



Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

Represents the
108th Assembly District,
which includes portions of
Albany, Rensselaer, and
Saratoga Counties

Room 625
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4474
mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov

How does a bill become a law?

A bill (a written idea for a new law or a change to an existing law) goes through a long process with many people involved before it can be officially signed into law.

Introduction

An Assemblymember must sponsor a bill: writing its first draft and introducing it for consideration. A bill has a stronger chance of moving forward if it has co-sponsors, which are other Assemblymembers who sign on to the bill to show their support.

Voting

- The bill is then referred to a committee (a group of Assemblymembers who focus on specific issues) based on the area of society it would impact. Committees then discuss the bill and vote to send it to the floor for a full vote or to a different committee.
- If a bill passes through the committee process, with multiple committees sometimes voting on it, the legislation is eligible to be voted on by the entire Assembly. If the bill fails to pass, it has "died in committee," and the Assemblymember must wait for another opportunity to bring their bill before a committee.
- During the legislative session (from January to June when the Assembly convenes in the New York State Capitol in Albany), all 150 members debate and vote on bills brought to the floor.
- If a bill fails to pass on the Assembly floor, it is returned to the committee. If a bill passes the Assembly, it is sent on to the Senate, where it goes through a similar process.

Becoming Law

- If it passes in both houses of the State Legislature, it is delivered to the governor, who must decide whether to sign it into law or veto it.
 - » The governor can sign a bill or veto it. If the governor vetoes a bill, it can still become a law if a two-thirds majority of both houses vote in favor of the bill. This is known as an override.
- If the governor signs the bill, the legislation becomes law.



Did you know:

Thousands of bills are introduced every year in the State Legislature.



Introduced



In Committee
Assembly and Senate



On Floor Calendar
Assembly and Senate



Passed Both
Assembly and
Senate



Delivered to Governor



Signed by Governor

Learn how a bill becomes a law in New York State

"As your Assemblymember, one of my jobs is to pass laws that help our community. Inside, I'll share that process and let you know some things I'm working on."



Your New York State Legislature

In New York State, there are three branches of government: the legislative branch, comprised of the Senate and Assembly; the executive branch, headed by the governor; and the judicial branch, comprised of the courts.

The Assembly, with its 150 members, and the Senate, with its 63 members, make up the New York State Legislature. Members of both houses are elected every two years.

In the Assembly, the member presiding over the legislative session is known as the Speaker, who is elected for a two-year term by their colleagues. In the Senate, the lieutenant governor presides, but the Senate Majority Leader is the person whose work most closely parallels that of the Speaker of the Assembly. Both the Assembly Speaker and the Senate Majority Leader have the power to create committees while the majority and minority leaders have the power to appoint legislators to serve on those committees.



Each legislative session begins on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of the new year. Legislators conduct session in Albany until their business has concluded for that year. While the session ends in June, legislators can be called back to Albany for special legislative sessions, formal meetings, committee work or public hearings.

Assemblymember John T. McDonald III is delivering real results for the Capital Region

Assemblymember McDonald is working hard to pass legislation that helps our families thrive, supports small businesses and moves our community forward. The following are some of John's bills from the 2025 session that have been signed into law:

- **A.29** - Designates NY as a Purple Heart State.
- **A.2340** - Prohibits the sale of Kratom to anyone under the age of 21.
- **A.2296** - Provides for a rebuttable presumption for MWBE recertification.

Understanding the Committee System

Committees are an essential part of the state Legislature, and both houses use the committee system to accomplish work. You can think of the committee system as a screening process during which smaller groups of legislators closely scrutinize bills. The committees analyze the merits of the legislation, hold hearings for public input and vote on whether it should be advanced for a vote on the Assembly floor.

Within the committees are subcommittees, which are established to study specific aspects of larger issues being reviewed by the full committee.

Bills are assigned to committees based on the subject they address. For example, a bill that affects senior citizens would be sent to the Aging Committee, while a bill affecting consumers would go to the Consumer Affairs and Protection Committee.

Each member of the Assembly is appointed to serve on three to five committees, which meet regularly to discuss the bills referred to them. Meetings are broadcast for public viewing. Visit nyassembly.gov/av to

watch a livestream of proceedings or search and view archived footage.

To find out when a particular committee will meet, what's on its agenda or when the Legislature is in session, call the Assembly's Public Information Office at 518-455-4218 or connect online at nyassembly.gov/PIO.



Committees Assemblymember John T. McDonald III serves on

Assemblymember McDonald is appointed to serve on multiple committees that debate proposed legislation on specific issues or concerns in our communities. Ideas for legislation come from many sources, not just from government agencies or officials. In fact, if you have an idea for a law, you can call Assemblymember McDonald and discuss it with them.

- Chair of Governmental Operations
- Committee on Health
- Committee on Higher Education
- Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Committee on Ways and Means

John T. McDonald III Member of the Assembly • If you have questions or concerns about this or any other legislative matter, please don't hesitate to contact my office. I'm here to work for you!

Albany Office: Legislative Office Building 625, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4474 • mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov