



The Legislative Process

Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Missouri Legislature

A close-up, angled view of the top right corner of an American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes.

- 2 Chambers
 - Senate
 - 34 members
 - Four-year terms
 - Lieutenant Governor is president and presiding officer
 - House of Representatives
 - 163 members
 - Two-year terms
 - Presided over by Speaker, who is chosen by members

House Leadership

- Speaker of the House – Timothy Jones (R)
 - District 110 (St. Louis and Franklin Counties)
- Speaker Pro-Tem – Denny Hoskins (R)
 - District 54 (Johnson and Pettis Counties)
- Majority Floor Leader – John Diehl (R)
 - District 89 (St. Louis County)
- Minority Floor Leader – Jacob Hummel (D)
 - District 81 (St. Louis City County)

Senate Leadership

A decorative graphic in the top right corner of the slide, showing a portion of the American flag with white stars on a blue field and a white wavy border.

- President Pro Tem – Tom Dempsey (R)
 - District 23 (Part of St. Charles County)
- Majority Floor Leader – Ron Richard (R)
 - District 32 (Dade, Jasper, and Newton Counties)
- Minority Floor Leader – Jolie Justus (D)
 - District 10 (Audrain, Callaway, Lincoln, Monroe, Montgomery, and Warren)

Term Limitations

- In 1992, a constitutional amendment was passed in Missouri that limits Senators to two four-year terms and Representatives to four two-year terms
- Currently 26 Senators previously served in the House

Important Dates

- January 8, 2014 – Session Began
- May 16, 2014 – Session Ends
- September 10, 2014 – Veto Session

How Bills Become Laws

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes, positioned in the top right corner of the slide.

- Introduction of Bill
 - Bills may be pre-filed starting December 1
- First and Second Readings
 - Bill is first assigned a number and read by number and title
 - After second reading, the Speaker assigns it to committee

How Bills Become Laws

A close-up, curved view of the top right corner of the United States flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes.

- Public Hearing
 - Bill presented to committee by its sponsor
 - Proponents and opponents heard
- Committee Executive Session
 - Open to public
 - Committee may vote several ways
- Perfection of a Bill
 - Bill or committee substitute debated on floor

How Bills Become Laws

- Third Reading and Final Passage
- Signing by Governor



What is Lobbying

- “Telling your elected representatives about your needs and then motivating them to help you satisfy those needs through the enactment of legislation” (Guyer, 2013).

Visiting a Legislator

- Express appreciation to the lawmaker and staff on behalf of constituents
- Deliver brief presentation in 10 minute or less
- Leave a one-page summary sheet and any supporting documents
- Follow up with a written thank you letter to the lawmaker
- Offer to send additional information

Things to Avoid

- Do not give legislators special gifts
- Do not offer campaign contributions
- Do not offer political support
- Do not be disappointed if you have to meet with the legislator's staff rather than the legislator. Treat staff with the same level of respect.

Summary

- “The best time to lobby is when you don’t need anything” (Guyer, 2013).

Find Your Legislators

- House

<http://house.mo.gov/legislatorlookup.aspx>

- Senate

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/default.aspx>

- Look Up Your 9-digit ZIP code

<https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction!input.action>

References

- Guyer, R. L. (2013) *Guide to state legislative lobbying* (3rd ed.) [Kindle version]. Retrieved from Amazon.com
- Missouri House*. (n.d.). Retrieved January, 24, 2014, from <http://house.mo.gov/>
- Missouri Senate*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2014, from <http://www.senate.mo.gov/>