



# THE ROLE OF A LEGISLATOR

## A LEGISLATOR'S JOB

The job of a state legislator is to pass laws. It is the legislature's responsibility to establish general statewide policy, levy taxes, appropriate and otherwise decide how state monies are spent, and establish and review the activities of all governmental agencies and officials.

In addition, they are called upon by you, their constituents, to assist in a variety of ways, including: obtaining aid from public agencies; providing information about state programs, current law and pending legislation; providing assistance at the state capitol; securing projects and programs for House districts and aiding in solving problems both governmental and personal, including acting as a mediator with a state agency on behalf of a constituent or local governing authority. It is their responsibility to serve.

## THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

In Louisiana, as in Congress and most other states, the lawmaking process involves four major stages: introduction, committee action, floor action, and enrollment. In a bicameral legislature like Louisiana's, with both a house and a senate, the first three stages must occur in each of the house consecutively. After the house in which the bill is introduced completes action on the measure, the bill is sent to the second house, where the process is repeated through the three stages. The fourth stage, enrollment, occurs in the originating house after both houses have agreed on the final form of the proposal.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you have any comments or questions on pending legislation please contact the office of your state legislator. Some of the best pieces of legislation come from constituents, so if you have an idea for a bill you are encouraged to contact their office.