



Understanding the Lawmaking Process

What is a Legislative Bill?

A bill is simply a written idea for a new law or a change to an existing law. Bills can cover everything from education and health care to agriculture and business.



Who are the Sponsor and Cosponsor of a Bill?

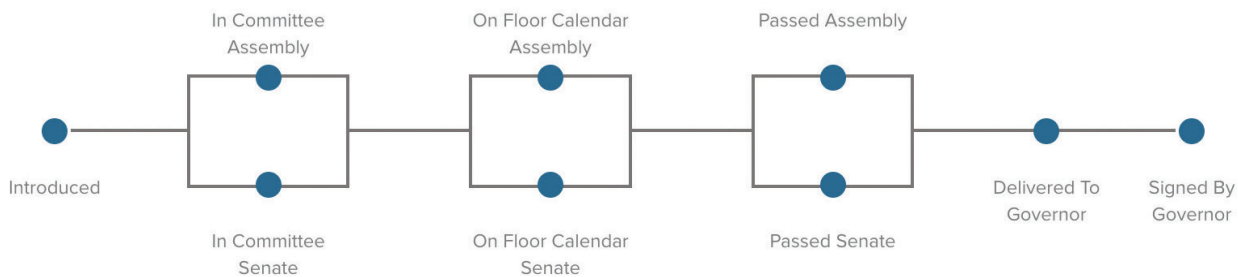
- A Sponsor is an Assemblymember who writes and introduces a bill.
- A Cosponsor is another Assemblymember who signs on to a bill to show support. Cosponsors help strengthen the bill's chances of moving forward.

Committees

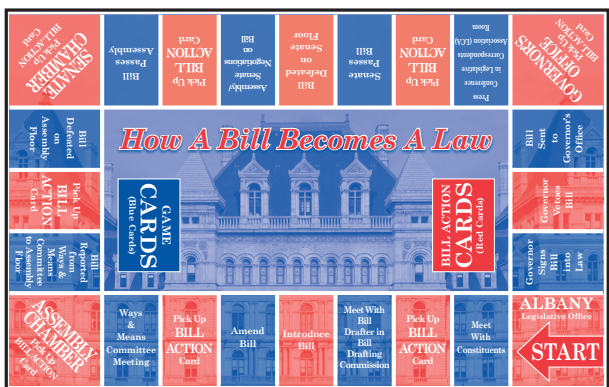
- Bills are referred to a committee, which is a group of Assemblymembers who focus on certain issues (like Small Business or Aging).
- If a bill passes in committee, it is eligible to be voted on by the entire Assembly.
- Committees are where bills are often debated, amended, or stopped.

Why Many Bills Don't Move Forward

Thousands of bills are introduced every year, but only a fraction make it to a committee vote, and fewer pass the entire Assembly or what is called a "floor vote." Reasons include limited time, lack of support, or because leaders decide to prioritize other issues.



Teach Your Children The Legislative Process



Scan the QR code to download the How A Bill Becomes A Law Game! →



About the Assembly

- The State Capitol is located in Albany.
- New York has 150 Assembly Districts, each with about 134,000 residents.
- The Assembly meets in session from January through June each year.
- If urgent issues come up after session ends, the governor can call lawmakers back for a Special Session, which is a short meeting focused on specific legislation.
- The Assembly is the lower house of the state Legislature. The upper house is the New York State Senate.



How Bills Pass

Voting Requirements

It takes 76 votes (a majority of 150 members) for a bill to pass the Assembly.

If the governor vetoes a bill, which is an action to reject a bill that has passed both the Assembly and the Senate, preventing it from becoming law, the Legislature can take a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and Senate to override the veto.

Reintroduction of Bills

Every two years, the legislative term ends. Any bill that hasn't passed must be reintroduced in the new term to be considered again.

Chapter Amendments

Sometimes bills are passed, but the governor requires changes before she will sign it into law. A Chapter Amendment is a technical or clarifying change made after the Legislature and governor agree it's necessary.





Assemblyman Gallahan's Work for You

Working for Our Communities

Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan works hard to advance legislation that protects our families and strengthens our state. Three examples include:

The COGE Bill (A.6089): Creates the New York State Commission on Government Efficiency to examine state spending, identify unnecessary and wasteful spending, and create a report of potential spending cuts.

Protecting New York Property (A.9031): Prohibits the sale or lease of any real property in the state to the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

Clara's Law (A.4303): Requires health care facilities to report incidents of a sexual offense to the departments of health and education. Requires hospitals and other licensed health facilities to report any allegation of a sexual offense by a healthcare practitioner against a patient to both the New York State Department of Health and the State Education Department within 30 days, ensuring that an accused practitioner cannot simply resign, transfer to another facility, or continue practicing without the allegation being formally reported.



Committees Assemblyman Gallahan Serves On

Assemblyman Gallahan serves on several committees that directly impact our communities:

Aging: Addresses issues important to seniors, including elder care and supportive services.

Local Governments: Examines legislation that affects counties, towns, cities, and villages.

Racing and Wagering: Oversees horse racing, casinos, gaming, and wagering policies.

Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development: Works to grow New York's tourism economy and support cultural and recreational opportunities.

Small Business: Focuses on helping entrepreneurs, reducing burdens on small businesses, and promoting local economic growth.

During the 2025 New York State Legislative Session, lawmakers introduced 16,794 bills, with 856 ultimately passed by both the Assembly and Senate and sent to the governor for consideration.

You often hear about a few high-profile bills that spark controversy, but the reality is that more than half of the 995 bills passed by the Assembly in 2025, 545 in total received unanimous support. That spirit of cooperation is how most legislation becomes law. In Albany, I’ve seen firsthand that when we work in a bipartisan manner and focus on what’s best for our communities, we can deliver real results for the people we serve.

Thank you for the honor of representing you in the New York State Assembly. Please know that I will never stop working to make our region the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely, 

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HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN NEW YORK STATE

From Ideas To Action:
How the New York State
Assembly Works.



Jeff★
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STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

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Get to know Jeff:



First elected to the Assembly in 2020



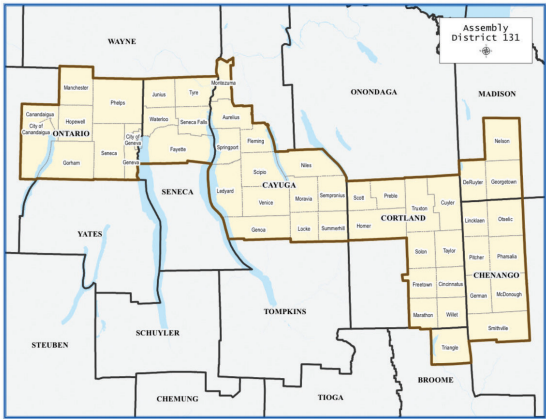
Small business owner



Founder of the Red Jacket High School trap shooting team, where he teaches local youth about firearms safety



Married to his wife, Lynn, for 47 years and a proud father of two children and grandfather to three grandsons



Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan represents the 131st Assembly District, which includes portions of Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Broome, and Chenango counties.