WHAT IS THIS SERVICE?
The BIS provides access to the full text of legislation in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Congress for the current session as well as past sessions. You can search for legislation by bill number, committee, sponsor, state and term or phrase.

HOW DO I ACCESS IT?
- First, login using the Login button located on the top right corner of the home page, www.ncsl.org.
- Next, mouse over Research, located in the red bar at the top of the screen.
- Under the Tools heading, select Bill Tracking.
- Select NCSL Bill Information Service (BIS): 50-State+ Search System.
- Once you are on the BIS page, connect to the system and start searching!

WHO ELSE HAS ACCESS?
As a NCSL member, you are granted exclusive access to this service along with all state legislators and legislative staff.

SEARCH TIPS:
For help searching by Bill Number, Term or Phrase, click on Search Tips at the top right side of the red bar.

Instructions are available by clicking open the HELP pull-down menu located in the black bar at the top right side of the homepage screen.

Click on the My Homepage button (at the left side of screen) to return to the main search screen at any time.
How to Search by...

Bill Number

Select the Bill Number tab on the red bar at the top of the screen. In the search box below, enter the postal abbreviation for the state and a single uppercase or lowercase letter to denote the chamber with no spaces in between.

The following options are available to narrow the focus of your search:

- Archived Bills: Check the Search Archived Bills box below to search bills from previous sessions.
- Set Display: Click open Set Display to determine scope of information and output format for your results.
- Advanced Options: Click Open to sort by entry order (order in which you entered bills) or by bill number and to include or exclude current day’s bill status.

Author or Sponsor

To the right of the Term or Phrase tab, above the red box, select Other Searches.

Select Author Search to search by legislators, committees or others.

Select the state, legislator or committee, start and end dates, version, search type, current disposition, display and output formats from the drop-down boxes.

Click Search to start the search.

Term or Phrase

In the red bar across the top of the screen, click on the Term or Phrase tab so that it is highlighted in red.

The following options are available to narrow the focus of your search:

- Legislation Title/Summaries Only: Click this box to limit your search to words in the title or bill summary.
- State Profile: Click open and select individual states, or a combination of states, DC and Congress.
- Date Range: Click open and select search start date.
- Set Display: Click open box and check basic, comprehensive or table format, or you may customize your own display.
- Advanced Options: Click open and create, save and run searches, search archived legislation or other options.

To begin your search, enter your search terms in the white box and click the Search button to begin your search.

Bill Location

To the right of the Term or Phrase tab, above the red box, select Other Searches. Select By Location and then select a state.

When Select Location opens, select from the scroll box. Next, select the display and output format from the drop-down box.

Click Search to start the search.

Search Operators & Connectors

You may narrow or expand search terms or phrases using Boolean operators (and, or, not) and positional operators (near, adj, with, same, $,?).

- NEAR finds bills that have words around each other and can be used with a number:
  sex NEAR2 offender finds “sex offender” and “sexually violent offender”
- ADJ finds all bill text in which the first word immediately precedes the second word:
  controlled ADJ substance finds “controlled substance” but not “substance controlled”
- WITH finds all bill text in which the words occur within the same sentence.
- SAME finds all bill text in which the words occur within the same paragraph.
- The symbol $ finds a word that may have various endings: acquire, acquisition, acquired, etc. (Note: The BIS does not automatically search for plurals, so use the $ at the end of the word (tax$)).
- The symbol ? replaces a single letter or searches for a hyphenated word: wom?n finds women or woman.
- When using periods, surround the letters in quotes, e.g., “.08” or “T.A.N.F.”
- Use parentheses to separate concepts when using connectors, e.g., (security or data) SAME (breach or compromise$)