**State Legislature**

The Florida Legislature is a bi-cameral legislature that is comprised of the [Senate](https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators) and [House of Representatives](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/), where members are elected across the state to represent their district. The Senate President and Speaker of the House are constitutional officers, elected by the members of their chamber, to lead their respective chambers for a two-year term. They both have many responsibilities such as presiding over session, managing operations, and the appointment of members to their standing committees and the selection for the Chairs of each committee. Committee Chairs have an important role in the legislative process as they help determine what legislation may be considered.

The Legislature will meet in session every year for sixty consecutive days. A regular session will normally convene in March of each odd-numbered year and in January of each even-numbered year. The Legislature may be convened other ways, like a special session that can be called by the Governor or by a joint proclamation from the Senate President and Speaker of the House.

**Committees**

The House and Senate will form committees that meet to do the fact-finding groundwork of a bill that is being introduced to the legislature. Committees are selected with a responsibility over a general field of legislative activity to allow a smaller group of members to address policy issues with a closer study of a bill thoroughly and efficiently. The committee will hear bill in their related field during meetings that will allow the committee to hear from the bill sponsor, other legislators who favor or oppose the bill, and allow the public a chance to give voice their expertise and opinion.

A bill will be referred to one or more committees where they may be taken up to discuss, amend, debate, and vote on the proposed legislation in each stop. Once the bill moves through all referenced committees, it can be heard by the full body chamber. A bill will reach final passage when the bill passes out of both the House and Senate chambers favorably. The bill will then become law, unless prevented by the Governor’s veto power.