Becoming an Informed Advocate

HOW TO MONITOR BILLS DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
URL for Florida House: http://www.myfloridahouse.gov

There are two ways you can search for a bill

1. If you know the bill’s number, simply put the number in text field labeled “Bill #” and click “Search”

2. If you don’t know the bill’s number, or simply want to conduct a broader search, you can enter some text from the bill.
   - This method of searching could be useful if you wanted to find all bills that deal with a specific topic.
Each bill will have its own page which contains quite a bit of useful information including the following:

- **Sponsor and Co-Sponsors**
- **Companion Bill (if any)**
- **Text of the bill**
- **Staff analysis**
- **Vote history**
- **Bill history**
In addition to searching for bills, you may want to search for committees.

This can be easily done by simply clicking “Committees” from the homepage of the Florida House.

Then, click on the name of the committee you’re interested in.
On the Committee’s page you can find when their next meeting is scheduled.

The agenda for the next meeting.

The leadership of the Committee.

The rest of the members of the Committee.

And the Committee Staff.
URL for Florida Senate: http://www.flsenate.gov

You’ll notice that the Senate website is set up very similar to the House.

You can search by bill number, and you can search for committees.
In addition to the bill history, you can find the House companion bill (if any), the text of the bill, any amendments that have been filed to the bill, the legislative analysis of the bill, the vote history, and the statutory citations by selecting the tabs above.
Want to know when a bill has been placed on a committee agenda, when an amendment to the bill has been submitted, and when a bill has been voted upon? The “Track this Bill” feature will provide all of that information (and more) to you.
Clicking on “Track This Bill” will bring you to this screen where you can login if you already have an account or create a new account.
Creating an account is as simple as filling out the above fields and clicking “Create Account.” A word of caution—some bills will have many, many amendments filed. If you choose “instantly” for e-mail frequency, there might be days you are bombarded with e-mails.
All committee meetings, as well as meetings of the full House and Senate can be streamed live at
http://www.thefloridachannel.org
by choosing the “Live Streams” tab and selecting the meeting you would like to watch.

The stream will begin 10 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start.

Prefer to watch on your phone? There is a Florida Channel app that will allow you watch livestreams as well as archived videos.
We know that most of our members are unable to watch the meetings live. You can also search the Florida Channel website by entering the name of the committee you are looking for and/or the date of the meeting. Videos are typically posted within a few hours of the conclusion of the meeting.