

Open Legislative Data and Tracking List (Data Format) Help

This document explains in detail all of the information you receive in the CSV file when you ask for “Open Legislative Data” or when you request your “Tracking List” in Data format.

The downloaded (or emailed via the “Tracking” system) CSV files contain metadata for legislation introduced during the current legislative session. The sponsor, title, synopsis, broad subject classification, etc are all items of metadata for each bill or joint resolution. As legislation moves through the process, additional metadata for each bill or joint resolution will be added to the CSV to show the legislation’s history.

If you request “Open Legislative Data” you have the option to download information for a selected session. The download options are the current session legislation or legislation from a previous session dating back to the 2013 session.

If you request the Data format for your ‘Tracking List’ you receive the same information, but only for the legislation on your list.

For each piece of legislation we include the following information as it becomes available.

Basic Information

These fields contain the basic descriptive information about the legislation

Field/Column Name	Description
Bill Number	Bill or Joint Resolution number, i.e. HB0001, SB0111, HJ0004, SJ0012
Chapter No. (nnnn)	Chapter or Resolution number, i.e. CH0001, JR0111 Appears after the legislation has been enacted.
XFile Bill Number	Cross file legislation number Cross files are identical legislation that has been introduced in both chambers.
Sponsor	Primary Sponsor
Synopsis	Brief paragraph giving a general view of what the legislation does.
Title	Legislation’s title

Last location (Chamber) and most recent action

Field/Column Name	Description
Current Status	Chamber having position of the legislation, i.e., Senate or House and the last action in that

Field/Column Name	Description
	<p>chamber.</p> <p>Fields/Columns are separated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate legislation moves through the Senate (house of origin) then moves through the House (opposite house). House legislation moves through the House (house of origin) then moves through the Senate (opposite house).

Progress History – House of Origin

Field/Column Name	Description
First Reading Date - House of Origin	<p>Date the legislation was introduced on the floor of the house or origin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate legislation in the Senate House legislation in the House
Committee Primary - House of Origin	<p>Committee assigned to consider the bill or joint resolution and make a recommendation to the full body.</p> <p>Occasionally, a bill or joint resolution will be assigned to an additional (secondary) committee and both committees make a recommendation to the full body.</p>
Hearing Date Primary - House of Origin	Date the legislation will be heard by the primary committee
Hearing Time Primary - House of Origin	Time the legislation will be heard by the primary committee
Committee Secondary - House of Origin	Secondary committee assigned to consider the bill or joint resolution and make a recommendation to the full body. Secondary committees are typically not assigned.
Hearing Date Secondary - House of Origin	Date the legislation will be heard by the secondary committee
Hearing Time Secondary - House of Origin	Time the legislation will be heard by the secondary committee
Report Date - House of Origin	Date the primary committee reported the legislation to the full body.
Report Action - House of Origin	Action recommended by the primary

Field/Column Name	Description
	committee to the full body. The report can be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable • Favorable with amendment(s) • Unfavorable • Referred to interim study
Second Reading Date - House of Origin	Date the legislation was read on the floor in the house of origin the second time
Second Reading Action - House of Origin	Second Reading action by the house of origin To move forward the action will be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable • Favorable with amendment(s)
Third Reading Date - House of Origin	Date the legislation was read on the floor in the house of origin the third time
Third Reading Action - House of Origin	Third Reading action by the house of origin. To move forward the action will be the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable

Progress History – Opposite House

Field/Column Name	Description
First Reading Date - Opposite House	Date the legislation was introduced on the floor of the opposite house. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate legislation in the House • House legislation in the Senate
Committee Primary - Opposite House	Committee assigned to consider the bill or joint resolution and make a recommendation to the full body. Occasionally, a bill or joint resolution will be assigned to an additional (secondary) committee and both committees make a recommendation to the full body.
Hearing Date Primary - Opposite House	Date the legislation will be heard by the primary committee
Hearing Time Primary - Opposite House	Time the legislation will be heard by the primary committee
Committee Secondary - Opposite House	Secondary committee assigned to consider the bill or joint resolution and make a

Field/Column Name	Description
	recommendation to the full body. Secondary committees are typically not assigned.
Hearing Date Secondary - Opposite House	Date the legislation will be heard by the secondary committee
Hearing Time Secondary - Opposite House	Time the legislation will be heard by the secondary committee
Report Date - Opposite House	Date the primary committee reported the legislation to the full body.
Report Action - Opposite House	Action recommended by the primary committee to the full body. The report can be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable • Favorable with amendment(s) • Unfavorable • Referred to interim study
Second Reading Date - Opposite House	Date the legislation was read on the floor in the opposite house the second time
Second Reading Action - Opposite House	Second Reading action by the opposite house To move forward the action will be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable • Favorable with amendment(s)
Third Reading Date - Opposite House	Date the legislation was read on the floor in the opposite house the third time
Third Reading Action - Opposite House	Third Reading action by the opposite house. To move forward the action will be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorable • Favorable with amendment(s)

Post Chambers Action

Actions occurring after both chambers have acted and the opposite house has amended the legislation. For bills and resolutions that pass both chambers un-amended, there will be no entries in this column.

Field/Column Name	Description
Interaction Between Chambers	Last action between chambers for legislation amended by the opposite chamber. Should a conference committee be created, its

Field/Column Name	Description
	actions will appear in the field.

Passage Status

Field/Column Name	Description
Passed by MGA	Final passage status. Field will contain “No” until the legislation has been passed by the General Assembly. When passed it will contain “Yes”.

Additional Facts

Field/Column Name	Description
Emergency Bill	Field will contain “Yes” if the legislation is Emergency
Constitutional Amendment	Field will contain “Yes” if the legislation is a Constitutional Amendment

Subject Category

Field/Column Name	Description
Broad Subject Name	The designated broad subject (file code) classification. There are 79 broad subject classifications.
Broad Subject Code	The code for the broad subject (file code) classification.

Date and Time formats

- Dates appear as mm/dd/yyyy (1/12/2013)
- Times appear as 12 hour - hh:mm c.c. (2:30 p.m.)

What can be done with a CSV file?

CSV is a common file format, widely supported by consumer and business applications and is used to move data between programs. The file can be imported into Microsoft EXCEL, Microsoft WORD, a text editor, or any other application that supports the CSV format. CSV files can also be imported into a database.

If you use this file with Microsoft EXCEL or Microsoft WORD you can view, sort, filter, merge, etc using the tools within these applications. To view an example of how this file can be used by Microsoft WORD to merge the open data information into a document report, [read these instructions](#).