

# Watching Them Like Hawks

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# Our “Topics of Prey” Tonight...

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- Overview of the Indiana legislative process
- Getting to Know the Indiana General Assembly website
- Bill-Tracking Software
- Lobbying Basics



# Overview of the IN Process

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- Budget years are odd years (session = January to April)
- Short sessions are even years (session = January to mid-March)
- Summer study Committees

# How Bills Get Introduced

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- Legislator requests legislation – drafted by Legislative Drafting Service
- Legislator drafts legislation or is given legislation – Legislative Drafting Service cleans up draft
- Either way, bill is entered and read

# During Session Bills Can Be Read 3 Times

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- 1<sup>st</sup> reading – read and assigned to committee (not every bill assigned)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – after committee hearing
- 3<sup>rd</sup> reading – on floor, votes for passage (majority) then on to House/Senate
- \*Deadlines for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading dates!



# Conference Committees

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- After bill comes out of second chamber, if unamended, goes to Governor
- If amended by second house, returns to author
- If agreement on amendment > concurrence vote
- If dissent on amendment > conference committee
- Leaders set membership of conference committee

# How to Be Involved

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- Meet with House/Senate leadership (Bosma/Long) beforehand
- After bill is assigned to a committee, e-mail committee members
- Track committee meetings, give members 1-page flyer about bill BEFORE hearing
- Meet with committee members
- TESTIFY

# Other Advice

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- Be seen in hallways, hand out 1-page flyer to non-committee members
- Esp. between 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings, before vote
- House/Senate have an attorney, fiscal analyst, policy director, and legislative assistants—get to know them and give them 1-page flyer



# The Indiana General Assembly Website

The screenshot displays the search interface for the Indiana General Assembly 2016 Session. At the top left is the Indiana state seal and the text "Indiana General Assembly 2016 Session". A navigation bar includes links for Information, Session, Committees, Legislation, Laws, and Publications. A search bar at the top right allows searching for Code, Bills, or Legislators, with a search input field and a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation bar, a "Build Your Search" section prompts users to enter search terms in at least one of the fields below. It features a "Keyword" dropdown, a "Contains" dropdown, and a text input field. An "Add More Fields" button is also present. The "Refine Your Search" section allows narrowing results using filters. It includes a checkbox for "Enrolled", a "Filter by Year" section with two dropdowns (both set to "Current Session"), and a "Filter by Chamber" section with a dropdown set to "Both". A "Search" button is located to the right of these filters. A note below the filters states: "NOTE: Years 2013-2009 only include results from the Indiana Code." To the right of the search interface is a "My Search" section showing a search history entry for "firearm" with a "Remove" link. Below the search interface is a "More Search Tips" section with a plus sign. At the bottom, a "Refine Results" sidebar lists various filters: All, Law, Reports, Legislation, Committee, Committee Type, Chamber, Party, Session year, and Year Amended. The main search results area shows "0 results" and a "Sort by: Relevance" dropdown menu. A hamburger menu icon is visible in the top right corner of the results area.

# Getting to Know the Indiana General Assembly Website

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- Information Header
  - Location and Maps
  - Who is Your Legislator
  - District Maps
  - Frequently Asked Questions



# Indiana General Assembly Website...

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- Committees Header
  - Overview of standing House and Senate committees and their SCHEDULES
  - Updated weekly—where and when will meet, what bills assigned
- Legislation Searches

# Sometimes this website isn't the best...

## Contact Support

We attempt to respond to all questions within 24 hours. Please provide your name and email address, then indicate the general topic of your question/suggestion so we can route your message within our team for response.

Sorry, but we had a problem sending your email. Please Try again. ✕

Name

Email

Topic

Message



# Getting to Know Bill Tracking Software

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- [Billtrack50](#)
- [Openstates.org](#)
- [LegiScan](#)

**New Bill Sheet**

**1 New Sheet**

Create a new bill sheet

**2 Search**

Define a Search

**3 Subscription**

Choose a purchase option

**4 Finalize**

Terms and Conditions

Any of

firearm gun weapon knife

Search

Enter **bill numbers** or **words appearing in bills**

Bill Name	Summary	Latest Action
BMV documentation indicating a handgun license. ...	BMV documentation indicating a handgun license. Provides that an in...	First reading: referred to Commit
Use of proceeds from forfeited property. Provides t...	Use of proceeds from forfeited property. Provides that: (1) money; or (...	Authored by Representative Culw
Delinquent acts. Provides that it is a delinquent act...	Delinquent acts. Provides that it is a delinquent act if a child leaves a ...	First reading: referred to Commit
Mandatory firearms enhancement. Provides a man...	Mandatory firearms enhancement. Provides a mandatory sentencing ...	First reading: referred to Commit
Handgun training and reciprocity license. Provides ...	Handgun training and reciprocity license. Provides that a person who...	Authored by Representative Burtc
Credit time. Defines "accrued credit", "credit time", ...	Credit time. Defines "accrued credit", "credit time", "educational credit...	Authored by Representative Steu
Possession of firearms on state property. Prohibits...	Possession of firearms on state property. Prohibits a state agency, in...	Authored by Representative Luca
Handgun license repeal. Repeals the law that req...	Handgun license repeal. Repeals the law that requires a person to o...	Authored by Representative Luca
Police and firefighter retirement matters. Makes ch...	Police and firefighter retirement matters. Makes changes tothe 1977 ...	Motion to concur filed
Battery on a utility worker. Makes battery on a utility ...	Battery on a utility worker. Makes battery on a utility worker engaged in...	First reading: referred to Commit
Treatment of opioid and alcohol abuse. Provides t...	Treatment of opioid and alcohol abuse. Provides that addictions cou...	Authored by Representative McN:





Select a State



## You're following:

▶ | **Bills** *Turn bill email notifications*  On  Off

State	Title	Session	Recent Action
Indiana	<b>HB 1143</b> A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure	2015 Regular Session	Jan 8, 2015 <i>Authored by Representative Lucas</i>

★ [Unfollow](#)

[Click to download CSV file of your favorite bills](#)

▶ | **Searches** *Turn search email notifications*  On  Off

State	Scope	Search term
ALL	All states	"firearm"
IN	Indiana	"firearm"

★ [Unfollow](#)

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## Meeting With Legislators – Before the Meeting

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- Know voting record, and committees served on, constituent pressures, personality, etc.
- Focus on legislators who have not made up their minds
- Make appointment as far in advance as possible



## Before the Meeting (Contd.)

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- If have trouble seeing legislator, meet with Chief of Staff or other staff
- Most meetings are with staff
- Do not have more than 3 to 4 members attend
- Prepare memo beforehand so that staff can brief legislator

## Before the Meeting (Contd.)

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- Coordinate remarks in advance—who will take lead, who will make which talking points
- Read bills closely, know where they are in the process

# In the Meeting

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- Bring additional copies of your agenda/participants' names and contact info
- Introduce yourself and establish credentials
- Get to the point of the meeting and make a specific request—what do you want them to do?



# In the Meeting (contd.)

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- Do
  - Make yourself an expert and resource
  - listen
- Don't:
  - Introduce yourself as a “citizen and taxpayer”
  - Debate the legislator
  - Threaten not to vote for her

## In the Meeting (Contd.)

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- Have accurate information to support your position, be ready with rebuttals
- Use real examples of how a bill would help or harm your issue—especially examples from the legislator's district
- Feel free to ask questions about how they feel, how leadership feels (they will be expected to go along with leadership)

## In the Meeting (Contd.)

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- Can ask for delays in implementation at the very least
- Answer their questions
- Ask to take a photograph



# After the Meeting

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- Send thank you notes to the legislator and staff members along with additional materials you have offered to provide, reinforce your position
- Publicize this visit with your organization or send press releases to local media

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Now...What Are Your Questions??