

## Definitions: Just What are They Talking About at the State Capital?

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Amendment</b>           | Changes to a bill, usually to make more clear and/or less controversial by adding, changing, or deleting certain content. Amended bills are assigned a letter following the bill number for each new version of the bill (A, B, C, etc.).   |
| <b>Bill</b>                | A legal proposal that has been introduced by a sponsor and assigned a unique number (sequentially in order of introduction, generally up to 5 digits within a two-year session). The proposal would create, change, or negate one or more laws.                                       |
| <b>Bill draft</b>          | A proposal that has been drafted but not yet introduced.  |
| <b>Calendar</b>            | The schedule of bills to be considered for a vote by the full house on a particular date. A bill brought to the full floor for a vote is said to be "on calendar."  |
| <b>Caucus</b>              | Select members of both houses joining to discuss views.   |
| <b>Conference</b>          | Meeting of the members of one political party in either house.  |
| <b>Chapter</b>             | The status of a bill as designated by a unique number (sequentially in order of enactment) once the Governor signs (enacts) legislation into law. Ex. NYSNA's "title protection bill," formerly A5816-A/S6326-A, is now recognized as Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2006.                |
| <b>Deliverable</b>         | Potential or actual success in achieving a goal sought (ex. introduction or passage of legislation, procurement of funding, etc.).  |
| <b>Departmental Bill</b>   | Legislation introduced at the request of a state agency.  |
| <b>Died in Committee</b>   | The status of a bill when it fails to "advance," that is to be forwarded out of a committee, by the end of the two-year legislative cycle. It is null and must be re-introduced in a subsequent session (under a new bill number).  |
| <b>Floor, Full Floor</b>   | A session (meeting) of all members of one house of the legislature. Because so few of all of the bills introduced in a session make it this far, the outcome of bills actually brought to the floor for a vote is generally anticipated in advance.                                   |
| <b>Home Rule Bills</b>     | Legislation that requires authorization by local governments prior to enactment.  |
| <b>Home Rule Message</b>   | Authorization by local government to enact a state-level bill.  |
| <b>House</b>               | One of two bodies of state legislators: the Assembly or the Senate.   |
| <b>One House Bill</b>      | Legislation that has been introduced in only one house and does not have a sponsor in the other house.  |
| <b>Legislation</b>         | One or more legal proposals that, if enacted, would create, change or negate one or more laws. Also referred to as a bill or bills.   |
| <b>Legislative Session</b> | A two-year period January (odd-years) through December (even-years), in sync with the electoral cycle, during which a body of legislation is considered by the legislature. Also refers to the period when legislators are "in session" in Albany, January through June of each year. |
| <b>Legislature</b>         | Both bodies of state legislators; the legislative system  |
| <b>Lobby Day</b>           | A special day when a group brings members to Albany to meet with elected officials to discuss issues and concerns.  |
| <b>Lobbying</b>            | Educating policy makers about problems, situations or service gaps and offering legislative solutions to address the issue.   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Lobbyist</b>                          | A person who monitors the legislature and advocates for the interests of a specific cause or group.   |
| <b>LULU</b>                              | A lump sum bonus paid to legislators for extra work such as committee chairs or leadership posts.   |
| <b>Majority Member</b>                   | A member of the majority political party in a house.  |
| <b>Marginal Member</b>                   | A legislator who won election or re-election by a small number of votes or whose district enrollment favors the opposite party and is therefore considered vulnerable to electoral defeat.  |
| <b>Member Item</b>                       | A budget appropriation sponsored by a legislator for the benefit of their constituents.   |
| <b>Message of Necessity</b>              | The Governor can issue a message of necessity for vital legislation negating the rule that a bill wait three days before it may be voted on.  |
| <b>Minority Member</b>                   | A member of the minority political party in the house.  |
| <b>Pocket Veto</b>                       | The rare expiration of a bill passed by both houses without action (enactment or veto) by the governor.   |
| <b>Political Action Committees (PAC)</b> | A group that endorses and/or donates money to support candidates.   |
| <b>Program Bill</b>                      | Legislation proposed by the Governor's office.  |
| <b>Ranking Member</b>                    | The legislator representing the minority party on each committee.   |
| <b>Recess</b>                            | A period during which the legislature is not in session in Albany, whether for holidays or vacations, or from July through the end of the year.   |
| <b>Referred by Committee</b>             | The favorable vote by a standing committee that forwards a bill to the next committee that must review or to the floor to be put on calendar.   |
| <b>Returned to Committee</b>             | The return of a bill to a committee for review due to an amendment or due to passage in the complimentary house.  |
| <b>Second Floor</b>                      | The Governor's office (Executive Chamber).  |
| <b>Session Day</b>                       | A day (usually Monday through Wednesday from January to June) when representatives are in Albany conducting the people's business.  |
| <b>Sponsor</b>                           | The legislator who has introduced a specific piece of legislation. In some cases, the sponsor may be a legislative standing committee.  |
| <b>Co-Sponsor(s)</b>                     | One or more legislators, besides the primary sponsor, who have "signed on" as sponsors, in support of the bill.   |
| <b>Multi-Sponsor(s)</b>                  | One or more legislators, besides the primary sponsor, who have "signed on" as sponsors, in support of the bill. Fundamentally the same as co-sponsors, multi-sponsors are generally so-designated for signing on significantly later (in relation to the bill's introduction date). |
| <b>Sponsor's Memo</b>                    | A memorandum by the sponsor that accompanies bill introduction and offers a basic explanation of and rationale for a bill.  |
| <b>Starring a Bill</b>                   | Action by the Senate Majority Leader to prevent action on a bill.   |
| <b>Third Reading</b>                     | The calendar status of a bill that has been "aged" (three days) and can be voted on. A calendar number is assigned to maintain the bill's place on the legislative calendar.  |
| <b>Veto</b>                              | Action by the Governor rejecting legislation that has passed both houses.   |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Veto Message</b>  | The Governor's memorandum explaining the rationale for vetoing a bill. While not required to issue a memorandum on each bill enacted, the Governor is required to issue a memorandum for each bill vetoed (except in the case of a pocket veto). |
| <b>Veto Override</b> | Action in the legislature to reconsider a bill that was vetoed by the Governor. Overriding the Governor's veto requires support by at least two-thirds of the members of each house.   |