

## Contacting Your State Elected Officials

Look up your Illinois elected officials by address at [advocacy.ounceofprevention.org](http://advocacy.ounceofprevention.org). There you will find addresses and phone numbers for your state legislators' Springfield and district offices.

The **General Assembly** Web site ([www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)) lists all senators and representatives, their district offices, and Statehouse contact information. The site also provides legislative calendars, allows a user to search for bills and track their progress, and lists all Senate and House committees.

The **Capitol switchboard** at (217) 782-2000 can transfer calls to the appropriate legislator's office.