Legislature

Mission

To perform each of the duties and to exercise all of the legislative functions granted or ordered by the Constitution of Indiana.

Summary of Activities

The first branch of state government established by the Constitution of the State of Indiana is the Indiana General Assembly (Article IV). The General Assembly is comprised of a **House of Representatives** and a **Senate**. The Constitution fixes the maximum number of Senators at 50, while the House can include up to 100 members.

The Constitution makes each chamber of the General Assembly a fully autonomous and independently organized body. The General Assembly is the only branch of government that is permitted to change the laws of the state. Holding the purse strings of government is a very important power of the General Assembly -- no money may be drawn from the State Treasury except by an appropriation made by the Legislature. Each chamber elects its own officers and has its own rules of procedure. However, the Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Senate by virtue of his or her office.

In the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, the President Pro Tempore presides over the Senate. Senator Robert D. Garton of Columbus was elected by the Senate to serve as the President Pro Tempore for the 112th General Assembly. His leadership counterpart in the House of Representatives is Speaker John R. Gregg of Sandborn.

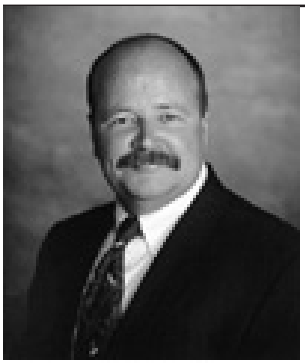
Each General Assembly meets for a two-year term. The term begins after each general election held in November of even-numbered years. The first session is referred to as the "long session." It meets until April 29 of each odd-numbered year. The "short" session runs during even-numbered years and must conclude by March 14. The primary difference between the sessions is that the biennial budget is adopted during the long session.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have formed about three dozen standing committees to study legislation introduced by the members. During a "long" session approximately 2,200 bills are introduced. About 900 to 1000 bills are introduced during a "short" session. The committee chairpersons decide which introduced bills are "heard" or considered. If the committee favors a bill, it "reports" the bill back to the full chamber.

The Senate, or House, may attempt to amend the bill during the "second reading" of the bill. After debate, a bill is eligible to be placed on the "third" reading calendar. A bill on third reading is voted "yea" or "nay" by the full body. If a bill receives at least 51 House votes, or 26 Senate votes, it is sent to the other chamber where it must once again pass through three readings in order to progress to the Governor's desk for his or her signature or veto.

After completing its session work, the General Assembly adjourns until the following year, unless the Governor calls a special session. Special sessions are generally called to deal with budgetary matters, but in rare instances have been used to deal with other substantive and time-sensitive legislation.

While the General Assembly is adjourned, the Legislative Council manages the day-to-day operations of the organization. The Council includes the leaders of the four caucuses and twelve other legislative leaders. The Council meets in May or June to establish "interim" study committees, which are assigned a number of topics to study in depth.

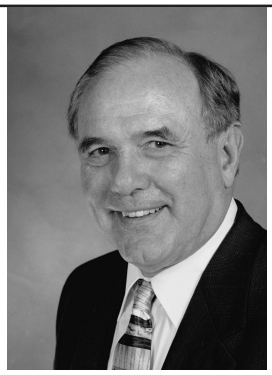


John R. Gregg
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Most interim study committees draft legislation and a final report to recommend to the full General Assembly.

A small partisan staff serves each caucus. The Principal Secretary of the Senate manages the Senate, while the House elects a Principal Clerk.

Each caucus has professional fiscal analysts who advise the caucus members of the fiscal impact of the biennial budget bill and other bills. In addition, persons who assist with constituent services and media relations serve each caucus.



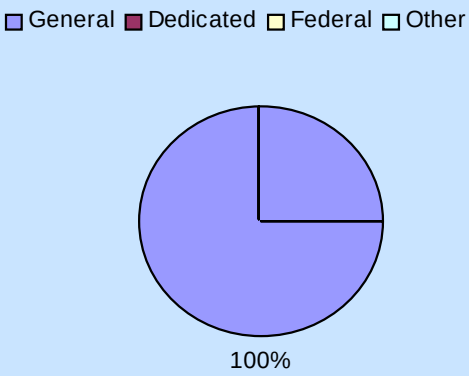
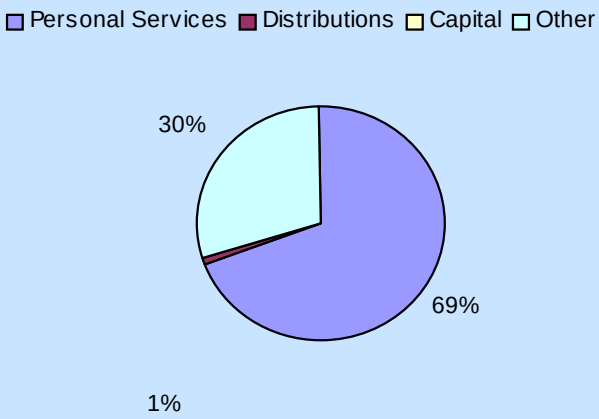
Robert D. Garton
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

In addition to partisan support staff, the **Legislative Services Agency** (LSA) serves as the nonpartisan administrative agency for the entire Indiana General Assembly. LSA is composed of three main offices. The Office of Bill Drafting and Research consists of one director, one deputy director, and 19 full-time attorneys. The legal staff drafts bills, conducts research, and staffs all session and many interim legislative committees. The Office of Code Revision consists of one director, two deputy directors, three full-time proofreaders, seven temporary session proofreaders, three full-time printing staff, six session staff, and two administrative assistants. The office implements revisions to, publishes, and distributes the Indiana Code, the Acts of Indiana, and the Indiana Administrative Code and Register. Collectively these publications contain all of the current laws and all of the administrative rules of state government. The Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis consists of one director, one deputy, and 12 fiscal analysts. The office conducts fiscal and management research and analysis.

In addition to the above offices, LSA is responsible for providing paper or electronic copies of all legislative bills, amendments, resolutions and other legislative documents to the public. It also maintains the computer network for the House, Senate and LSA, serves as Indiana's liaison with the United States Bureau of the Census for the Block Boundary and other redistricting-related programs, and publishes all legislative bills for distribution to the General Assembly. LSA also compiles, prints and distributes the annual Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations.

Program: 0900	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Appropriation (All Funds)	**$29,991,373**	**$28,775,861**	**$31,389,856**	**$29,320,514**	**$31,734,233**
Expenditures	**$26,555,883**	**$26,445,596**	**$30,655,596**		

Sources of Funds
FY 2001 (Approp)



Uses of Funds
FY 2001 (Approp)