



## Legislative Terms for Reference

Act	Legislation enacted into law. A bill that has passed both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor.
Amendment	An alteration made or proposed to a bill
Biennium	A two-year term of legislative activity. This is the cycle by which the Tennessee General Assembly operates.
Bill	A draft of a proposed law presented to the legislature for consideration
Co-sponsor	Legislators who support a piece of legislation and "sign on" in support of the bill.
Committee	A group of legislators appointed to consider and make recommendations regarding proposed bills.
Fiscal Note	The estimated cost of a proposed legislation
Filing Deadline	The set date in which all proposed bills must be filed. No additional bills can be filed after this date.
Joint Session	A combined meeting of the Senate and House
Session	Period in which the legislature meets. In Tennessee this begins in January and usually ends by May or June
Sponsor	The legislator who filed the legislation
Status	The progress of a bill at any time in the legislative process
Sunset	An expiration date of a measure
Testimony	A formal written or spoken statement containing evidence about a particular piece of legislation