How to Navigate the Iowa Legislature Website

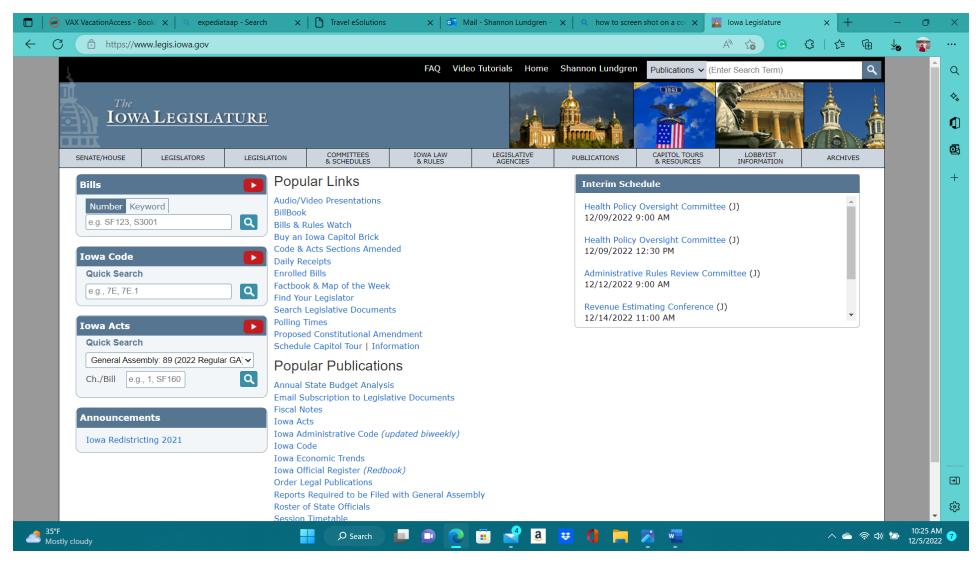
www.iowa.legis.gov

The process of Legislation can seem complicated, however, this guide should help you understand the process.

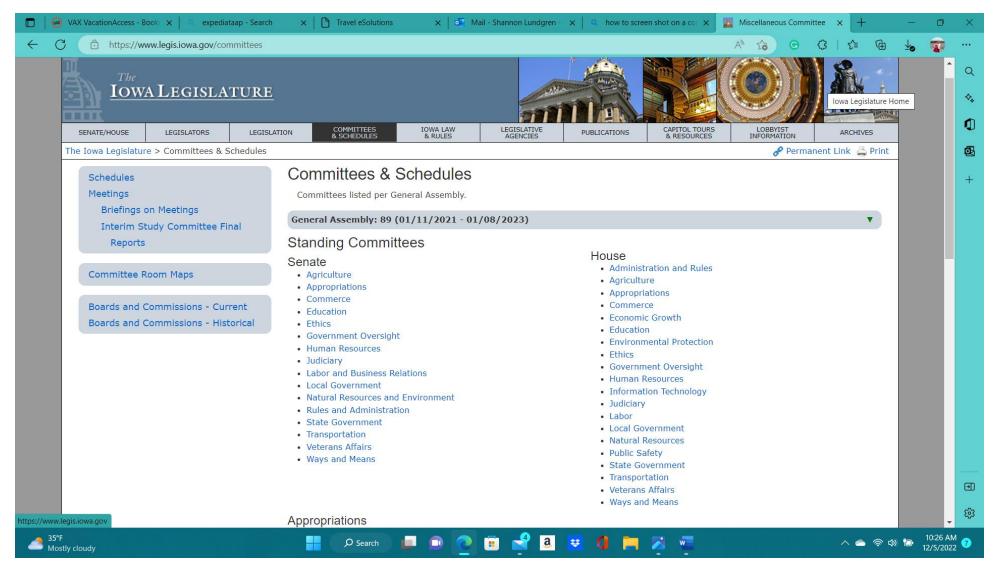
I. The process of a bill

- a. Any member of the House, Senate, Governor, and State Departments can have bills drafted. A nonpartisan office called the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) drafts all bills. Bills are often drafted by a legislator because of the needs of their constituents.
- b. Once a bill is approved and no longer draft, it will be read into the record and assigned to a committee by the Speakers office. The speaker can also choose to hold a bill and not assign it as a means of protecting the membership. Bad bills are drafted every day.
- c. Once the bill is assigned to a committee, the Committee Chair reviews the bill, weighs the interest in the bill from the public to the membership and the lobby, and can assign a sub-committee (a three-team committee with two members from the majority party and one from the minority party). On occasion, a five-member sub-committee can be assigned or a sub-committee of the whole, which means the entire committee is the sub-committee. This can depend on the complexity or controversy of the bill.
- d. A sub-committee meeting is set by the sub-committee chair who will also serve as the bill's floor manager. A Sub-Committee is a public hearing of sorts. The Public (General, Lobby, State Departments, and the Governor's staff can all publicly comment and ask questions at this time).
- e. At the end of the sub-committee meeting, the sub-committee members decide to sign off on the bill or not. If they get 2 of three signatures the bill goes back to the full committee. If it does not, the bill is considered dead. It is not advisable to kill a bill without a conversation with he Committee Chair. There may be unknown reasons why a bill was presented, even if it needs work.
- f. If the bill moves forward the same process happens in the full committee but with only the committee members allowed to speak. The public is no longer able to comment.
- g. If the Committee passes the bill, it is eligible for debate on the Floor. The Committee chair will advocate with the Speaker to call up these bills, Not all bills that make it out of a committee see the debate floor.
- h. If the House or Senate passes a bill from the debate floor, it moves to the respective chamber to follow the same process all over again. There can be changes once it hits the other chamber and it may bounce back and forth between the House and Senate a time or two before it actually heads to the Governor's office. Some bills move quickly through the process and others can take months or even years.

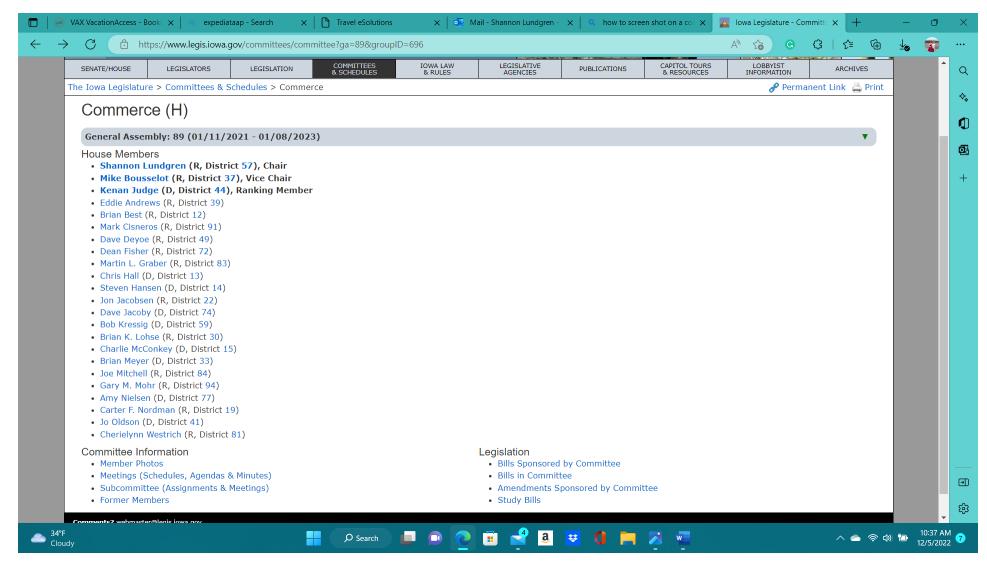
HOME PAGE



COMMITTEES & SCHEDULES



Select any committee to see a list of members & what the committee is working on



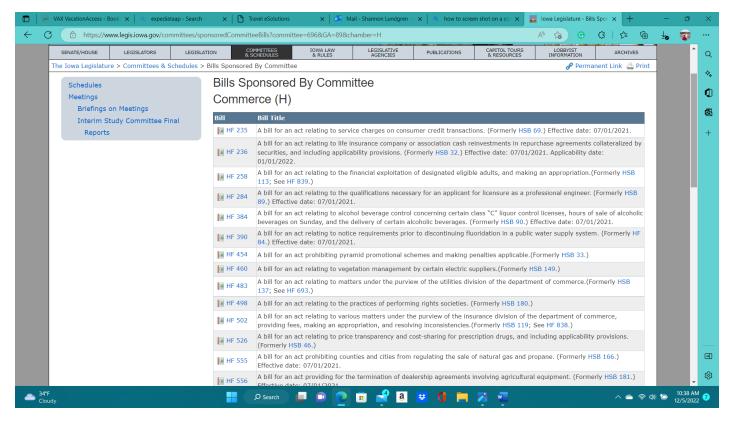
Under LEGISLATION you can click on

Bills sponsored by that committee (The committee sponsors the bill)

Bills in Committee (Assigned to the committee by the Speaker)

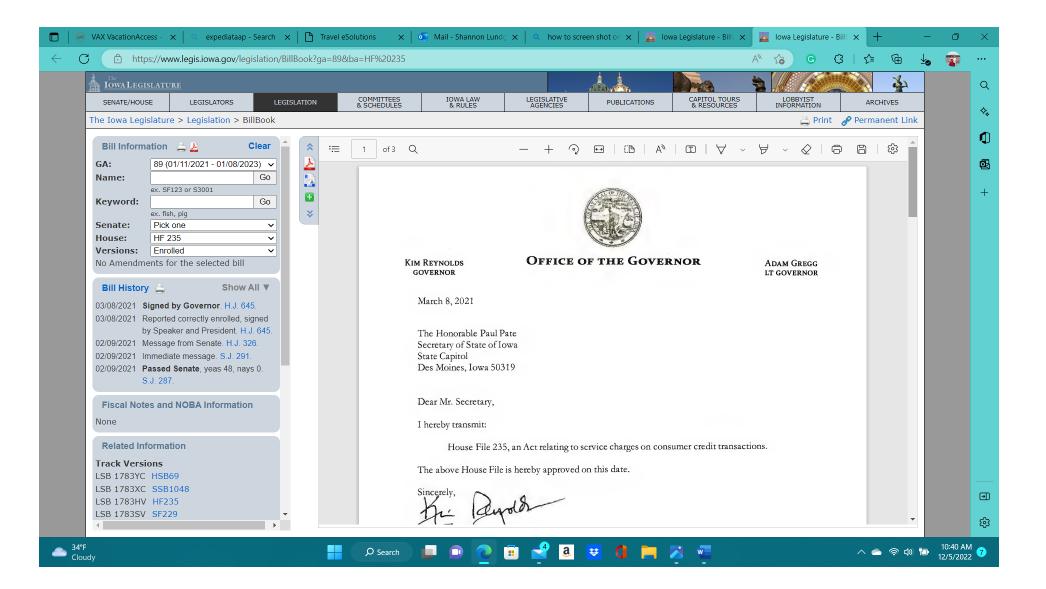
Amendments Sponsored by Committee (A committee amendment that changes or alters the assigned bill)

Study Bills (Bills drafted by the Chair so they stay in their committee and can't get reassigned to another committee.



By clicking on any of the Bill #'s you will be taken to the bill and will be able to view its process.

On the Left side, you can look at the history of the bill. In this example, you can see the Governor signed the bill and it is now law.



You can follow the same process on a specific legislator to see what they have been working on.

Bills are bills sponsored by the Legislator

Amendments are amendments sponsored by the Legislator

Floor Manager means that the bill has been assigned to that member by a committee chair

Sub-Committee Assignments are the three members assigned to a fact-finding hearing about the bill as presented

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	e.g. SF123, S3001	٩	Bill											
			🔳 HF 53	A bill for an	act relating to info	ormed consent for m	edication abortions, ar	nd providing penaltie	es.(See HF 383.)					
	Iowa Code Quick Search e.g., 7E, 7E.1		፪ HF 44	2 mobile hom	ie parks, and manu	ifactured mobile hom	ng provisions relating ne communities, modi ling effective date and	fying provisions gove	erning actions relat	ing to such	es,		ľ	
			🔳 HF 20	A bill for an	act exempting all	retirement income fr	om the individual inco	ome tax including ret	troactive applicabili	ty provisions.				
	Iowa Acts Quick Search		I HF 21	A bill for an HF 2389.)	act relating to the	dispensing of aborti	on-inducing drugs to p	patients within the s	tate, and providing	penalties.(Se	e			
	General Assembly: 89 (202 Ch./Bill e.g., 1, SF160	General Assembly: 89 (2022 Regular GA, V) A bill for an act concerning persons appointed to a convention called by the United States Congress to propose amendments the United States Constitution, providing a penalty, and including effective date provisions.									to			
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Again, you can click on any bill to see where it is at in the process.

Listening to Committee, Sub-Committee or Debates online

We have implemented new technology in recent years to enable more transparency and accountability to the public. You can now listen to committee meetings online, Floor Debates have been available for a long time. On the Home Page, a list of daily meetings with links will appear so that you can watch and listen to committee and sub-committee meetings. There will also be a section that allows you to click into the House or Senate Chamber if there is activity. If we are gaveled out or at ease, you will not see anything.

