Watching Them Like Hawks

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Our "Topics of Prey" Tonight...

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

Overview of the IN Process

- 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

- 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

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

Conference Committees

- 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

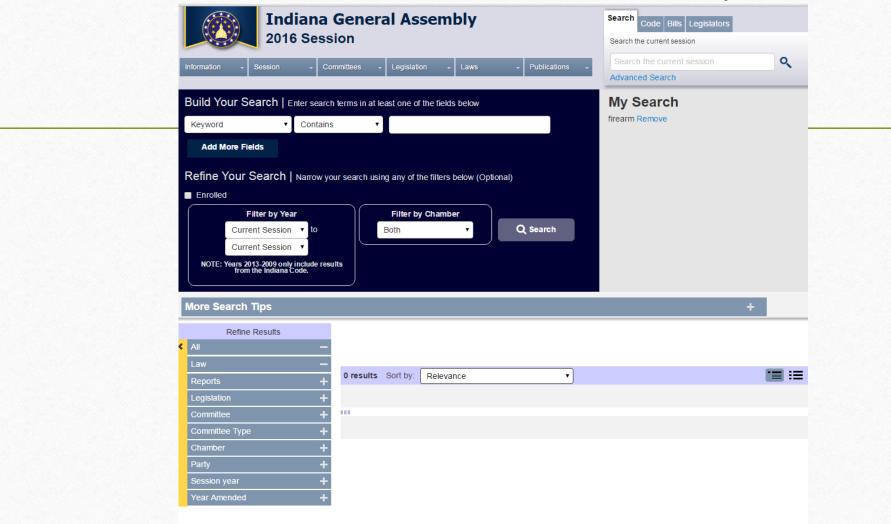
How to Be Involved

- 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

- Be seen in hallways, hand out 1-page flyer to noncommittee members
- Esp. between 2 and 3rd 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



Getting to Know the Indiana General Assembly Website

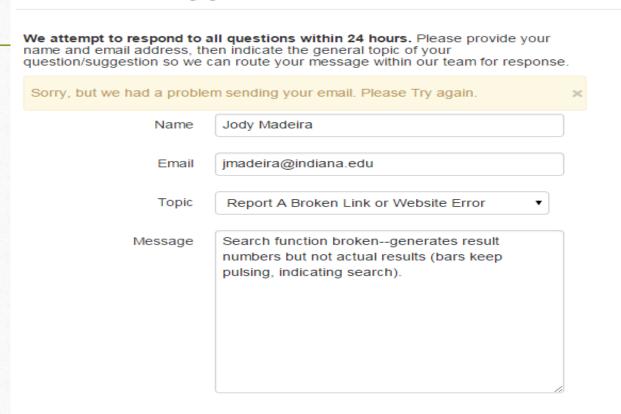
- Information Header
 - Location and Maps
 - Who is Your Legislator
 - District Maps
 - Frequently Asked Questions

Indiana General Assembly Website...

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

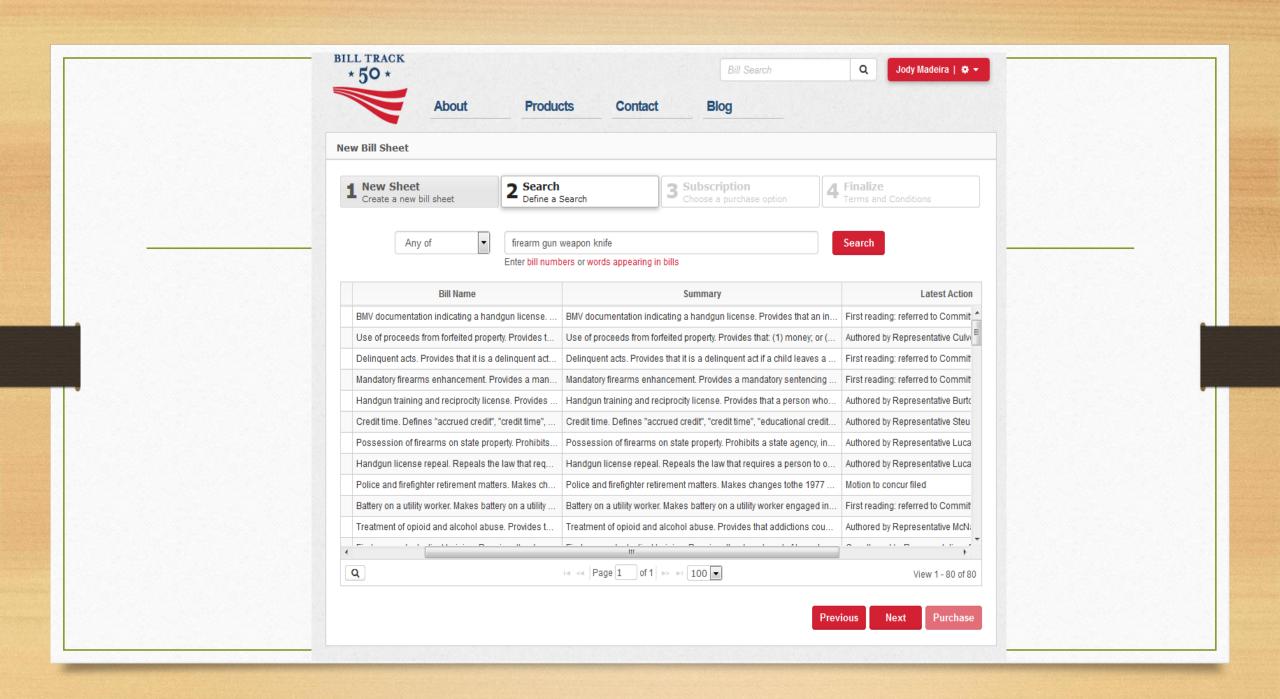
Sometimes this website isn't the best...

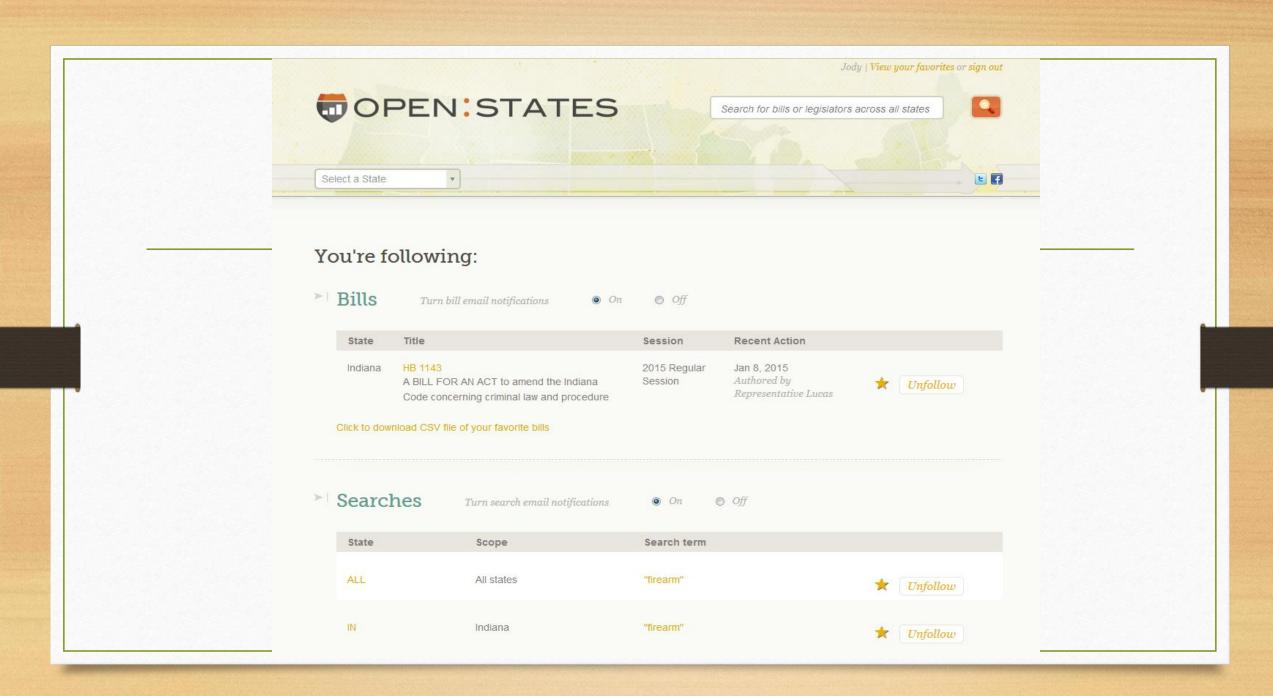
Contact Support



Getting to Know Bill Tracking Software

- Billtrack50
- Openstates.org
- LegiScan





Meeting With Legislators – Before the Meeting

- 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.)

- 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.)

- 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

- 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.)

- 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.)

- 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.)

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

After the Meeting

- 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 releaseds to local media

Now...What Are Your Questions??