

How to Use the General Assembly Website

The Homepage

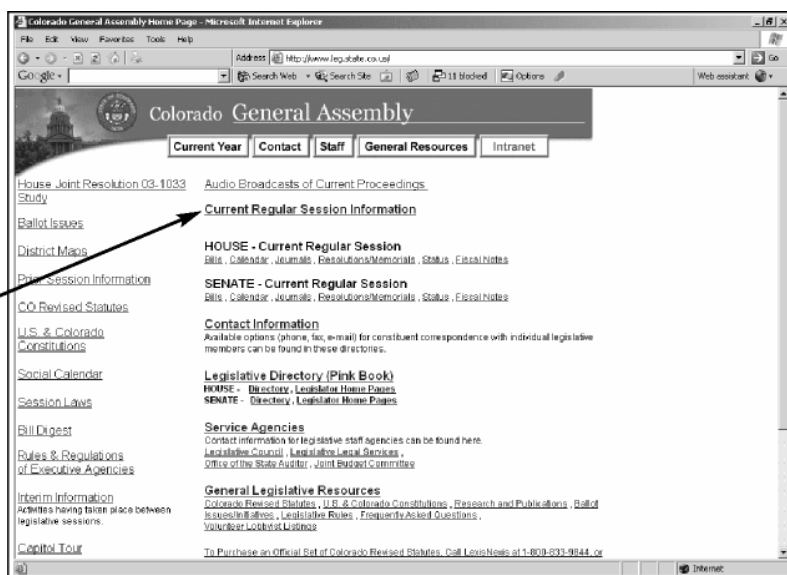
The General Assembly's homepage can be accessed by going to www.colorado.gov and clicking on the "General Assembly" link at the bottom of the page.

The General Assembly's home page looks like this

and contains links to many sources of information. When you want to find out about a particular bill, start by clicking on the "Current Regular Session Information" link,

which will take you to this page.

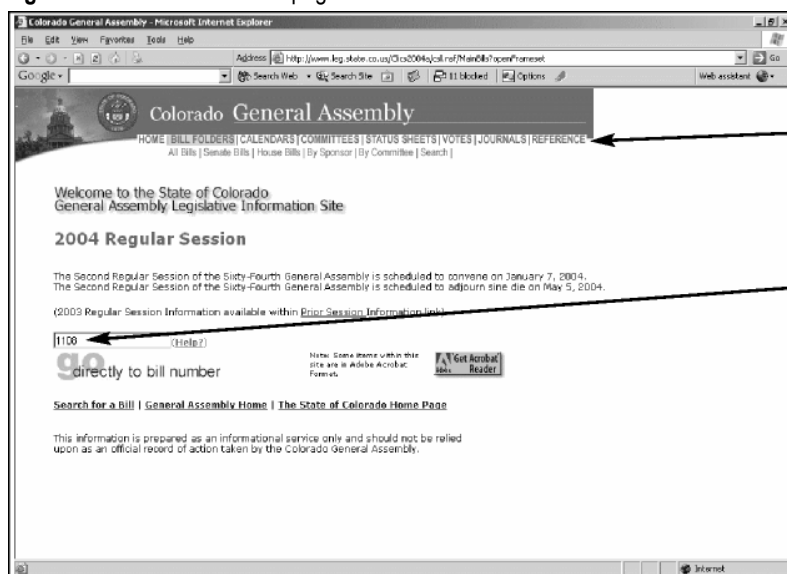
Figure 1. General Assembly home page



Who Represents Me?

To find out the name and contact information for your state Senator and Representative, visit www.vote-smart.org.

Figure 2. Session information page



Session Information Page

Once you get to this page, you can browse documents like bills, calendars, journals, and status sheets.

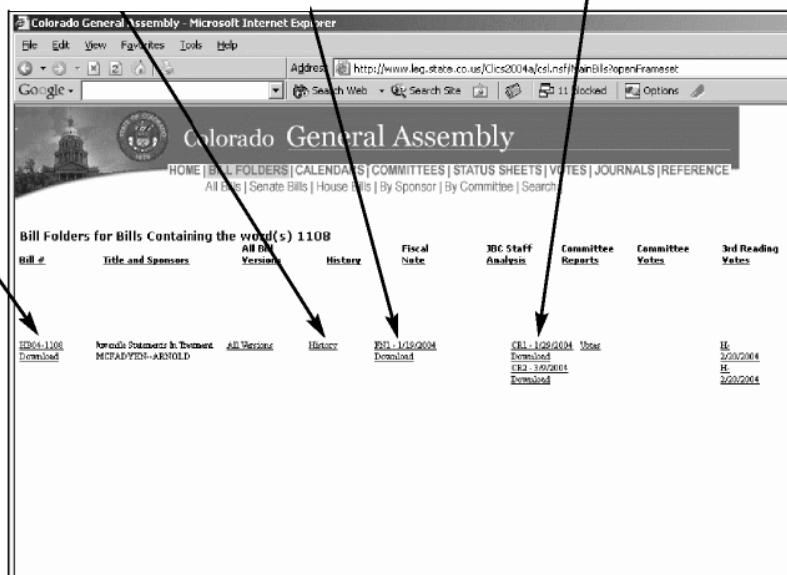
Or, if you know the bill you are looking for, you can type the number in the box.

There is no need to type "HB" or "SB," since Senate bills are numbered from 0-999 and House bills are numbered from 1000 upwards.

Bill Information Page

Once you select the specific bill you want to see, you can access a lot of information, including a copy of the bill, the bill's history, the fiscal note, and committee reports.

Figure 3. Bill information page



When you click on the link to see a copy of the bill, your browser will open the bill as an Adobe Acrobat file.

Figure 4. Example of a bill

Reading A Bill

The first page of the bill has plenty of important information:

- * The bill drafter —————→ LLS NO. 04-0486.01 Michael Dohr
- * The two primary sponsors (one in each chamber), followed by co-sponsors (if any) —————→ McFadyen, Arnold,
- * The committees that the bill has been assigned to —————→ House Committees Information & Technology Senate Committees Judiciary
- * The official bill title —————→ 102 COMMUNICATIONS BY JUVENILES.
- * A summary of the bill —————→ Bill Summary
- * Information on when the bill passed second or third reading (if applicable) —————→ (Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)
For a juvenile involved in a dependency or neglect action, makes a juvenile's statements to a professional providing court-ordered treatment to the juvenile confidential. Prohibits a professional providing court-ordered treatment to a juvenile from disclosing the statements without the juvenile's consent, but makes an exception for the juvenile's communications about future misconduct.

Second Regular Session
Sixty-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

LLS NO. 04-0486.01 Michael Dohr HOUSE BILL 04-1108

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP
SENATE SPONSORSHIP

House Committees: Information & Technology Senate Committees: Judiciary

102
COMMUNICATIONS BY JUVENILES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

For a juvenile involved in a dependency or neglect action, makes a juvenile's statements to a professional providing court-ordered treatment to the juvenile confidential. Prohibits a professional providing court-ordered treatment to a juvenile from disclosing the statements without the juvenile's consent, but makes an exception for the juvenile's communications about future misconduct.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
3rd Reading
March 15, 2004

SENATE
2nd Reading
March 12, 2004

HOUSE
3rd Reading
February 29, 2004

HOUSE
Amended
February 19, 2004

Both the House and Senate have appropriations committees, whose job it is to examine all legislation which has an impact on state spending and revenue. It often seems strange that a bill which would *increase* state revenue has to be reviewed by the Appropriations Committee, but there is a good reason for this--increased revenue drives the need for increased taxpayer refunds under TABOR. The appropriations committees can kill a bill or refer it to the floor.

Tracking A Bill

The easiest way to find out which bills have been introduced (i.e., bills that have already gone through first reading) is to check the status sheet (see figure 2).

On the website, you can look up an electronic version of the status sheet, or (as shown in figure 7), you can print out a copy that looks identical to the status sheet that is distributed each morning at the capitol.

The status sheet gives you information such as the short title of

Status of Bills as of 10:00 A.M.		SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1904			
DAILY STATUS SHEET					
SIXTY-FOURTH COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY					
Bill #	House Sponsor	Short Title			
1095	WITWER GORDON	Apply New Gov Immunity Prospectively	1/8BUS 2/6 2/23JUD	FI	2/16 2/17
1096	WHITE	Excavation Surface Work Exemption	1/8TRA PI 2/12	FI	
1097	SPRADLEY ANDERSON	Transfer PUC Consumer Enforcement To OCC	1/8BUS 1/22 APP	FI	
1098	YOUNG OWEN	Definition Of Custodial Moneys	1/8FIN 1/12 1/27FIN 2/4	NFI	1/14 1/15 2/5 L03/22
1099	TOCHTROP ENTZ	County Employees Salary Information	1/8BLG 1/22	FI	1/30 L2/2
1100	YOUNG OWEN	Plan Process Private Prisons Proposals	1/8JUD 1/16 1/22JUD 2/5	NFI	1/20 1/22 2/27 2/12 2/13
1101	MERRIFIELD JOHNSON S.	Dog Owner Liability	1/8AGR PI 1/22	FI	
1102	CLAPP JOHNSON S.	Regulation Of Dentists And Hygienists	1/8HEW R 1/27 APP 2/23HEW3/5	2/13	2/19 2/20 3/11 3/12
1103	MARSHALL LAMBORN	Sunset Review Continue Securities Board	1/9BUS 1/16 1/22BUS 1/29	NFI	1/20 1/21 2/2 2/3
1104	KING MCELHANY	Educator Licensure	1/9ED R 1/22 APP 2/27	FI	3/12 3/15
1105	MADDEN	Second-Parent Adoption	1/9 IT PI 1/27	FI	
1106	PLANT	Discretion In Nonviolent Sentencing	1/9 IT PI 1/29		
1107	BERRY REEVES	Transfer Of Office Of Homeless Youth	1/9HEW 1/28 APP 2/23HEW 3/5	2/13	2/18 2/19 3/12 3/15
1108	MCFADYEN ARNOLD	Juvenile Statements In Treatment	1/9IT 1/29 2/23JUD 3/9	NFI	2/19 2/20 3/12 3/15
1109	MARSHALL LAMBORN	Sunset Continue Securities Division	1/9BUS 1/29 2/6SA 3/5	NFI	2/4 2/5 3/9 L03/16
1110	WHITE TECK	Sunset Continue Division Of Banking	1/9BUS 1/14 1/20BUS 2/10	NFI	1/16 1/19 2/27 2/16 2/17
1111	WHITE TECK	Sunset Continue Banking Board	1/9BUS 1/14 1/20BUS 2/10	NFI	1/16 1/19 2/13 2/16

Figure 8. House calendar (first page)

HOUSE CALENDAR	
SIXTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
STATE OF COLORADO	
Second Regular Session	
Seventieth Legislative Day Tuesday, March 16, 2004	
HOUR OF CONVENING - 10:00 a.m.	
SPECIAL ORDERS -- SECOND READING OF BILLS	
HR04-1257	by Representative(s) Rippy; also Senator(s) Entz--Concerning reforms to the certified capital company program. (Amendment recommended by Finance Report, dated February 5, 2004, and placed in member's bill file; Report also printed in House Journal, February 6, page 364.) (Laid over from March 15)
HR04-1345	by Representative(s) May M., Pommer, Boyd, Briggs, Crane, Frangas, Lundberg, Marshall, Stafford; also Senator(s) McElhany, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Owen--Concerning an increase in customers' ability to choose a telecommunications local exchange provider. (Amendment recommended by Transportation & Energy Report, dated February 18, 2004, and placed in member's bill file; Report also printed in House Journal, February 19, pages 554-555.) (Laid over from March 15)
HR04-1315	by Representative(s) Mitchell, Cadman, Brophy, Miller, Rhodes, Sinclair, Tochtrop--Concerning academic rights in higher education. (Amendment recommended by Education Report, dated February 25, 2004, and placed in member's bill file; Report also printed in House Journal, February 26, pages 659-660.) (Laid over from March 15)

the bill, the sponsors, and what happened in committees and on second and third readings. When a bill makes it out of its house of origin, the activity in the second house is noted on the next line.

Once you know the number of a bill you want to track, you can check on it by going to the session information page and typing it in the "go directly to bill" box. One important piece of information, however, is *not* contained in the bill's homepage *or* on the status sheet. When a bill is scheduled for a committee hearing or for its second or third reading, that information is available in advance only from the calendar (see figure 8). As you might remember, there is a link to the calendars from the top of the session information page. By clicking on this link, you can read the most recent version of the House or Senate calendar. The calendars are updated daily, and hearings must be advertised in advance on the calendar. The calendar lists agendas for committee hearings, and for floor

activity (i.e., second and third readings), but be aware that a bill might be on the calendar for its second or third reading for weeks before this actually occurs.

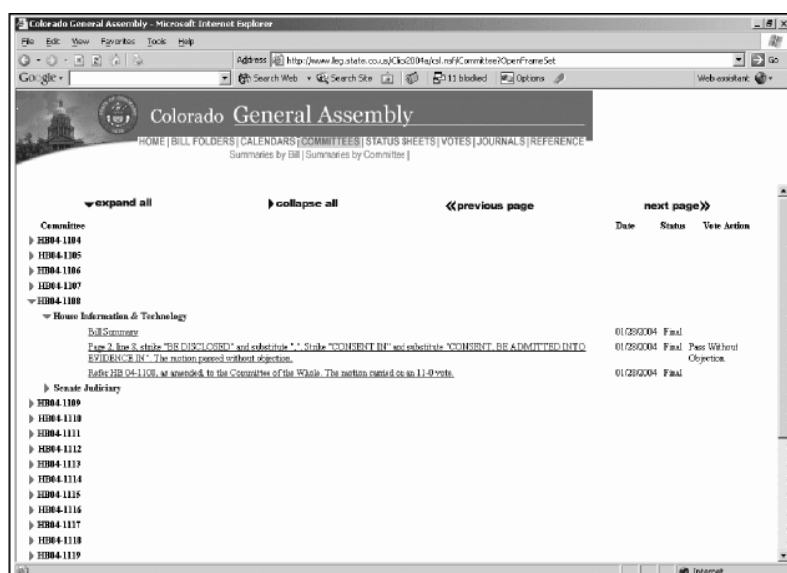
Finding Out What Has Already Happened

Suppose you find out about a Senate bill that has already gone through the Senate and is waiting for its first reading in the House. To find out what has already happened, you should start by pulling up the bill's history from the session information page (see figure 5).

Committee hearings.

Legislative staff take notes of who testifies at committee hearings and how the committee votes. This can sometimes be complicated, since the committee can vote several times on one bill. For example, a committee member might propose an amendment. If that amendment fails, then another member might propose a slightly different amendment. If that amendment passes, and the committee then votes to refer

the bill to the floor, then there would be three separate votes recorded for that bill's hearing. To read the committee report, click on "Committees" at the top of the bill's homepage. You can then chose "Summaries by Bill," which will give you a list of bill numbers. Find the bill you are interested in, and then click on the triangle next to the bill you're looking for. You will then see a list of information from the committee hearing.



You can then click on the report you want to read. The "bill

summary" report will give you information on the bill and who testified. Other reports typically concern motions made in committee, and contain a record of how committee members voted. When a bill is sent to its second reading, the committee report will say it was "referred to the Committee of the Whole" (keep reading for more information).

Second Reading

It is more difficult to find information on what happened during a bill's second reading. This is due to the fact that votes on second reading are not recorded. When either chamber hears bills on second reading, it sits as the Committee of the Whole (COW), which allows for more relaxed rules concerning debate and amendments. But, votes in the Committee of the Whole are not recorded. Usually COW votes are taken by a voice vote. If the vote is close, then a member can call for a division, which means members who support the bill stand and are counted by the chair, and the same process is repeated for those opposed to the bill. But division votes are not recorded either. Occasionally, when there is a contentious debate in the COW, a member will wait until the Committee of the Whole rises and reports (i.e., adjourns),

and will then ask for an amendment to the Committee of the Whole report. As an example: if Senator Pitkin proposes a motion in the COW that fails on a voice vote, she could introduce an amendment to the Committee of the Whole report “showing that the Pitkin amendment did pass.” Since the amendment to the Committee of the Whole report is voted on when the chamber is no longer sitting as the Committee of the Whole, the vote is recorded this time.

Information on a bill’s second reading, such as whether the bill was amended in the Committee of the Whole, is available in the journals. To find this information, look at the bill’s history (see page 3), and find out on day the second reading took place. Then click on the “journals” link at the top of the bill information page. You will then see a calendar--click on the day that the second reading took place. You will then see an Adobe Acrobat version of the journal (see example to the left). You have to scroll through until you find the information on the bill you are looking for. The Committee of the Whole report is printed in the journal, and includes information on proposed amendments

Figure 10. House journal (second reading)

House Journal--45th Day--February 20, 2004 Page 571

HB04-1285 by Representative(s) Johnson R., Marshall, Fairbank, Hall, King, Lundberg, Sinclair, Stengel; also Senator(s) Kester-- Concerning disclosure of outstanding debt prior to such debt going to collections.

The question being "Shall the bill pass?".
 a A roll call vote was taken. As shown by the following recorded vote, majority of those elected to the House voted in the affirmative and the bill was declared **passed**.

YES	63	NO	00	EXCUSED	02	ABSENT	00
Berry	Y	Garcia	Y	McCluskey	Y	Sinclair	Y
Borodkin	Y	Hall	Y	McFadyen	Y	Smith	Y
Boyd	Y	Harvey	Y	McGihon	Y	Spence	Y
Briggs	Y	Hefley	Y	Merrifield	Y	Stafford	E
Brophy	Y	Hodge	Y	Miller	Y	Stengel	Y
Butcher	Y	Hoppe	Y	Mitchell	Y	Tochtrop	Y
Cadman	Y	Jahn	Y	Paccione	Y	Vigil	Y
Carroll	Y	Johnson	Y	Plant	Y	Weddig	Y
Cerbo	Y	Judd	Y	Pommer	Y	Weissmann	Y
Clapp	Y	King	Y	Ragsdale	Y	Welker	Y
Cloer	Y	Larson	Y	Rhodes	Y	White	Y
Coleman	Y	Lee	Y	Rippy	Y	Wiens	Y
Crane	Y	Lundberg	Y	Romanoff	Y	Williams S.	Y
Decker	Y	Madden	Y	Rose	Y	Williams T.	Y
Fairbank	E	Marshall	Y	Salazar	Y	Witwer	Y

Co-sponsors added: Representatives Boyd, Cadman, Jahn, Merrifield, Weddig, Welker.

HB04-1108 by Representative(s) McFadyen; also Senator Arnold-- Concerning the inadmissibility of certain confidential communications by juveniles.

The question being "Shall the bill pass?".
 A roll call vote was taken. As shown by the following recorded vote, a majority of those elected to the House voted in the affirmative and the bill was declared **passed**.

YES	55	NO	08	EXCUSED	02	ABSENT	00
Berry	Y	Garcia	Y	McCluskey	Y	Sinclair	Y
Borodkin	Y	Hall	Y	McFadyen	Y	Smith	Y
Boyd	Y	Harvey	Y	McGihon	Y	Spence	Y
Briggs	Y	Hefley	Y	Merrifield	Y	Stafford	E
Brophy	Y	Hodge	Y	Miller	Y	Stengel	Y
Butcher	Y	Hoppe	Y	Mitchell	Y	Tochtrop	Y
Cadman	Y	Jahn	Y	Paccione	Y	Vigil	Y
Carroll	Y	Johnson	Y	Plant	Y	Weddig	Y
Cerbo	Y	Judd	Y	Pommer	Y	Weissmann	Y
Clapp	N	King	N	Ragsdale	Y	Welker	Y
Cloer	Y	Larson	Y	Rhodes	Y	White	Y
Coleman	Y	Lee	N	Rippy	Y	Wiens	N
Crane	Y	Lundberg	Y	Romanoff	Y	Williams S.	Y
Decker	Y	Madden	Y	Rose	Y	Williams T.	Y

Figure 11. House journal (third reading)

Page 560 Ho use Journal--44th Day--February 19, 2004

HB04-1285 by Representative(s) Johnson R., Marshall, Fairbank, Hall, King, Lundberg, Sinclair, Stengel; also Senator(s) Kester-- Concerning disclosure of outstanding debt prior to such debt going to collections.

Amendment No. 1, Information & Technology Report, dated February 16, 2004, and placed in member's bill file; Report also printed in Ho use Journal, February 17, pages 468-469.

Amendment No. 2, by Representative Johnson.

Amend the Information and Technology Committee Report, dated February 16, 2004, page 1, line 15, strike "RELIED ON A THIRD-PARTY PAYOR" and substitute "HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE".

Page 2 of the committee report, line 1, strike "PROVIDER," and substitute "PROVIDER AND THE PERSON HAS NOTIFIED THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OF COVERAGE,";

line 2, strike "THIRD-PARTY PAYOR" and substitute "HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN AS DEFINED IN SECTION 10-16- 102 (22.5), C.R.S.";

line 10, strike "MADE;" and substitute "MADE; THE DATE OF SERVICE,";

line 12, strike "CREDIT" and substitute "CONSUMER";

strike lines 29 through 32 and substitute the following:

"NOTICE BY PROVIDING A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE COLLECTION AGENCY TO WITHHOLD ANY COLLECTION EFFORTS AND WITHHOLDING ANY OF THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S OWN".

As amended, ordered engrossed and placed on the Calendar for Third Reading and Final Passage.

HB04-1204 by Representative(s) Rhodes; also Senator(s) McElhany-- Concerning limitations on the type of criminal history information that appears on credit reports under the "Colorado Consumer Credit Reporting Act".

Lost on Second Reading.

HB04-1108 by Representative(s) McFadyen--Concerning the inadmissibility of certain confidential communications by juveniles.

Amendment No. 1, Information & Technology Report, dated January 28, 2004, and placed in member's bill file; Report also printed in House Journal, January 29, page 220.

As amended, ordered engrossed and placed on the Calendar for Third Reading and Final Passage.

HB04-1054 by Representative(s) Brophy; also Senator(s) Hillman-- Concerning the duties of occupants of vehicles involved in accidents resulting in personal harm.

Third Reading. When a bill is heard for its third reading, the vote is recorded and amendments are not allowed, unless the entire chamber votes to give permission for a third reading amendment.

You can find the recorded third reading vote in the journal, the same way you find the second reading information.

