

How proposed IMRF legislation becomes law

Just because legislation has been proposed to the General Assembly does not mean that it will automatically become law. Getting a bill passed can be a long process that depends on the passage of many individual steps.

The graphic below explains the steps that a bill must go through to become law. It's important to know that **all of these steps must occur before a bill becomes law, but none of them are mandatory once the process begins.** The process could end at any stage, at which point the bill is considered effectively dead. In fact, this is what happens to most bills. Of the eight- to ten- thousand bills that are introduced during each General Assembly, only about 10% make it through all of the stages and become law.

How does the Illinois legislature work?

The General Assembly, or the legislature, is made up of two chambers: the House of Representatives, commonly known as the House, and the Senate. The term "General Assembly" is also used to refer to the session in which the legislature

is operating. Each session spans two years, starting in odd years. Each General Assembly is numbered sequentially, beginning when the legislature first met after Illinois became a state in 1818. Bills introduced at any point during a General Assembly are technically active during the entire General Assembly, although only very rarely are bills introduced in the first year but passed during the second year. Bills cannot, however, move between General Assemblies.

If a bill does not pass out of the legislature during one General Assembly, it must be re-introduced (and is assigned a new bill number) in order to start the process again in the new General Assembly. This is not generally an issue and bills are often introduced in numerous General Assemblies until they are finally passed.

Show your support

Contact your legislator to make your opinion known regarding IMRF or other legislation.

Don't know who your legislators are? If you have internet access, visit the Illinois General Assembly website at www.ilga.gov and click the link called "Legislator Lookup." You will be prompted to enter your street address and zip code to be provided with a listing of your legislators' names and mailing addresses. In some cases, an email address link is provided.

You can also view each IMRF bill sponsor from the Legislative area of our website at www.imrf.org.

If you do not have internet access, call the Illinois General Assembly at 1-800-252-6300 to learn your legislators' names and addresses. You will be asked for your district number, which is listed on your voter registration card. You can also call your local library's reference desk.

How pension legislation becomes law

