



# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN THE IOWA LEGISLATURE

Having a basic understanding of the Legislative process is a critical element in any successful advocacy effort. The Iowa Legislature has two separate but equal chambers; the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives. There are 100 House members and 50 Senate members. Iowa House members serve two year terms and Iowa Senate members serve four year terms.

A legislative Session is two years long with the first year of the cycle being longer than the second year. The second year of the cycle always occurs during an election year. The Legislative Session timetable always begins on the second Monday in January. Sessions typically end sometime in April.

Thousands of bills and amendments are drafted and filed each year. Only a fraction of the proposals, something like 1 in 10 ever make it through the entire process to become law. Below is a summarized process:

