



Arts for Colorado's Arts Advocacy Day

Legislative Process Overview

How to find your elected officials

- Go to <http://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>
- Type in your home address
- Here you can find your elected officials and how to contact them

Colorado General Assembly

One hundred elected members serve in the Colorado General Assembly. They meet once a year for 120 days from January to May. If there are any urgent issues that need to be addressed outside of the normal legislative session, the Governor will call a *special session*.

The Colorado General Assembly consists of:

- House of Representatives - 65 Members
- Senate - 35 Members

Who are they?

- At least 25 years old, a United States citizen, and a resident of their district for one or more years.

How long do they serve?

- Representatives: two-year terms (limit four consecutive terms)
- Senators: four-year terms (limit two consecutive terms)

What do they make?

- Members of the Colorado General Assembly make \$30,000 per year. Members who live more than 50 miles from the are given a \$183 per diem and \$45 for those who live 50 or fewer miles from the Capitol.

What is a Bill?

A bill is a draft of a proposed law presented to the legislature that has not yet been passed as a law. Bills can do one of the following:

- Create a new law
- Amend an existing law
- Repeal an existing law

Legislators can only introduce five bills per session. Most bills will be filed after the start of the session, but many will be pre-filed in pre-sessions.

The naming conventions of a bill start with Senate Bill (SB) or House Bill (HB), followed by the year and number in which the bill has been introduced. Examples are SB 17-01 or HB 17-1001.



What is an Act?

If a bill is passed by the House and Senate, it becomes an Act.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. It begins as a legislator's idea or an idea that was proposed to them.
2. Sponsors are identified, and the bill is drafted.
3. The draft is then introduced in either the House or Senate for the first reading.
4. The draft is then assigned to the appropriate committee for review and testimony.
5. The assigned committee decides to either pass, amend, or kill the bill.
6. If the bill survives, it is introduced to the floor and members debate the bill during the 2nd and 3rd readings.
7. Members of the House or Senate then pass, amend, or kill the bill.
8. If the bill is passed as presented or amended, the process is repeated in the other chamber.
9. Once the bill passes both chambers, it is sent to the Governor for signature.
10. Any bill that changes the state constitution must be voted on by the people of Colorado in a state referendum.

For a bill to pass the votes needed are:

- House - 33 (out of 65)
- Senate - 18 (out of 35)
- Governor - 1

If a bill is vetoed by the Governor, a 2/3 majority vote is required in both chambers to override the veto.

What is Arts for Colorado's Role in this Process?

Arts for Colorado's mission is cultivate advocates and influence public policy in a nonpartisan manner to support the state's creative industries. AFC advocates for the interests of Colorado's arts community through:

- Phone calls, writing letters, and email campaigns to legislators and the community
- Organization of the annual Arts Advocacy Day
- Having a presence at community events in which creative industry issues are being addressed
- Providing testimony in committee hearings
- Being courteous to those who may not support the views of AFC and acting as a nonpartisan organization