



New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

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**Assemblyman**

**Michael S. Cashman**

represents the 115<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes all of Clinton and Franklin counties, as well as part of Essex County.



# 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.”**



# 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**



## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://nyassembly.gov/PIO).



## Assemblyman Michael S. Cashman is a strong voice for the North Country

Assemblymember Cashman is working hard to pass legislation that helps our families thrive, supports small businesses and moves our community forward. The following are bills that he introduced:

- A.9364 - Enacts the Regional Equity in Policy Implementation Act.
- A.9426 - Stabilizes electric costs for New York consumers, restricts unreasonable rate and fee increases, and establishes additional auditing and enforcement authorities.
- A.9513 - Permits local health officials to request copies of certain reports and records.
- A.9531 - Authorizes Clinton County to employ retired former members of the division of state police as special patrol officers.
- A.9539 - Allows out-of-state health care professionals to perform services at the Ironman Lake Placid.

## Committees Assemblyman Michael S. Cashman serves on

Assemblymember Cashman 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 Cashman and discuss it with him.

- Chair, *Task Force on New York Canada Relations*
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Small Business
- Aging
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Veterans Affairs