

“I’m from the government and
I’m here to help you.”

How to win friends and influence the
making of laws.

September 16, 2010



MIKE DOWNS CENTER FOR INDIANA POLITICS

The Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics is a non-partisan organization that tries to help people understand the role of politics and government in their daily lives.

By doing this we hope to encourage participation in political and public processes.

Outline

- Legislative process
 - Who writes the laws?
 - When do laws get passed?
- Lobbying
 - What can I do?
 - When should I do it?
- Indiana Lobby Registration Commission

Legislative Process

- Some changes don't require the passage of legislation
 - Executive Orders
 - A rule or regulation issued by the Governor that has the effect of law.
 - Governor Daniels signed 18 in his first week
 - Administrative Changes
 - Interpretation of charity gaming revenue?

Legislative Process

- Who writes the laws?
 - Legislators do not
 - Citizens and residents do not
 - Lobbyists do not
 - Office of Bill Drafting and Research of the Indiana Legislative Services Agency

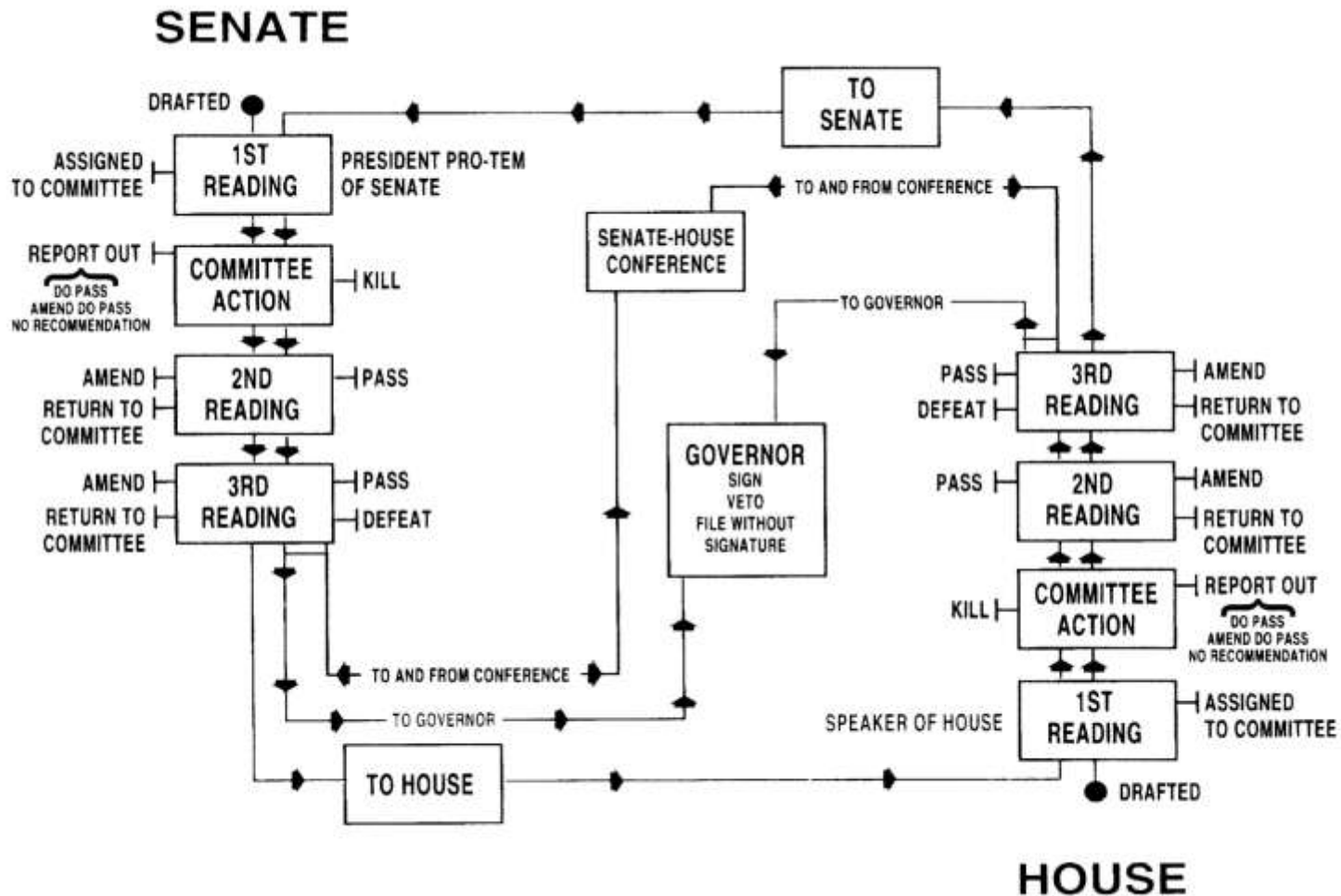
Legislative Process

- Legislative Council
 - 16 member council chaired by the president pro tempore of the Senate in odd-numbered years and by the speaker of the house in even-numbered years
 - Recommends changes to the rules and procedures of the Senate and House of Representatives
 - Reviews the operations and financial practices of all state agencies
 - Administers the work of the Legislative Services Agency
 - Coordinates and assists standing and interim study committees

Legislative Process

- When do laws get passed?
 - Organization Day is the 3rd Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November
 - Sessions can begin any time after Organization Day, but must begin by the 2nd Monday in January
 - Long session must end by April 29th (odd-numbered years)
 - Short session must end by March 14th (even-numbered years)

How a Bill Becomes a Law



Source: *Here Is Your Indiana Government 2009-2010*.
Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Lobbying: What Can I Do?

- Prepare for a long battle
- Build a coalition of interested parties
- Research issues and their costs
- Find out what the Indiana Code says
- Find out if the legislature has done anything regarding this subject
- Analyze previous activities

Internet Research

1. www.in.gov
2. Click on “Legislative” on the right side of the screen
3. Click on “Bills and Resolutions”
4. If you want to search for a specific bill, click on “Overview”
 1. House bills = hb xxxx
 2. Senate bills = s xx or s xxx
5. If you want to search by subject, click on “Subject Listing”
6. There are other ways to search such as “Legislation by Legislator”

Internet Research

1. www.in.gov
2. Click on “Legislative” on the right side of the screen
3. Click on “General Assembly”
4. Click on “Study Committees” on the left side of the screen

“Lobbying”: What Can I Do?

- What you are doing is providing information to legislators and administrators
- Identify members of both political parties in both chambers to approach about support
- Identify what is in it for them (whoever “them” is)
- Recognize and accept that many decisions about legislation are not made in committee meetings
- Don’t get greedy

“Lobbying”: What Can I Do?

- Communicate with legislators
 - Know what they have done even if it is unrelated
 - Thank them for their efforts
 - Be brief
 - Give them a concise handout
- Methods of communication
 - In-person
 - Telephone
 - E-mail
 - Letters

“Lobbying”: When should I do it?

- Meet with legislators when the General Assembly is not in session
 - One-on-one
 - In a group
 - With other groups
- Attend study committee meetings
- Provide information to study committees
- Testify at study committee meetings
- If the General Assembly is in session
 - Stick to the basics
 - Know the deadlines (e.g. deadline for a Senate Bill to have a third reading in the Senate)

Indiana Lobby Registration Commission

- <http://www.in.gov/ilrc/> or (317) 232-9860
- IC 2-7-1-10. "Lobbyist" means any person who:
 - Engages in lobbying; and
 - in any registration year, receives or expends an aggregate of five hundred dollars (\$500) in compensation or expenditures reportable under this article for lobbying, whether the compensation or expenditure is solely for lobbying or the lobbying is incidental to that individual's regular employment
 - In effect until November 1, 2010

Indiana Lobby Registration Commission

- IC 2-7-1-10. "Lobbyist" means any person who:
 - Engages in lobbying; and
 - in any registration year, receives or expends an aggregate of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) in compensation or expenditures reportable under this article for lobbying, whether the compensation or expenditure is solely for lobbying or the lobbying is incidental to that individual's regular employment
 - The following are not considered lobbyists:
 - A public employee or public official
 - The National Conference of State Legislatures
 - The National Conference of Insurance Legislators
 - The American Legislative Exchange Council
 - Women in Government
 - The Council of State Governments
 - The National Black Caucus of State Legislators
 - Any other national organization established for the education and support of legislative leadership, legislators, legislative staff, or related government employees
 - Effective November 1, 2010

Indiana Lobby Registration Commission

- Registration statements must be filed within 15 days of becoming a lobbyist or January 15th, whichever is later.
- Registrations expire on December 31st
- Registration fee is \$50 for non-profit organization lobbyists
- You can call to ask questions and there also is a formal process for getting advisory opinions



MIKE DOWNS CENTER FOR INDIANA POLITICS

Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics

2101 East Coliseum Blvd., CM Room 209

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

260.481.6691 voice

260.481.6895 fax

downsa@ipfw.edu

www.mikedownscenter.org