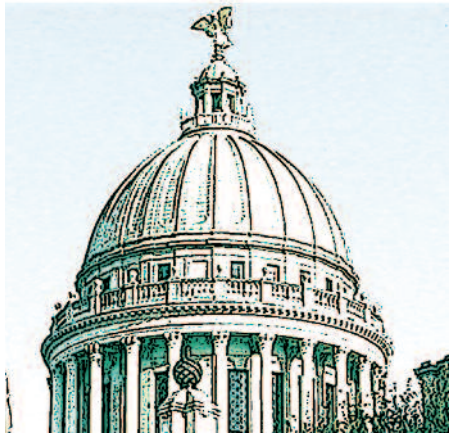


# How a Bill Becomes Law in Mississippi



## The Mississippi LEGISLATURE

The Mississippi State Constitution gives the legislature the power and responsibility to write the laws of the state and appropriate funds for the operation of government.

The legislature is composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Membership is currently limited to 122 representatives and 52 senators, elected for four-year terms. Special elections may be called to fill unexpired terms. Most of Mississippi's legislators have other occupations and are not full-time legislators.

The lieutenant governor presides over the Senate. The speaker of the house is a representative elected to the position by House members to preside over the House.

The legislature convenes annually at the Capitol for a regular session that begins on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January. Regular sessions last 90 days, except during the first year of a new term (when the governor, legislators and other state elected officials take office); then the session lasts 125 days. However, the governor may call a special session whenever he deems it necessary.

Between sessions, legislators prepare bills, study issues, attend meetings and legislative conferences and work with constituents.

To check on the status of a bill during session:  
(601) 359-3719

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us>

House and Senate members during session:  
(601) 359-3770

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