

Adjourn – when the legislature stops proceedings for the day.

Amendment – a change to an existing bill. Amendments can be as simple as changing a few words or as complex as rewriting the entire bill.

Bill – a written proposal to create or change a law.

Budget – a bill that determines the state’s taxes and spending. Budget bills generally begin in the House of Representatives.

Calendar – a list of bills that have had one reading and are ready for a second reading (to become law, bills must have three readings).

Capital – the city that is the seat of government.

Capitol – the building in which government operates.

Chamber – the official room for meetings of a legislative body, for example, the Senate Chamber or House of Representatives Chamber in the Capitol building.

Committee – a group of legislators assigned to consider an issue or question.

Committee on Committees – a group of legislative leaders that assigns each bill to the appropriate committee for study.

Constitution – a written document that defines and limits the duties and powers of a government and guarantees certain rights to the people who live within the area it governs.

Constitutional majority – half of all the members of a chamber, plus one. A constitutional majority is needed to pass certain types of bills as well as to override a governor’s veto.

District – an area of the state where a senator or representative serves a certain number of people.

Election – the process of selecting a person to occupy an office.

Floor – where each chamber meets. The term also is used to refer to each chamber as a whole, such as in “sending a bill to the House floor.”

Frankfort – the state capital of Kentucky.

General Assembly – the entire body of senators and representatives who make our laws; also called the legislature.

Governor – the chief executive officer of a state.

House of Representatives – the 100-member elected body, or the chamber or room in the Capitol where Kentucky's representatives hold official meetings.

Interim – the period of time between sessions of a legislature.

Law – a bill that has been accepted by both the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by the governor.

Legislator – an elected senator or representative; a lawmaker.

Legislature – the entire body elected by state citizens under the power of the constitution to enact laws.

Lobbyist – a person who tries to persuade legislators to vote a certain way on a bill; also called a legislative agent.

Majority party – the political party that has at least one more than half of the total membership of the house.

Minority party – the political party that has less than half of the total membership of the house.

Orders of the Day – a list of bills and resolutions that are ready in each chamber to be debated or adopted that day.

Override – when a majority or a specified number of legislators vote against a governor's veto of a bill. An override makes a bill into a law without the governor's signature.

President of the Senate – the senator who is chosen as the leader of the Senate and presides over business in that chamber.

Rules – a code of procedure that each house uses to govern its business.

Rules Committee – a group of legislative leaders and other members that prepare the Orders of the Day.

Senate – the 38-member elected body, or the chamber or room in the Capitol where Kentucky's senators hold official meetings.

Session – a regular session is the time every year required by the constitution when the General Assembly meets to make laws. An extraordinary session, or "special" session, may be called only by the governor for a specific purpose.

Simple majority – half of all the votes cast, plus one.

Speaker of the House – a representative chosen as the leader of the House of Representatives and presides over business in that chamber.

Sponsor – the legislator responsible for presenting an item of legislation to the body.

Statute – another word for a law.

Veto – the governor's rejection of a bill passed by the General Assembly. If each chamber then approves the bill again by a constitutional majority vote, the veto is overridden and becomes law.

Vote – a decision on a question, either yes or no.