

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

<b>Amendment</b>	Changes to a bill, usually to make clearer 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>Companion Bill</b>	A bill that has been introduced in both houses of the legislature with the same text (but distinct identifiers), since bills must pass both houses before submission to the Governor; ex. the “Title Protection” bill of 2006 was A5816-A/S6326-A.
<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>Memorandum of Support, Opposition, or Concern (MOS, MOO, or MOC)</b>	A document that outlines an organization's rationale for support of, opposition to, or concern about a bill, and requests action (support, oppose, or amend the bill). Such a memo may be forwarded to legislators considering a bill, e.g. to committee members when the bill is on their agenda.
<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 or Prime 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.