

HOW TO FIND PENNSYLVANIA BILL INFORMATION

All Pennsylvania state legislation can be found at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>.

When you are on the home page, look to the top right corner of the screen.

- If you would like to search by keyword (i.e., firearm, sex offenses), check the button next to “Keyword” and enter it in the space below.
- If you would like to search by bill number, check the button next to “Bill#” and enter the bill number, including whether it a Senate Bill (i.e., SB944) or a House Bill (i.e., HB1318).
- Then, click “Go!” with your mouse.

When searching by bill number, you will be directed to a bill information page that shows the following:

- “Current PN,” which is the current number assigned by the printer after each change is made to the legislation. A bill information page that lists the Current PN and Prior PN shows that the legislation has been edited and another draft has been made.
- If you click on “Text,” you will be directed to another web page showing the text of the legislation.
- If you click on “As Printed (PDF),” Adobe Acrobat will open on your computer so that you can view the legislation as seen by legislators. The text and PDF versions have the same content.
- At the top left, you can click on “Bill History” to see a list of sponsors, a brief summary of the bill, as well as the status or and actions taken on the bill.

You may also want to search for legislation in other ways. To do so, go to the home page and click on the tab that says “Session Info.” You will be directed to a page where you can search for legislation for the year or past years by the following information: “Bill Number,” “Keyword,” “Numerical Index,” “Bill Topic Index,” “Tracking Reports” or “Legislation Enacted.”

Most commonly, you will want to search using the “Bill Topic Index.” To do so:

- Scroll down to the blue rectangle that says “by Bill Topic Index”
- If you are searching for legislation in the current session/year, click “Go!”
- You will be directed to a page where you will select the first letter of the topic you are searching, e.g., click “S” if you want to find legislation regarding “Sentencing.”
- You will then be directed to a page listing all topics beginning with “S.” Let’s say you are interested in finding bills regarding “Sentencing.” Scroll down until you find “Sentencing” and click it.
- The next page will list all the bills that were introduced in that session regarding “Sentencing” by description (i.e., “Mandatory sentencing for firearm possession”), if it amends an existing law (i.e., “Amends 42 Pa.C.S.), and the bill number (i.e., HB123).
- Once you know which bill you are looking for, click on the bill number, and you will be directed to the bill information page described above.

HOW TO FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR

You can find your Pennsylvania legislator(s) at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>.

The easiest way to find your legislators is as follows:

- When you are on the home page, look to the very top right corner of the screen, where it says “Find Members By.”
- Enter your zip code (the first 5 numbers are enough), *or*, select your county from the drop-down list or map, and press “Go!”
- You will be directed to a page that lists the district(s), senator(s), and house representative(s) for your district. For more specific information, you can find and enter the 4-digit extension.
- If you click on the senator’s or representative’s name, you will be directed to a page giving more detailed information about the elected official, as well as a link to their website if they have one.

You can also find information on a legislator using her or his name:

- On the home page, move the mouse over the tab that says “Senate” or “House” depending on what chamber the legislator belongs to.
- A drop-down list will appear. Move the mouse over the bar that says “Senators,” and another list will appear to the right.
- You can search by choosing one of the following options: “Listed Alphabetically,” “Listed by District Number,” or, for the Senate, “Senators with E-mail Addresses.”

OTHER WAYS TO USE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

On <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>, you can also do the following:

- Sign up to receive “Daily Session Activity by Email,” a daily e-mail update of session activity
- Find and read the Rules and Regulations (Pennsylvania Code), Pennsylvania Bulletin, and legislation enacted since 1975
- Learn about Pennsylvania’s history and legislature
- Information on visiting the Capitol
- Information on opportunities, like fellowships and internships with the legislature, and
- Fun, educational activities for children