



II. INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- The Indiana Constitution vests lawmaking authority in the General Assembly.
- The Indiana Constitution further grants each house “all powers necessary for a branch of the legislative department of a free and independent state.”
 - This means that the General Assembly possesses all legislative powers not specifically prohibited to it or not granted to other agencies by either the United States or Indiana Constitutions.
- Differs from the U.S. Congress, which has only those powers specifically granted by the U.S. Constitution.

A BI-CAMERAL (TWO HOUSE) LEGISLATURE

- Senate
 - 50 senators elected to four-year terms
 - Each senator represents 131,937 people
 - Senators must be at least 25 at the time of the general election
- House of Representatives
 - 100 representatives elected to two-year terms
 - Each representative represents 65,969 people
 - Representatives must be at least 21 at the time of the general election.

- Every citizen has one State Senator and one State Representative.
- Unlike the U.S. Congress, members of the General Assembly must reside in the district that they represent.

- General Assembly convenes in regular session every year and must do so no later than the second Monday in January.
- There is one organizational day that takes place on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in November preceding the start of the regular session in January.
- In odd-numbered years, the session is called the “long” session and must adjourn by April 29.
- In even-numbered years, the session is called the “short” session and must adjourn by March 14.
- The governor may call a special session at any time if the Governor believes that the public welfare requires such a session.

- Each session is independent of all others: bills that do not pass for whatever reason must be reintroduced the next session and complete the entire legislative process before becoming law.
- All revenue raising (taxation) measures must originate in the House of Representatives.
- All other subject matters may originate in either house.
- When a legislator files a bill, it is assigned a number that indicates its chronological introduction in its respective house. Senate bills can be identified by their one, two, or three-digit codes, while House bills always carry four digit numbers.

- In the House, the presiding officer is called the Speaker of the House. The Speaker is elected by membership of the House; therefore, he (there has yet to be a woman speaker) will nearly always be a member of the majority party.
- The 106th General Assembly had two Speakers, one Democrat and one Republican, which is the result of a power sharing agreement that was necessitated by the historic 50-50 Democrat/Republican split that occurred in the 1988 election.
- In 1996, the election resulted in a 50-50 split in the House for the second time in history. However, only one Speaker was named as a result of a 1995 change in the law stipulating that, in the event of a tie, the Speaker will be of the same political party as the Governor. (If the Governor was not elected at the previous general election, the speaker will be of the same political party as the Secretary of State.)
- The Speaker may vote on any question before the House, but often chooses not to vote.
- The Speaker names committee chairs, appoints members to standing and other various committees, refers or chooses not to refer bills to committees, and determines the "winner" of voice votes when they are taken.

- In the Senate, the Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer and may only vote in the event of a tie. So in the event of a tie there are 51 votes while there are only 50 Senators.
- The majority party elects a President Pro Tempore (or Pro Tem), who is the actual leader of the Senate. The Pro Tem has powers and duties equal to those of the Speaker of the House.

Indiana has a part-time citizen legislature:

- **Part-time is increasingly inaccurate as the time demands on legislators continually increase.**
- **Not the primary full-time occupation of most members of the General Assembly.**
- **Some of the most common occupations are teachers, small businessmen, and attorneys.**

III. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- **During each long and short legislative session, approximately 2200 and 1000 bills respectively are introduced for legislative consideration.**
- **Each bill that becomes a law is subject to the process explained on the following pages.**
- **A bill must pass both houses to become law.**
- **Just as with federal legislation, the process of a bill becoming law is intended to be a complex process. After all, bills that pass the legislature could potentially affect six million Hoosiers.**

COMMITTEE SYSTEM

- **The committee system is the most vital component of the legislative process and thus deserves more explanation than is offered on the following pages.**
- **The "real work" of the legislature occurs in committee.**

- **Committee system serves as the “gatekeeper” of legislation.**
- **Volume of legislation pending before any legislative session is too great to have each piece deliberated before the full Senate and/or House.**
- **Each bill is assigned to a committee, and each committee chair has absolute discretion over which bills will or will not be heard in their committee.**
- **Approximately one-quarter of all bills introduced will receive a committee hearing, and the percentage ultimately signed into law will be slightly less.**
- **The opportunity for public testimony occurs at the**

- **Vast majority of bills that are favorably recommended out of committee pass at least one house of the legislature and are then sent “to the other side” for further consideration.**
 - **It is important to remember that any bill that passes one house is eligible for conference committee. From a lobbying standpoint, it is critical to be successful at the committee level if you are attempting to either pass, amend, or defeat a piece of legislation.**
 - **It is much easier to educate and convince approximately 12 legislators on a committee in an open debate.**
 - **After committee consideration, which includes public testimony, research and deliberation, the committee may vote to table, amend, refer to another committee, defeat, or recommend the bill for passage.**
- Note:** See Appendix for How a Bill Becomes a Law.

IV. LOBBYING

“Lobbying” is the process of stakeholders making their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the lives of others at the local, state, and national level.

- ### TYPES OF LOBBYISTS
- **A lobbyist’s job is to INFLUENCE the voting decisions of Indiana’s legislators.**
 - **There are two types of lobbyists:**
 - **Professional**
 - **Grassroots**

- ### PROFESSIONAL
- **Can represent ANYONE or ANY POINT of view if someone is willing to pay them for their time.**
 - **Knows the process.**
 - **Knows who to contact.**
 - **Has credibility in the legislative community.**

GRASSROOTS

- Stems from the notion that the lobbying effort is broad based and emanates from the ground up.
- Conducted not by paid lobbyists but by a legislator's constituents with an express purpose of affecting legislative debate on issues that are important to them.
- An effective grassroots lobbyist has much more influence with legislators than a "professional" lobbyist.

Our form of government demands participation!

- Legislators will make decisions that affect your life with or without your input.
- It is in your best interest to be actively involved in the legislative process.
- You **DO** have the ability to influence the public policy process if you are only willing to make the effort.

GRASSROOTS ESSENTIALS

- **Communication** is the essential element of an effective grassroots lobbying effort.
- Nothing magical about the lobbying process. Effective grassroots lobbying is basically common sense, common courtesy, and communication.
- Important to remember that legislators expect to help people, but they cannot help if they do not know about the issues .

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

- To determine the names of your State Representative and/or State Senator:
 - <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>
 - Email your legislator using this link
 - Postal addresses provided using this link

LETTERS AND E-MAILS

Letters and emails can be an important form of contact. Writing an effective letter to your legislator need not be difficult—just be sincere. If writing a letter, use your business letterhead or personal stationery. Typed correspondence is preferred, but handwritten is acceptable if legible. Include your address and telephone number in the letter or email.

- Identify your subject clearly. If a bill, give name and number. Stick to one subject if possible.

LETTERS AND E-MAILS

- Keep your letter or email brief. Rule of thumb is one page, typed. Don't become a "pen pal". Quality rather than quantity is what counts.
- The message. Express your thoughts in your own style. Explain why you have knowledge about the issue and the effects it would have. Be dignified, respectful, and sincere. Use specific examples, give the local viewpoint.
- Tell them what you want. Be specific and reasonable (vote yes, vote no, etc.). Don't ask the impossible.
- Request a response. Ask your legislator to state his/her position on the issue in a reply.



LETTERS AND E-MAILS

ADVANTAGES OF LETTERS:

- Legislators almost always read letters.
- Some legislators don't use email, although they have their staff print them off to read.

ADVANTAGES OF EMAILS:

- Legislators can read at many locations.
- Emails can be much more timely when time matters.
- Legislators can respond easily.

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- Legislators usually make themselves available to their constituents
 - during elections
 - prior to and during legislative sessions and committee hearings
 - at legislative forums in their districts
 - by appointment

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- **The goal of effective communication is to establish a “relationship” with your legislators.**
- You will know that the relationship has been formed when your legislators:
 - know your name
 - can put a face with the name
 - know your occupation and/or subject of legislative interest
 - responds in a timely manner to your contacts
 - contact you to solicit your opinion!

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- Call in advance to arrange an appointment.
- Develop an agenda.
- Do your homework before the meeting.
- Be on time and present yourself professionally
- Emphasize your main issues concisely rather than trying to cover multiple topics.
- Be prepared, organized, and factual. Practice your presentation prior to the appointment.
- Listen carefully to the legislator’s comments and questions.

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- Introduce yourself and continue to do so at each encounter until they know you on a first name basis.
- Be sure to provide the information that will establish you as a credible resource, such as where you live, where you work, and what you do.

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- Always, absolutely always, tell the truth! You are only as good as your word. If you do not know the answer to a question, admit it and offer to research it.
- Don't be afraid to ask for a commitment, but be tactful and respectful. If the legislator disagrees with you and cannot support your position, listen carefully to the reasons why.

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

- Before concluding, leave a fact sheet or short issue paper summarizing your main points.
- Thank the legislator for his/her time.
- Follow-up with a handwritten thank-you note and mention any commitments that were made.

SPRING INTO ACTION

- Visit with your legislators.
- Attend your legislators' meetings in the district.
- Invite your legislators to attend your meetings, open houses, trainings, and other events.
- Ask legislators to support those issues that are important to your profession.

SPRING INTO ACTION

- Let legislators hear from you when a bill is coming up for a vote – call, email, or visit them.
- Share with family, members, neighbors and ask for their support in contacting the legislators.
- Provide feedback to your lobbyist.
- Read the updates that your lobbyist provides.

V. POLITICAL ACTION

- Legislators need votes to win elections
- Legislators need money to fund campaigns
- Citizens can contribute to political campaigns
 - Directly
 - Indirectly through PACs (Political Action Committees)

- ISHA has a PAC to contribute to legislative and gubernatorial candidates
 - Goal of PAC is to protect and advance SLP and AUD professions
 - PAC is nonpartisan
 - PAC contributes to candidates
 - Who are friends (supporters)
 - Who are in leadership positions
 - Who sit on committees with jurisdiction over our matters
 - Who could impact our practice

- PACs do **NOT**:
 - Buy votes
 - Guarantee outcomes
 - Help after the fact
- PACs do:
 - Show support for legislators
 - Aid in obtaining access
 - Need to be used every campaign cycle and in some cases every year

- What should you do?
 - Contribute annually to ISHA's PAC
 - If each ISHA member contributed \$50, would permit ISHA's PAC to make all contributions necessary for professions.
 - Any amount helps!!!
 - Contribute more if needed in emergency

VI. 2018 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ### SENATE BILL 387
- Authored by Sen. Zay and Rep. Behning
 - Amended by Sen. Kruse
 - Permits salary supplement for Special Education Professionals
 - Not subject to collective bargaining
 - In addition to other increases in salary
 - No additional funding provided

- ### SENATE BILL 223
- Authored by Sen. Head and Rep. McNamara
 - Disclosure requirement for out-of-network telephone referrals
 - Out-of-network provider might provide services
 - Out-of-network provider not subject to network terms of service
 - Patient may contact health plan before receiving services

- ### SENATE BILL 217
- Authored by Sen. Houchin and Rep. Burton
 - New dyslexia requirements for schools
 - Individual student evaluation
 - Approved screening tools
 - Individual student intervention
 - Annual report to DOE
 - Each school corporation must have reading specialist trained in dyslexia by 2019-2020

VI. CASELOADS

- **Supply chain broken: Shortage of SLPs**
 - Indiana has highest caseloads in country
 - Emergency Permits
- **Indiana is local control state**
 - Local flexibility valued
 - Local solutions
 - Kindergarten not required
 - Pre-school class sizes not mandated
- **Opposition**
 - Local SE decision
 - Funding
- **Solutions to build capacity**
 - More SLP programs
 - Salary supplements
 - SLPA's (?)