How to Search for a Bill on the NYS Assembly or Senate Websites

Note: You can search for an Assembly bill number or Senate bill number on either site.

Assembly website: assembly.state.ny.us

- On the Home page, see the Bill Search function under the Speaker’s name. Enter the bill number you want to search with a period after the A or S, for example A.949, and click Search. Unless specified differently under the Advanced Legislative Search, the search function assumes the bill you are entering is in the current legislative term (2021-2022).
- This brings you to a Summary page (in which the period is replaced by a 0 and the bills are listed with 4 digits so A.949 will now appear as A00949). On this page you can see if there is an identical bill in the other house (with a link so you can click on the “same as” bill number to see the sponsor info for the other house), the lead sponsor, the cosponsors, the section of law the bill would amend, and a short description of what the bill will do.
- Above the summary info are some boxes which you can check to see Actions on the bill (e.g. A.949 went through some committees, was passed by both houses and eventually signed by the governor), Committee Votes (how committee members in the Assembly Committees voted; for Senate votes one has to go to the Senate website), Floor Votes in the Assembly (A.949 got 150 YEA and 0 NAY votes), the sponsor’s Memo, the full Text, and Local Fiscal Impact Note (if there is one). If a Sponsor’s Memo is not available, try looking at the “same as” bill information; sometimes it only appears for one version of the bill.

Senate website: nysenate.gov

- On the Home page, click on Bills & Laws, one of the tabs across the top.
- On this page, in addition to noticing some good information about how a bill becomes a law and some recent bills that passed, click on the Search Bills bar to go to the Advanced Legislation Search page. Note that next to the Search Bills bar is a bar where you can Browse the Laws of New York if you are so inclined.
- Put in the bill number WITHOUT A PERIOD or zero in the Print No. field (e.g. A949) and make sure Bills is selected as Filter by Content Type. You can leave the rest of the fields blank, but if you don’t know the bill number, you can search by a number of other criteria, including Senate Sponsor. Click Search.
- This brings you to several bills with the same number; choose the one for the legislative term you’re interested in—in this case 2021-22.
- This brings you to the summary of the bill, with bill status, sponsor, cosponsors, other details (including the other house’s number for that bill) and eventually the Bill Text.
- If you want to see Actions or Votes, click on the respective bar. For this bill, there were 65 AYES and 0 NAYS, and by clicking on the Floor Vote Details you can see how each Senator voted on the Senate version of the bill.
- The Senate website has a feature that allows you to enter your email address in a box on the right to get status alerts for the bill.

Again, you can search a Senate or Assembly bill on either site, but you will only be able to access the committee and floor votes for the house of the site you’re searching. Don’t forget that you can put in the bill number with a period for the Assembly site but do NOT use a period for the Senate site!

Atlantic Chapter website: www.newyork.sierraclub.org