

BLACK FARMERS AND GROWERS LOBBY DAY VIRTUAL TRAINING

*Understanding the
Legislative Process and
Policy Issues*



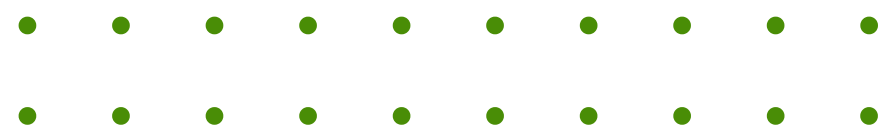
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Today kicks off our first virtual lobby day training session! We're gearing up to head to Springfield on April 3, 2024, for Lobby Day.

This event brings together farmers, growers, and partners statewide to advocate for policies that elevate BIPOC voices in food and farming. Together, we'll work with legislators to pass crucial measures for equity and inclusion.

Our focus is on understanding the legislative process and key policy issues. Let's empower ourselves with knowledge.

Thank you for joining us on this journey toward positive change. Together, we'll ensure our voices are heard.





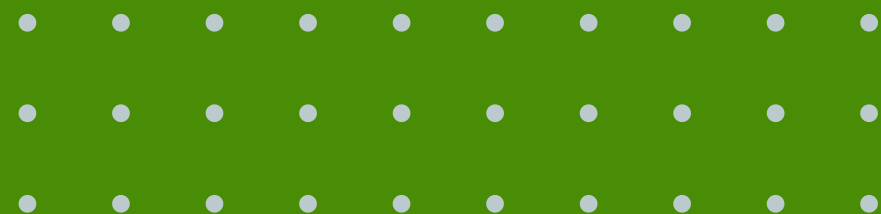
01. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**
We Thank You for Joining

02. **UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**
The Job of Making Laws & Passing a Bill

03. **POLICY ISSUES**
Refining the Agenda for Lobby Day Priorities

04. **ADJORNMENT**
Next Lobby Meeting Date & Topic

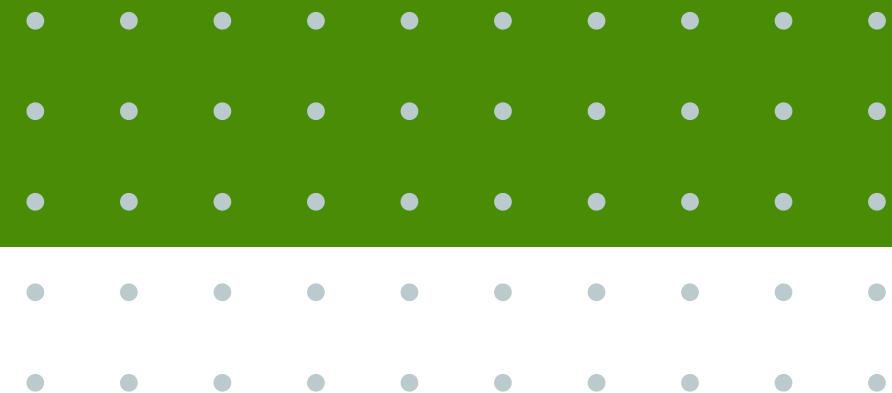
AGENDA



02.

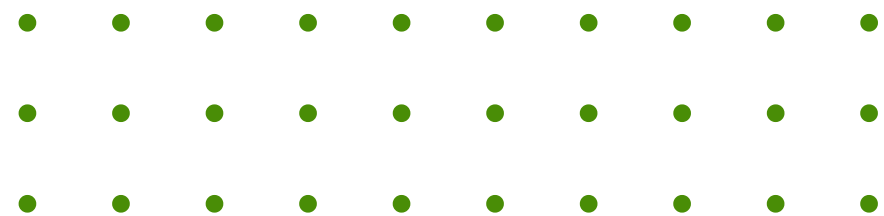
UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:

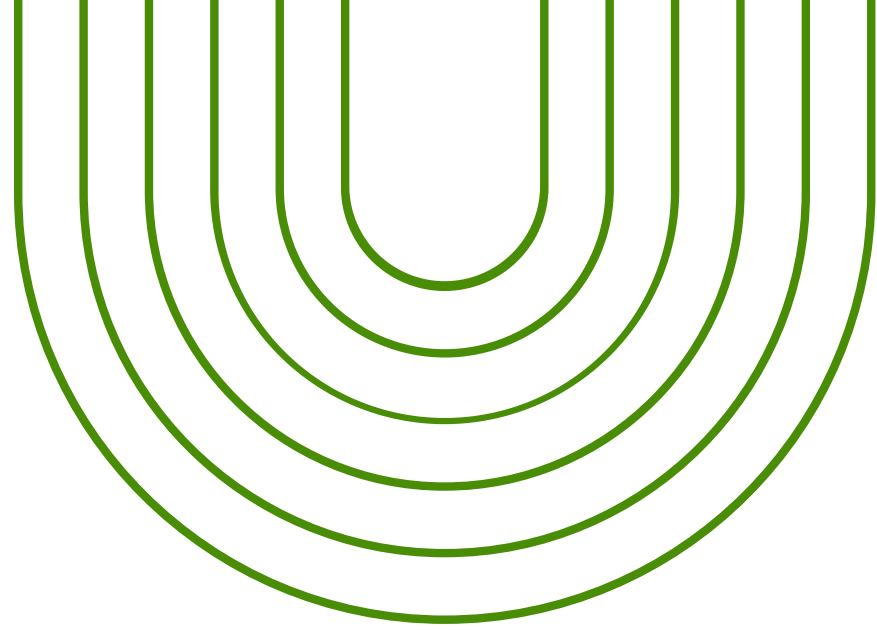
*The Job Of Law Making & Passing
of the Bill*



The Job of Making Laws

Everything the General Assembly does is influenced by rules and traditions that come from the Constitution (the set of laws that governs the country), as well as from the way lawmakers have been doing things for hundreds of years.



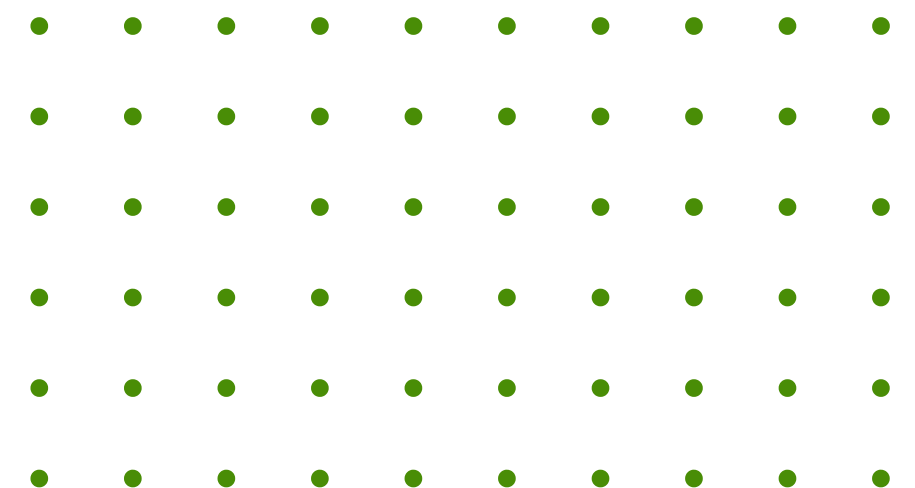


STATE & NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State legislatures, such as Illinois' General Assembly, have broad powers to create laws within their jurisdiction, although they are subject to limitations in the state and federal constitutions.

In the United States, both state and national governments have the authority to make and enforce laws within their respective territories.

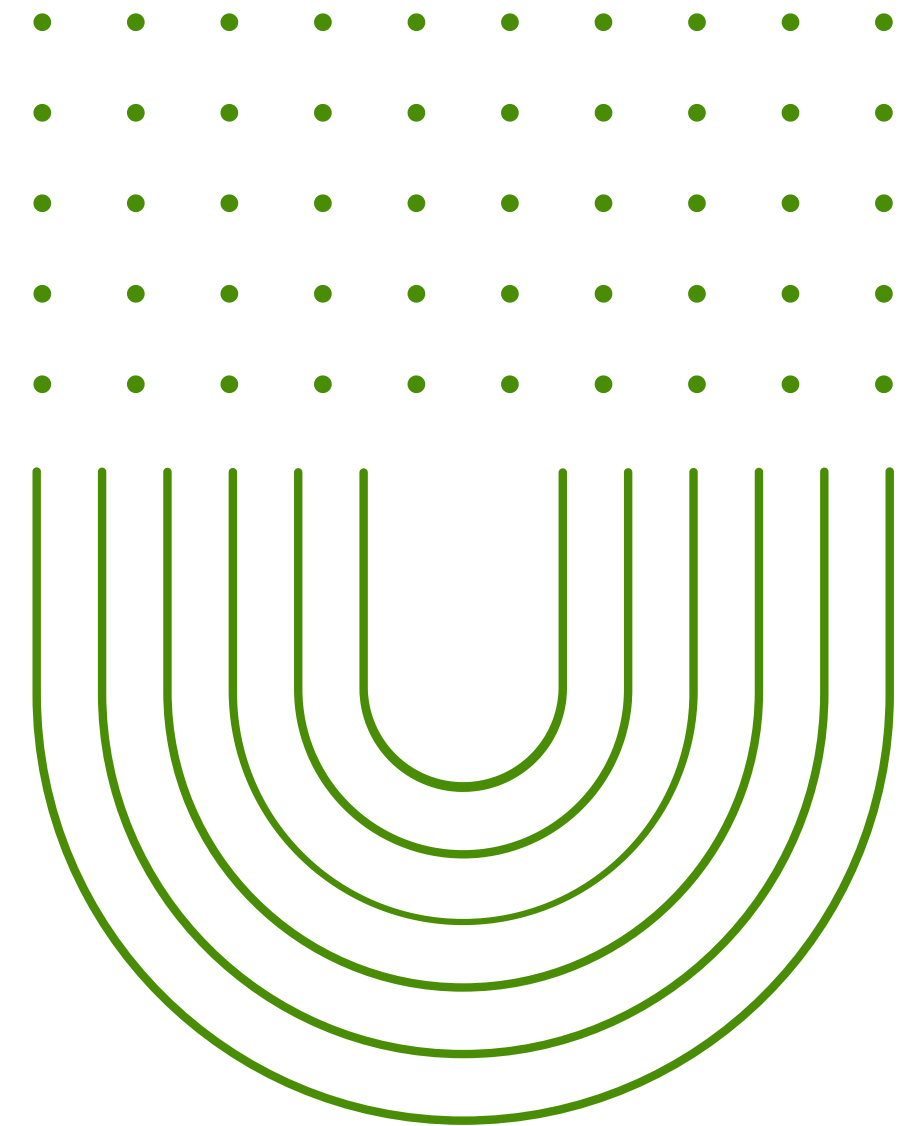


The Senate

- 59 members in the Senate
- Each Senate District elects 1 senator
- All Senate seats were up for election in 2022
- Senate seats are divided into three groups with senators serving different term lengths: two 4-year terms and one 2-year term over 10 years until the next redistricting

House of Representatives

- 118 members
- Every Representative District elects 1 representative
- All House seats are up for election every 2 years

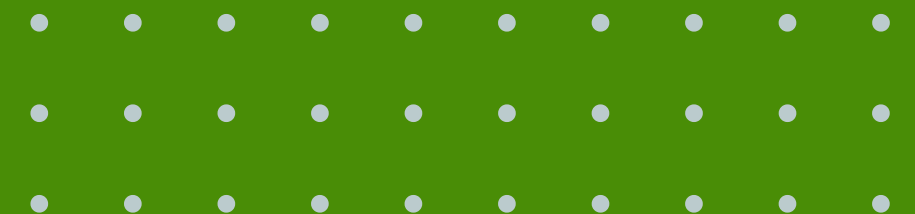


**LEGISLATIVE
STRUCTURE**



FOLLOW UP QUESTION

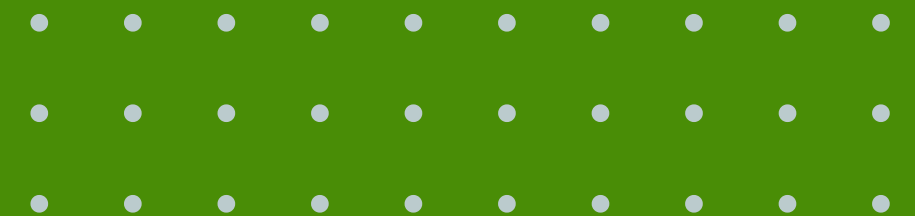
Why does the Illinois Senate have staggered terms for its members, unlike the House of Representatives where all seats are up for election every 2 years?





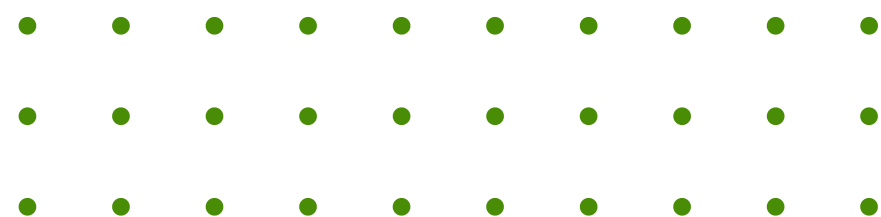
ANSWER

The staggered term system in the Illinois Senate **promotes stability and continuity** by electing senators at different times and for varying term lengths. This prevents sudden turnovers in leadership, maintains expertise, and allows for a smooth transition of power. It also ensures a balance between experienced members and new voices for innovative policymaking.



Passing A Bill

In the legislative process, there are mainly three types of documents used: motions, resolutions, and bills. Motions are used to manage how the legislative house operates internally. Resolutions are used to express opinions or accomplish tasks other than creating laws. **Bills are what legislators use to make laws.**



Substantive Bills

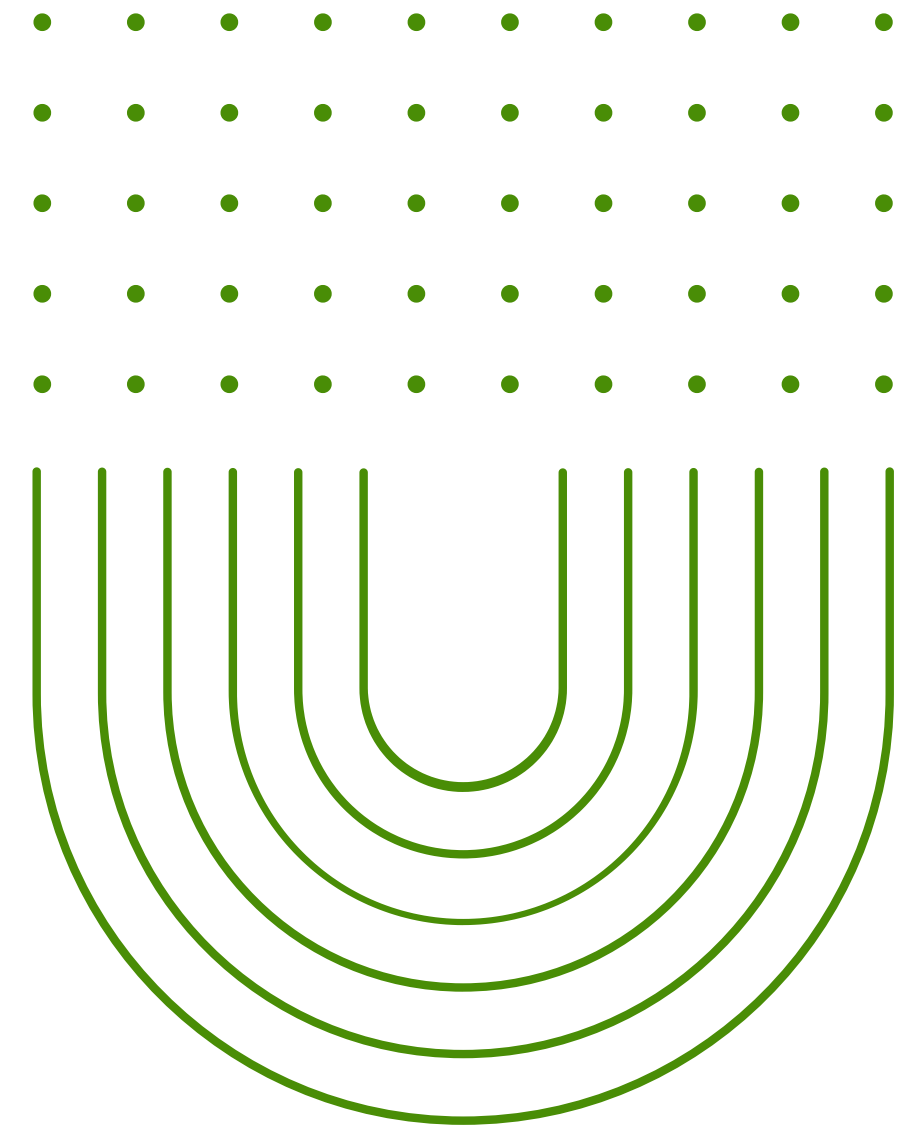
Suggest new laws or suggest changes to existing ones, altering the state's permanent body of laws.

Revisory Bills

Proposes non-substantial adjustments or corrects minor errors in current laws.

Appropriations Bills

Focuses solely on authorizing the spending of public funds by state agencies.

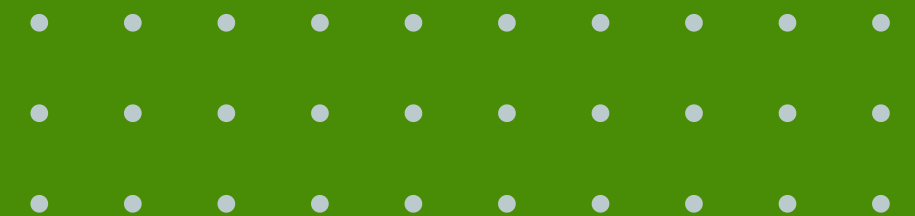


KINDS OF BILLS



FOLLOW UP QUESTION

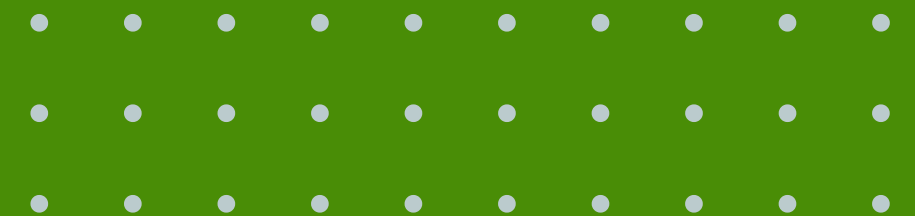
How do substantive bills differ from revisory bills in terms of their impact on the state's laws?





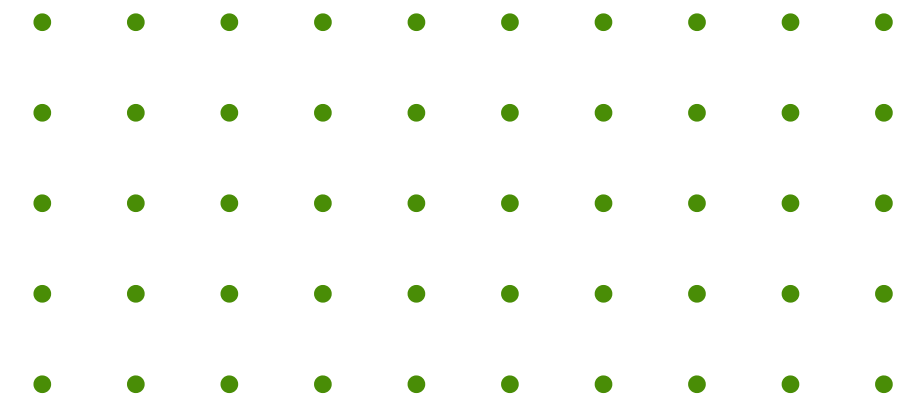
ANSWER

Substantive bills propose new laws or significant changes, shaping the legal framework, while revisory bills correct minor errors in existing laws to maintain clarity and consistency.



Introduction & Sponsor

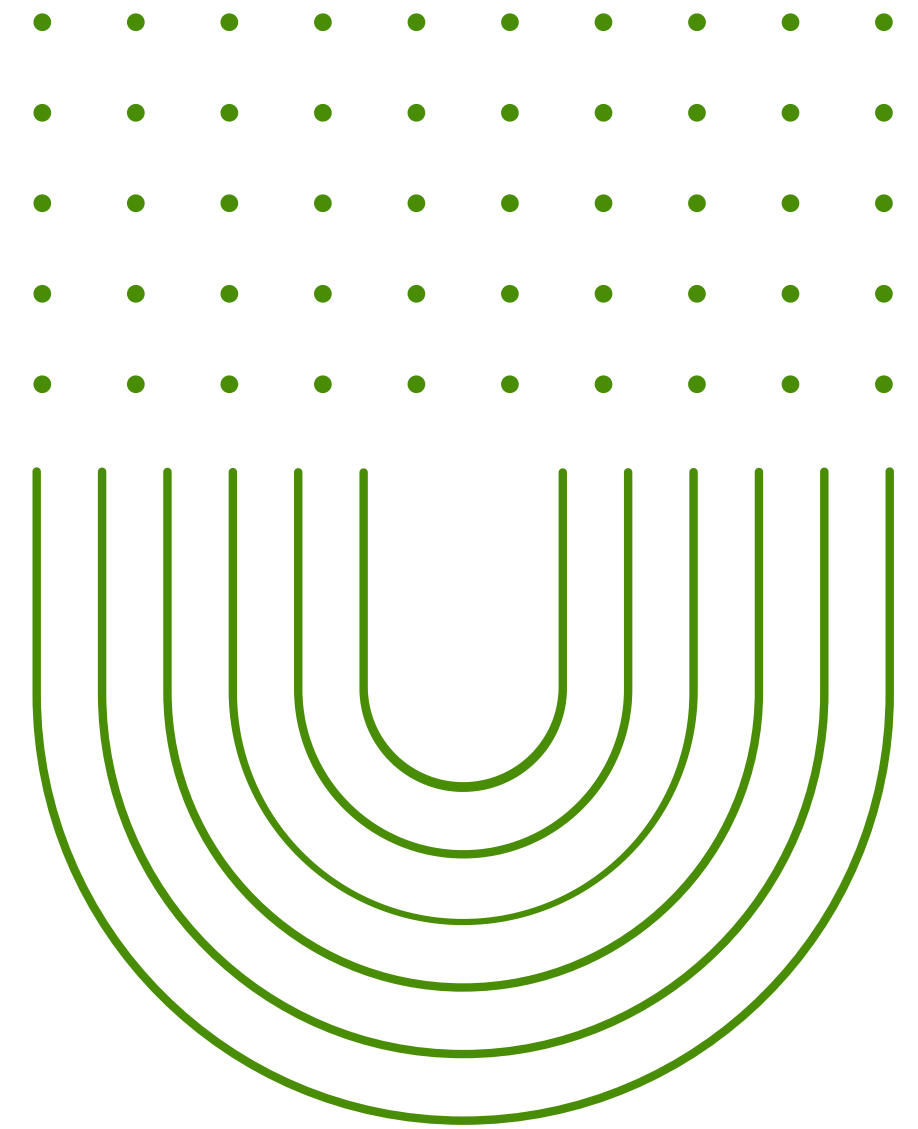
- In Illinois, a bill is introduced by a sponsoring member who collaborates with the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft it before submitting copies to the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate.
- On the day designated for First Readings, the Clerk or Secretary reads the bill's number, principal sponsor, and title aloud. The sponsor plays a crucial role in guiding the bill through the legislative process, arranging committee hearings, soliciting votes, and defending the bill against amendments.
- If the bill passes the first house, the sponsor may seek a sponsor in the second house. The bill then proceeds to committee review, where the committee chairperson oversees its consideration and manages the committee's work.



**INTRODUCTION,
SPONSOR, FIRST
READING**

Committees

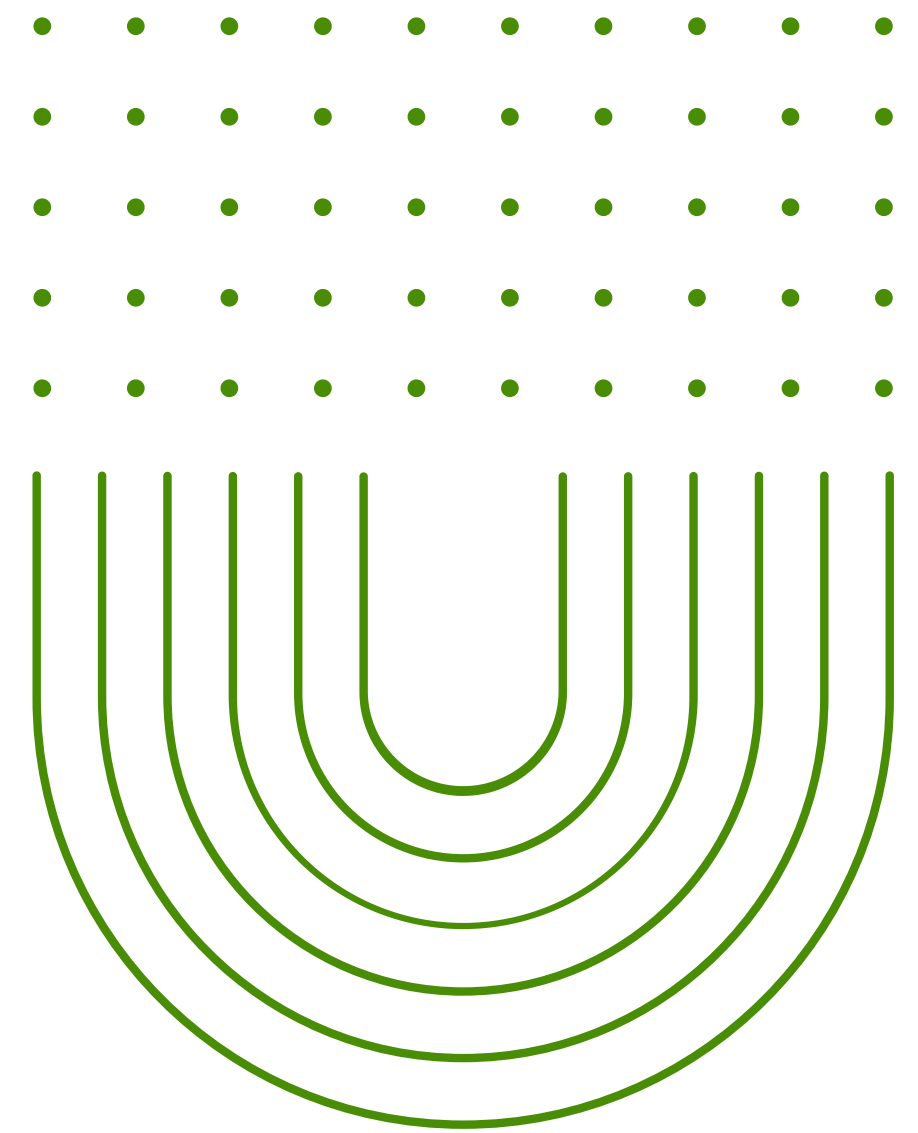
- Committees meet regularly, post meeting notices, and conduct hearings where bills are discussed and voted on.
- Committees may establish subcommittees to examine specific matters related to bills under consideration, with subcommittee recommendations reported back to the full committee for further action.



**INTRODUCTION,
SPONSOR, FIRST
READING**

Second Reading

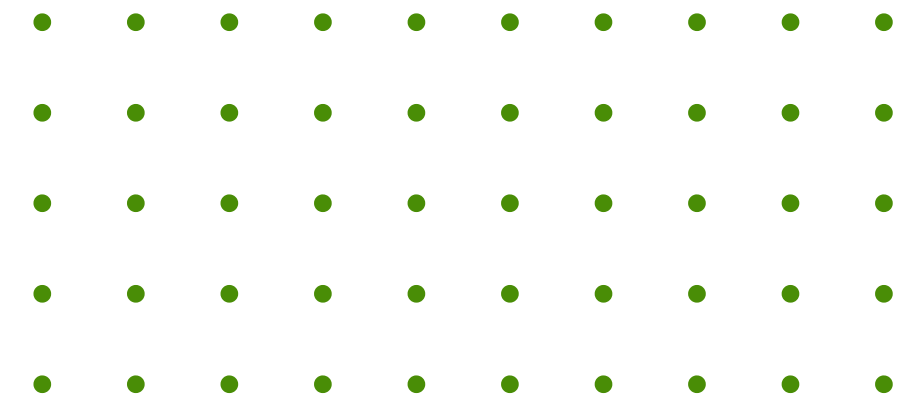
- Second Reading is an important stage, especially for contentious bills, as it sets the stage for debates on potential amendments and final passage.
- Amendments must be relevant to the bill's subject and are numbered in the order they are proposed.



**SECOND
READING**

Third Reading

- Third Reading is the final stage for a bill in each house of the Illinois General Assembly. Members present it and seek passage.
- To pass on the Third Reading, a bill needs the support of a "constitutional majority," which means a majority of the total number of elected members. Some bills require a three-fifths majority for certain effects, like enacting a law after May 31 or restricting home rule.

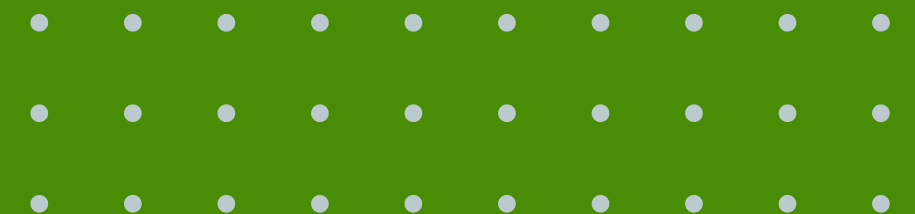


**THIRD
READING**



FOLLOW UP QUESTION

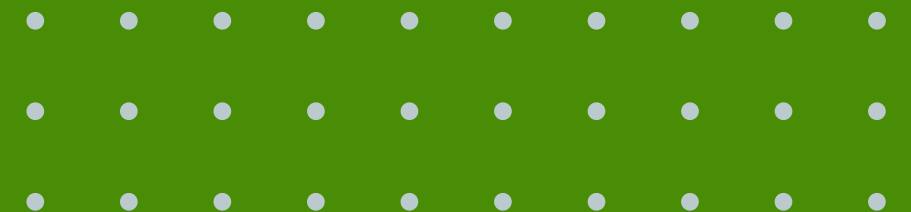
**What role do committees play in the legislative process
in the Illinois General Assembly?**



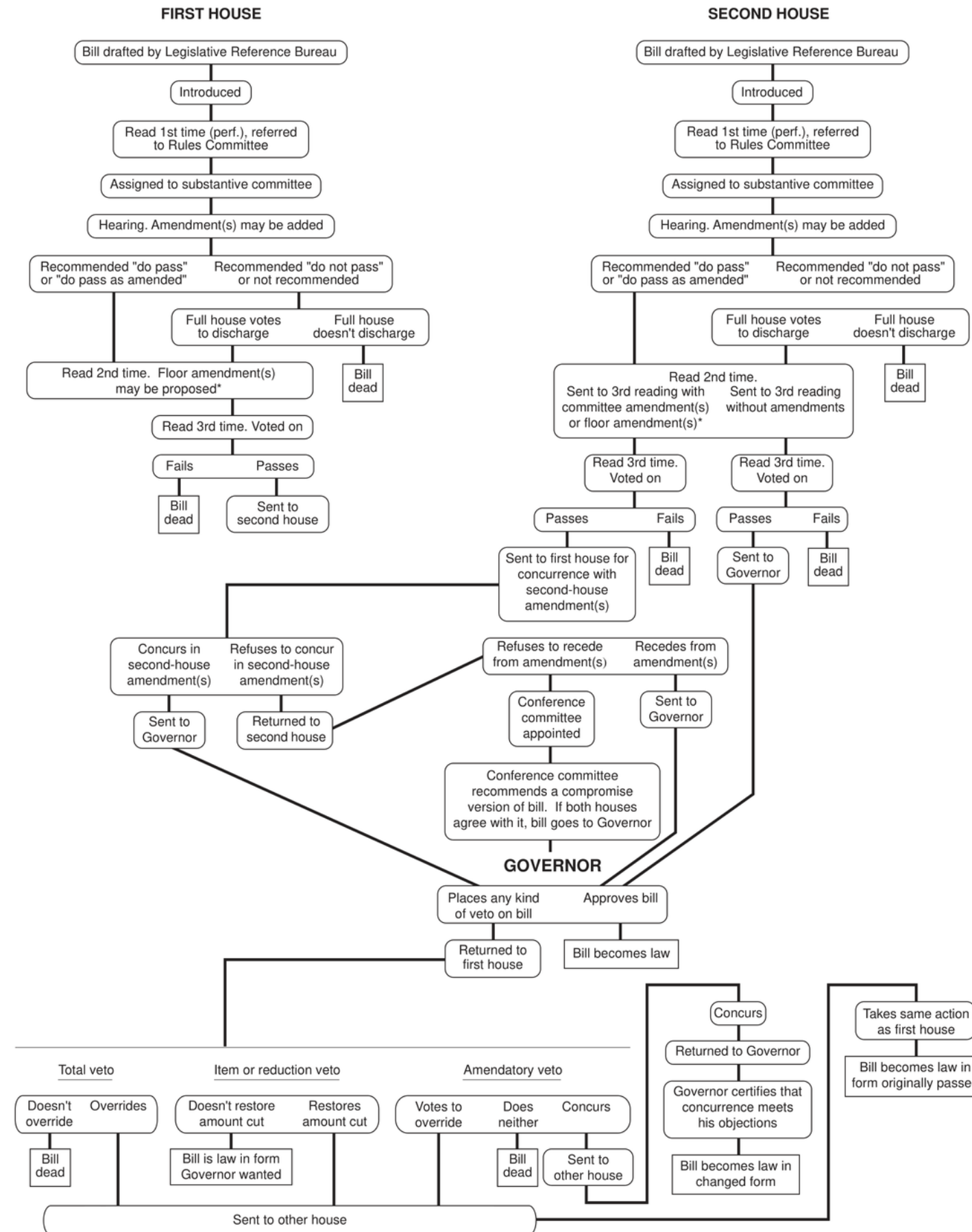


ANSWER

Committees play a crucial role in the legislative process in the Illinois General Assembly by reviewing bills, proposing amendments, and making recommendations to the full membership of each house.



How A Bill Becomes Law in Illinois



*Amendments proposed on the floor must go to the Rules Committee for approval before being considered.



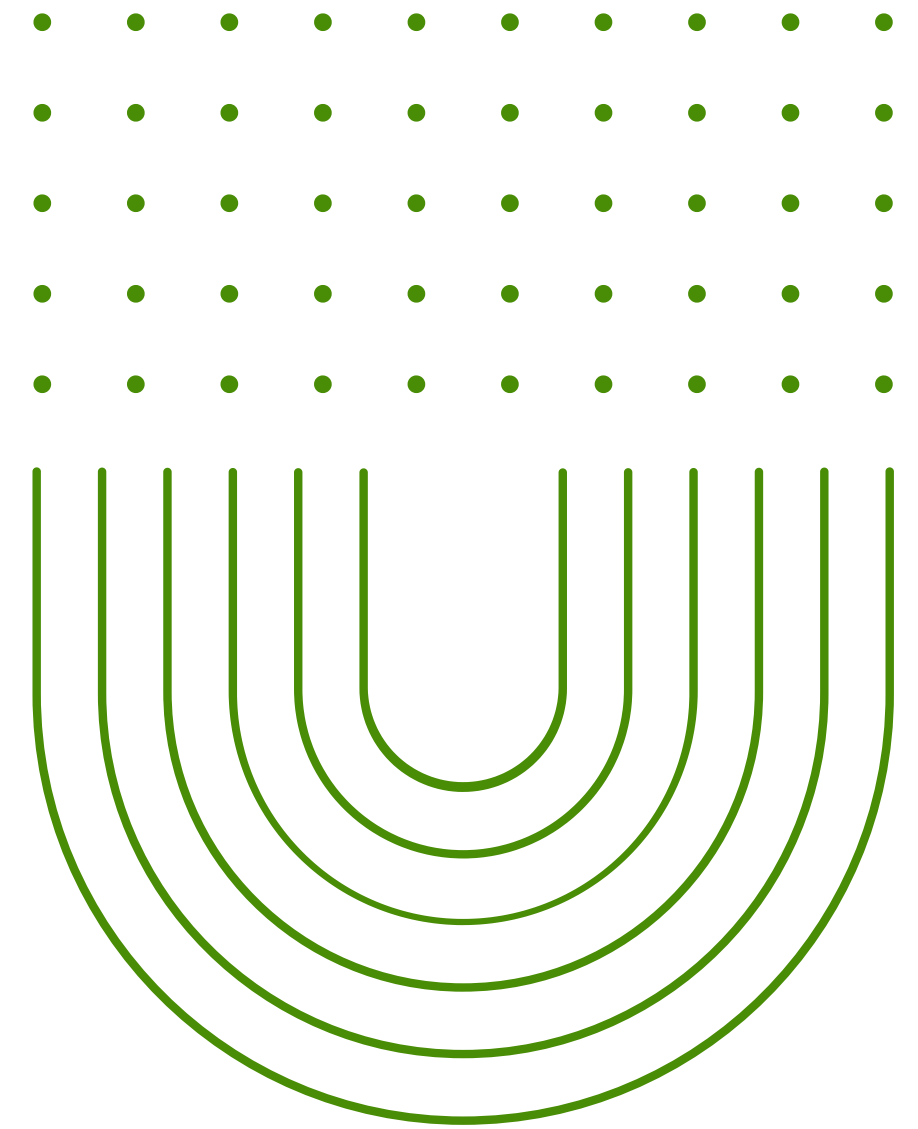
7 MINUTE BREAK

Grab a drink, check your emails, use the restroom, smile, and stretch!



Governor's Actions on Bills

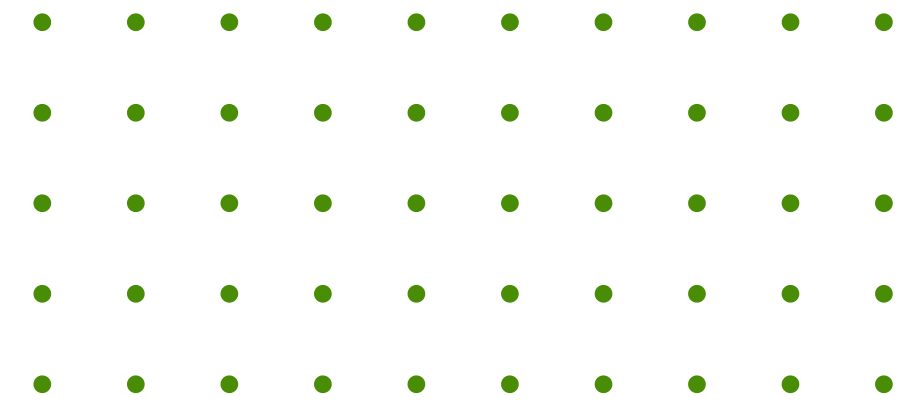
- Within 30 days of passing through the Illinois General Assembly, a bill must reach the Governor. If the Governor signs it, the bill becomes a Public Act. However, if the Governor doesn't approve the bill, it's sent back with objections to the originating house.
- If the Governor doesn't act on a bill within 60 days of receiving it, it automatically becomes law without the Governor's signature.



**GOVERNOR'S
ACTIONS ON
BILLS**

Governor's Actions on Bills

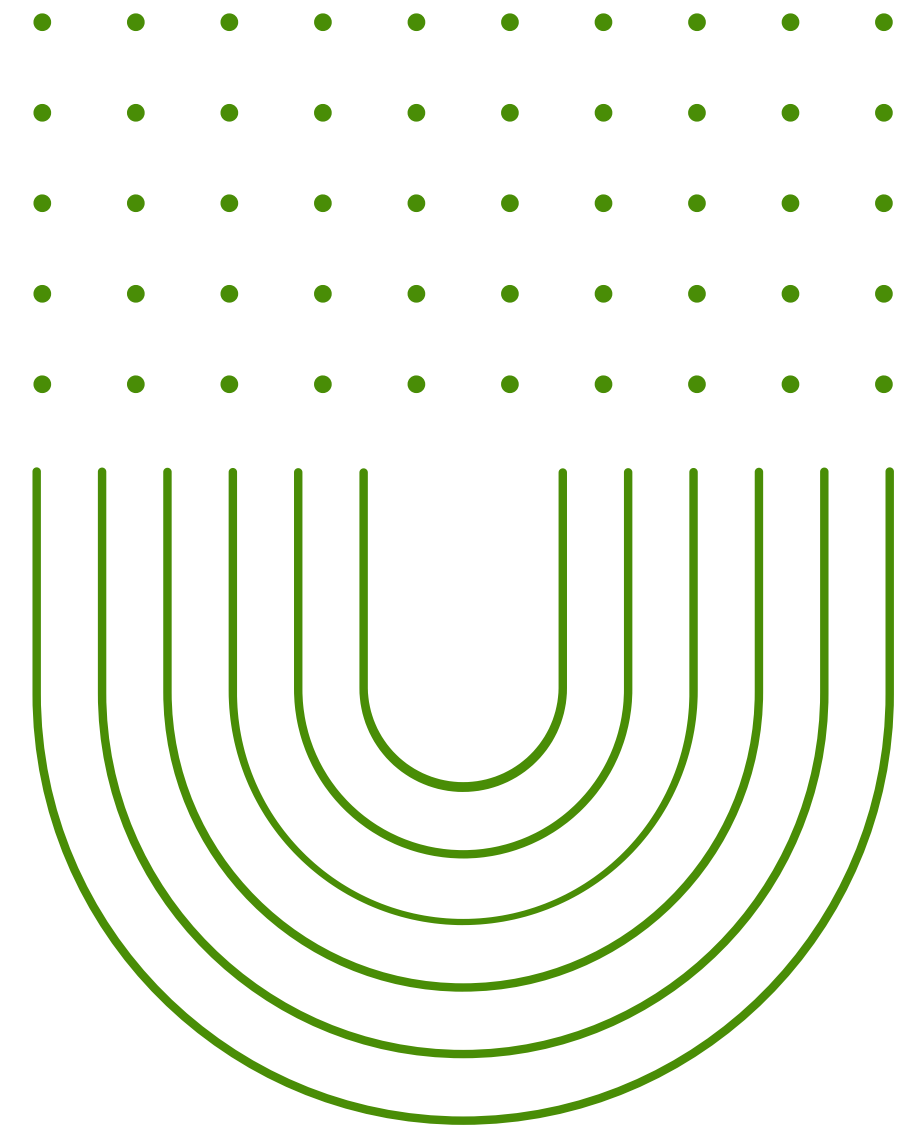
- The Governor has four types of vetoes: **total, amendatory, item, or reduction.**
- Total vetoes **reject an entire bill** and require a three-fifths majority in each house to override.
- Amendatory vetoes **allow the Governor to suggest changes**, which can be accepted with a simple majority in each house.
- Item and reduction vetoes **let the Governor cut parts of appropriation bills.** Restoring items requires a three-fifths majority, while reductions can be restored with a simple majority.



**GOVERNOR'S
ACTIONS ON
BILLS**

Governor's Actions on Bills

- The effective date of a law depends on various factors.
- Bills passed before May 31 without a specified date become effective on January 1 of the following year.
- If passed after May 31, the law goes into effect on June 1 of the next year unless stated otherwise and approved by three-fifths of each house.
- Lastly, a law's effective date cannot precede the day it becomes law, ensuring fairness and clarity in legal timelines.

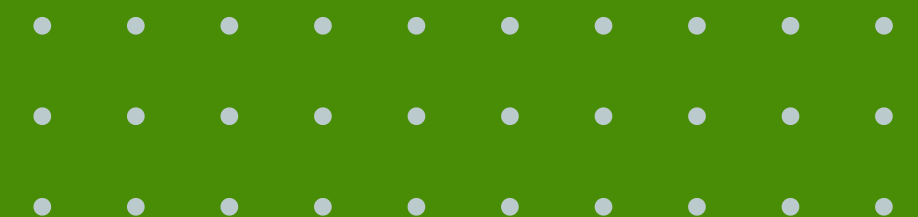


**GOVERNOR'S
ACTIONS ON
BILLS**



FOLLOW UP QUESTION

What are the four types of vetoes that the Governor of Illinois can use, and how does the process of vetoing a bill work in the state's legislative system?





ANSWER

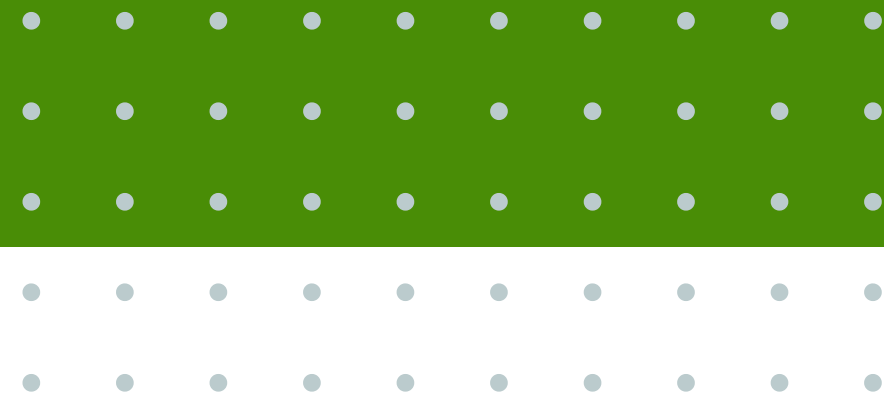
The four types of vetoes available to the Governor of Illinois are total, amendatory, item, and reduction vetoes. A total veto rejects an entire bill, requiring a three-fifths majority in each house of the General Assembly to override it. Amendatory vetoes allow the Governor to propose changes to a bill, which can be accepted by a simple majority in each house. Item and reduction vetoes enable the Governor to remove specific parts of appropriation bills. Restoring items cut by the Governor requires a three-fifths majority, while reductions can be restored with a simple majority. The process of vetoing a bill involves the Governor returning it with objections to the originating house if they don't approve it. If the General Assembly is not in session, the bill is reviewed when it reconvenes. If the Governor doesn't act on a bill within 60 days of receiving it, it automatically becomes law without the Governor's signature.



03.

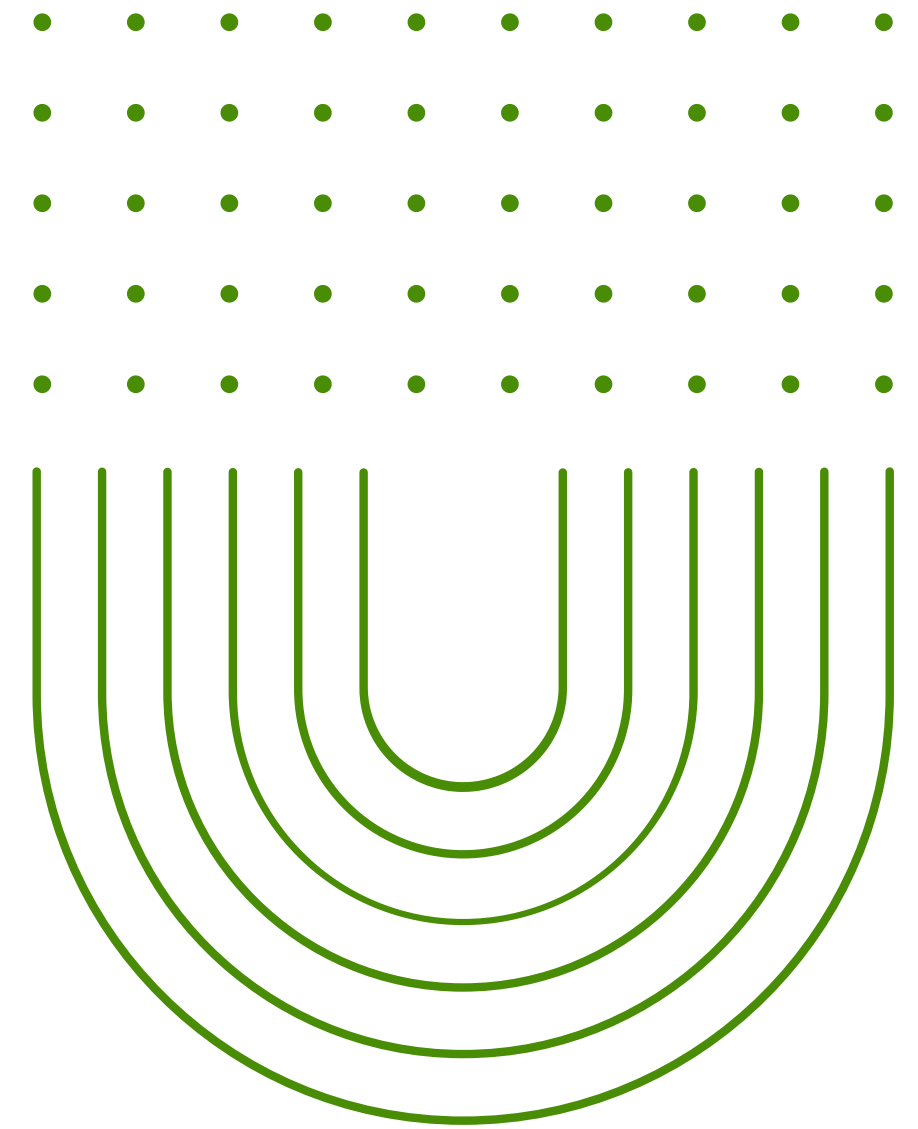
POLICY ISSUES

*Refining the Agenda for Lobby Day
Priorities*



Policy Issues

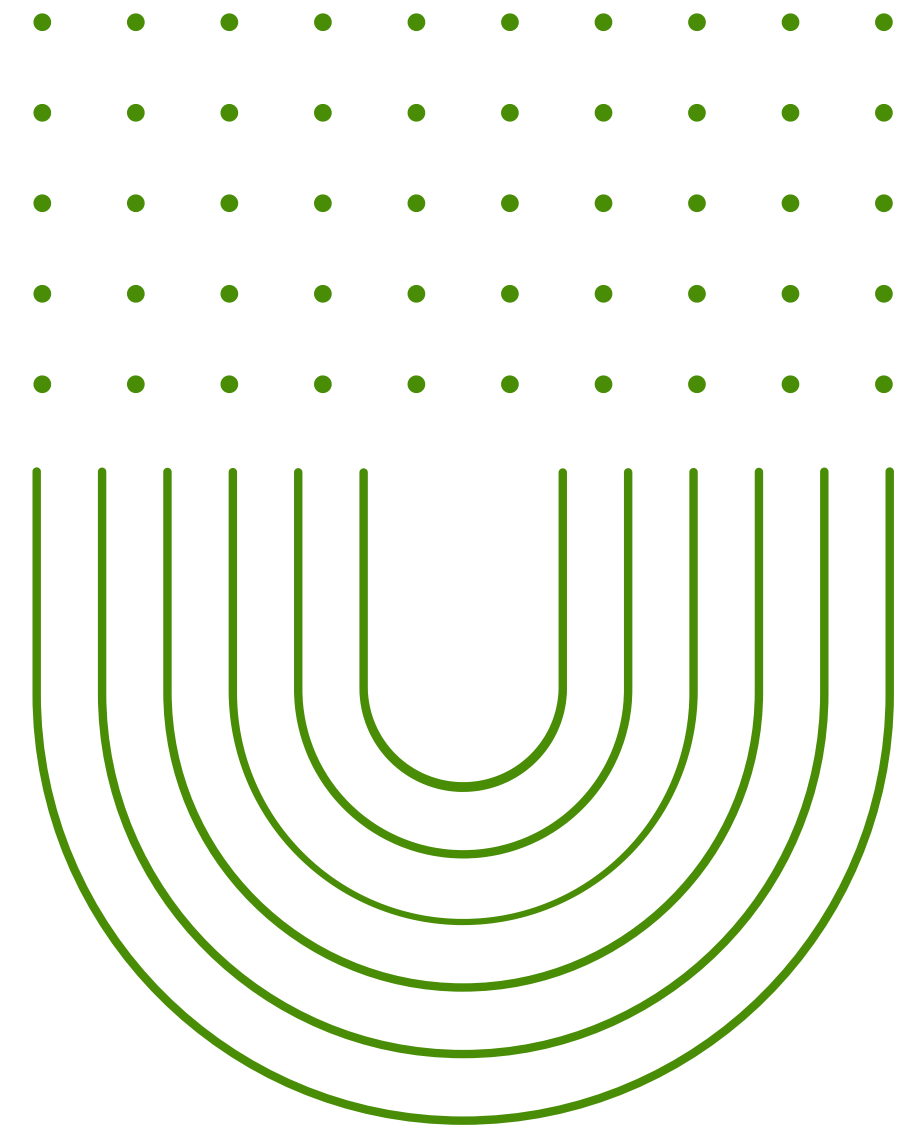
- Socially Disadvantage Farmer Grants HB2523
- Distressed Farmers Act HB4857
- Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program
- The Good Food Purchasing Program
- Agriculture Training Facility Funding



**POLICY
ISSUES**

Policy Issues

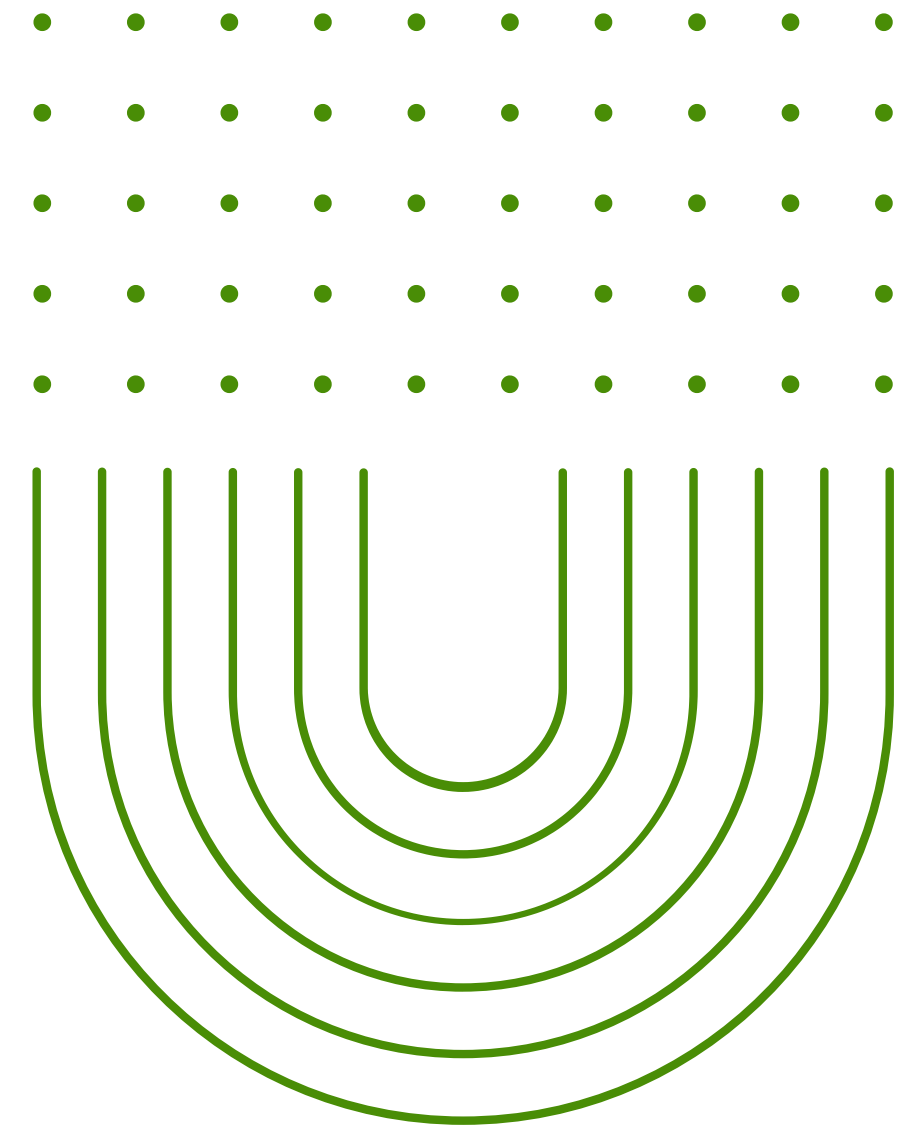
- **Socially Disadvantage Farmer Grants**
HB2523
 - Appropriates \$ 5,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture to make grants to socially disadvantaged farmers to provide funding for startup capital and for costs associated with farming operations and equipment. Effective July 1, 2023. **(Appropriations Bill)**
- **Distressed Farmers Act** HB4857
 - The Distressed Farmers Act is a law created to help struggling farmers in Illinois. It establishes programs funded by the Department of Agriculture to assist distressed farmers. It also offers a tax credit to these farmers for certain expenses related to farming activities. This tax credit covers expenses such as repairing vehicles, buying or fixing greenhouses, purchasing specialized equipment like tractors, and growing food for underserved communities. The tax credit allows distressed farmers to claim 100% of these expenses, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per taxpayer each year, starting from January 1, 2025. **(Substantive Bill)**



**POLICY
ISSUES**

Policy Issues

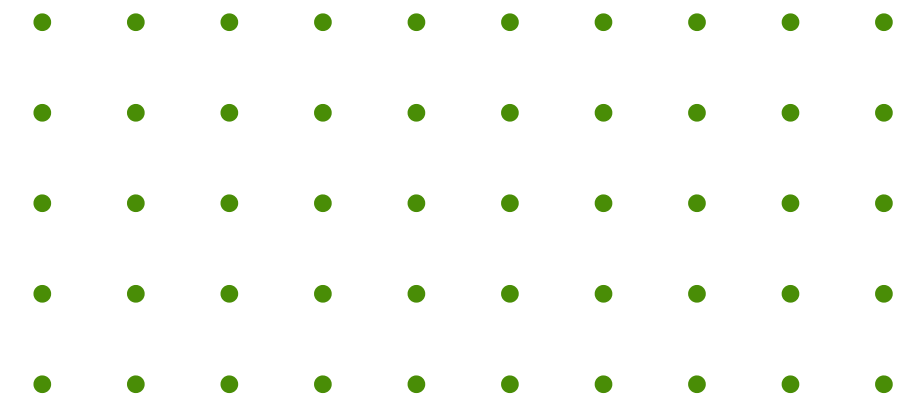
- Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program
 - The new Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program, funded by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, will invest in critical infrastructure to scale up the processing, aggregation, and distribution of local food to meet the needs of Illinois communities.
 - Farms, businesses, institutions, cooperatives, local governments, nonprofits, and other entities working with local food will have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 for infrastructure.
 - Funding can support value-added processing, livestock processing, milling, dairy, trucking, food hubs, community kitchens, and other critical pieces of local food supply chains.
 - Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee of local agriculture and food specialists. A minimum of 12 grants will be awarded, though more are possible.
(Appropriations Bill)



**POLICY
ISSUES**

Policy Issues

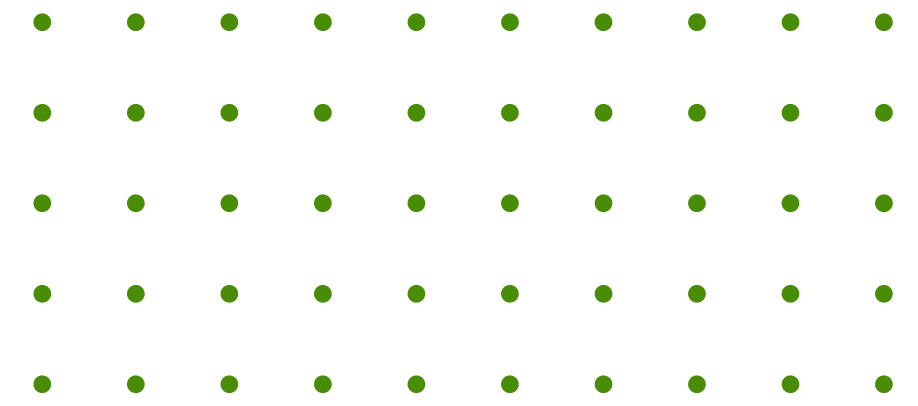
- The Good Food Purchasing Program
 - The State of Illinois will help support a regional food system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and racially and socially equitable and has an impact on the availability of local, sustainable food. All participants in the GFPP food supply chain receive fair compensation and fair treatment and are free from exploitation.
 - Create the Illinois Good Food Purchasing Task Force
 - Study the current procurement of food within the State
 - Explore how Good Food Purchasing can be implemented to maximize the procurement of healthy food (**Substantive Bill**)



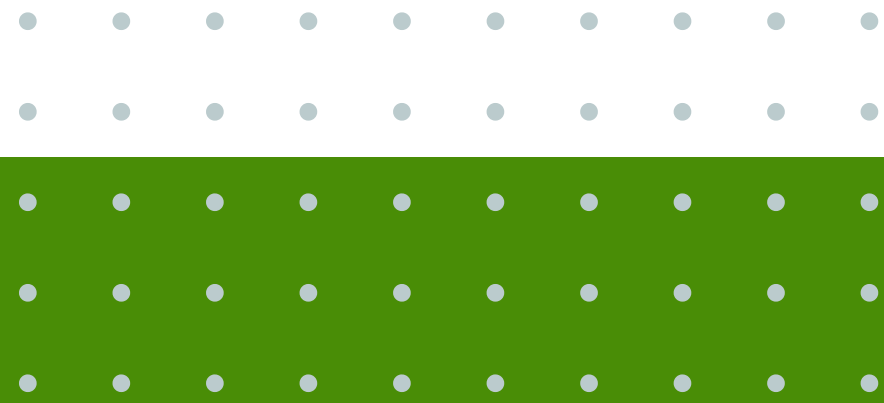
**POLICY
ISSUES**

Policy Issues

- Agriculture Training Facility (Bill Idea)
 - Allocates funds for agriculture training facilities in Illinois overseen by the Department of Agriculture.
 - Focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - Offers comprehensive job training for diverse communities in farming techniques, crop management, and sustainable practices.
 - Engages in youth development through mentorship and workshops.
 - Prioritizes agriculture development for innovation and sustainability, including research and demonstration projects.
 - Ensures equal access and inclusive hiring practices.
 - Aims to use agriculture as a catalyst for positive social change, fostering job creation, youth empowerment, and innovation in Illinois. (**Appropriations Bill**)



**POLICY
ISSUES**



THANK YOU

Have any question?

(773) 925-6580

repsonyaharper@gmail.com

jemia.repsonyaharper@gmail.com

Next Lobby Day Training: February 27th at 2 PM on Zoom
Topic: Effective Communications Strategies