Navigating Michigan Legislation and the Michigan General Assembly

Whether you are a patient, provider, healthcare organization, etc., it is important to be aware and engaged with the legislative side of healthcare.

This is a guide to help users locate and utilize information on the Michigan General Assembly website, aiding them in being more informed and engaged in state laws about healthcare.

How does a bill become a law?

- An idea for a bill is proposed
- A legislator in the house or senate sponsors it
- A draft of the bill is written
- The draft is assigned to a committee
- The bill must pass three readings in the originating chamber (house or senate)
- When all three are passed, it goes to the other chamber to be reviewed.
- When both house and senate have a majority vote, the bill is passed.
- It goes to the governor to be signed, not signed and passed in seven days without action, or vetoed.
- When vetoed, it can be passed without signature with a majority vote in both chambers

Michigan.gov - bills becoming law

How does the General Assembly operate?

The Michigan General Assembly operates through the whole year beginning the second Wednesday in January and ending in mid-December, with some recesses during the year.

Any pending legislation at the end of a session that is not at the end of a legislative term of office, carries over to the next session.

There are 38 legislators who make up the Senate and 110 legislators make up the House of Representatives. Senators server 4 year terms while House members serve 2 year terms. The Senate is limited to two terms and the House three.

Bills can be drafted by either the House or Senate but it must pass both houses to become law.

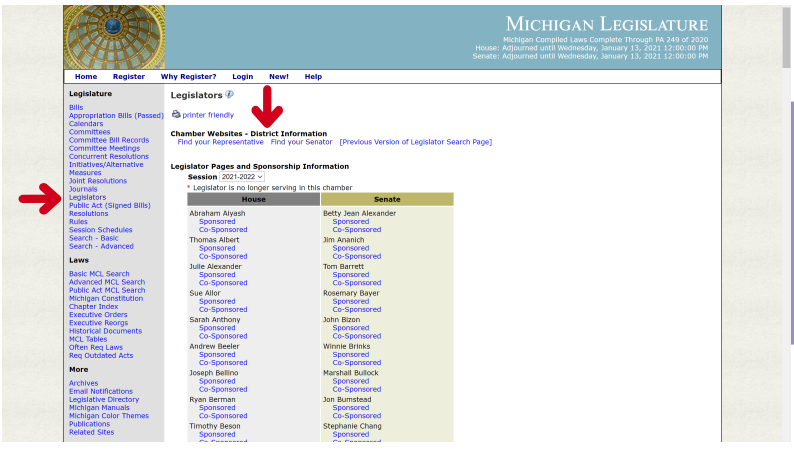
Welcome to the Michigan General Assembly Website

There are numerous tabs and resources that can be navigated within the site that can be useful. There are a select few of those that are going to be focused on here. At any time, you can select the seal in the top left to return to the home page.

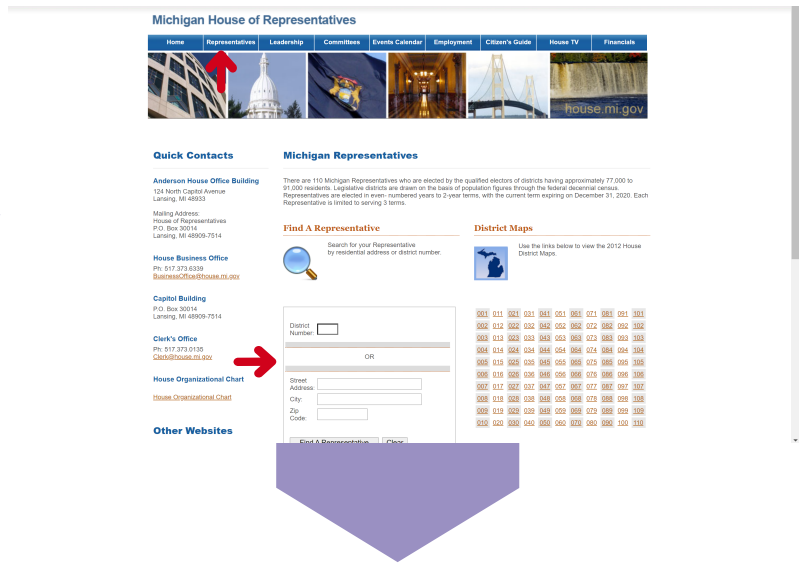
Who are my legislators?

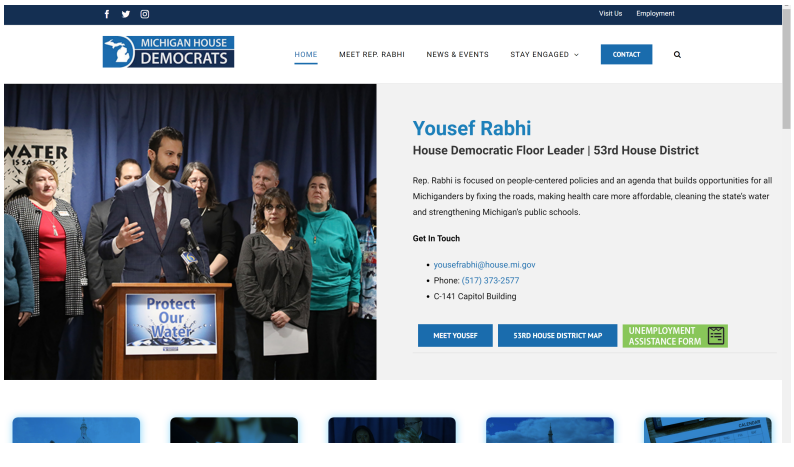
Knowing who your legislators are is a big step in following policy. Michigan's website allows you to search who your representatives are.

>By selecting "Legislators" on the left, you can see every member of both the house and senate as well as what they have sponsored. Next, select either one of the "Find your ____."



>For the representatives page you will first need to click on the "Representatives" tab at the top of the page. You can then enter your address to learn who your representative is.



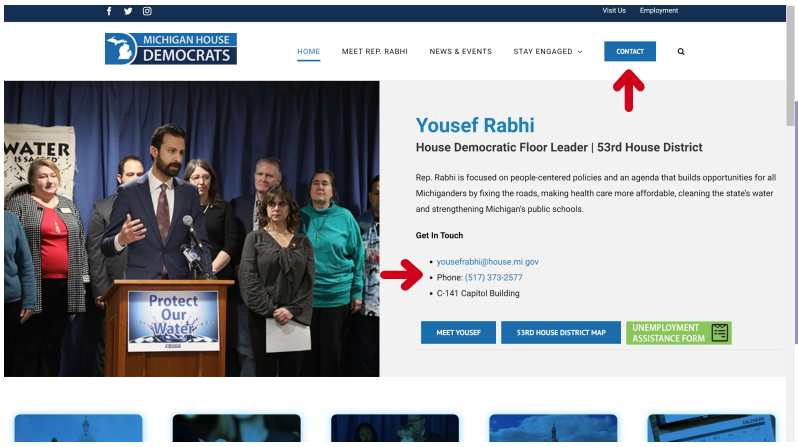


>You will be brought their home page where you can learn more about them and how to connect with them.

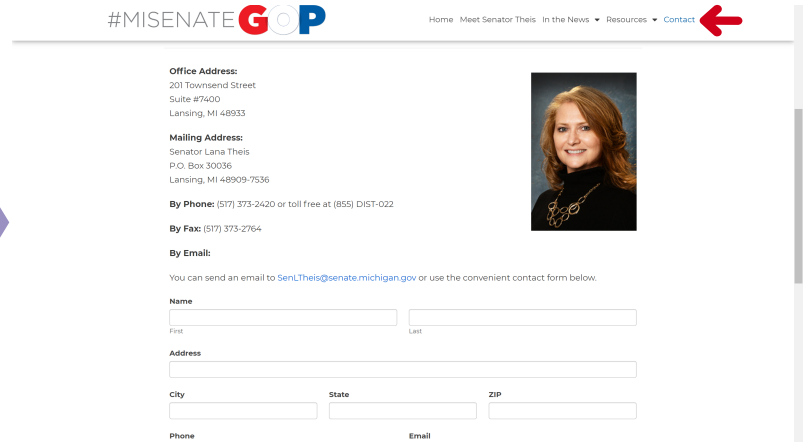
>If you selected "Find your Senator," it will take you directly to the page where you can enter in your information to find your senator. Then simply click on the senator's web link.

How can I contact them?

>On the representative's home page, their email and phone can be found. You can also select "Contact" at the top of the page to send a message directly from the site. By scrolling to the bottom of the page, you can find the mailing address and a link to sign up for email updates.

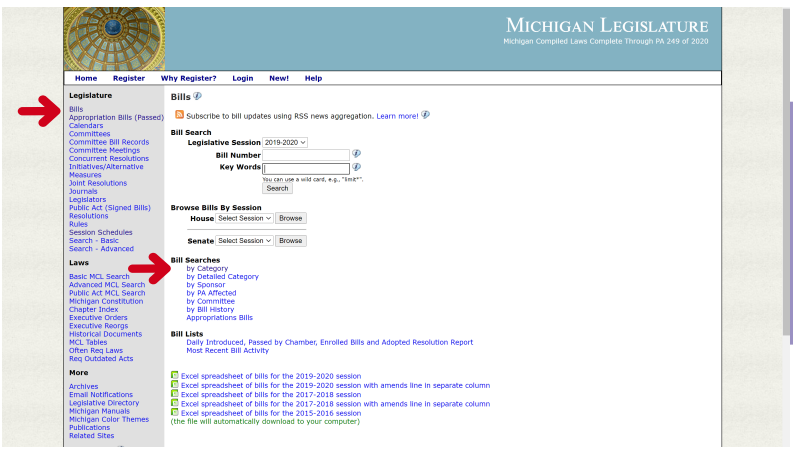


>While on the senator's home page, you can also scroll to the middle of the page to get signed up for emails. To find a senator's contact information, select "Contact" in the top right corner. Here you can find email, phone, mailing address and can send a message directly from the site.

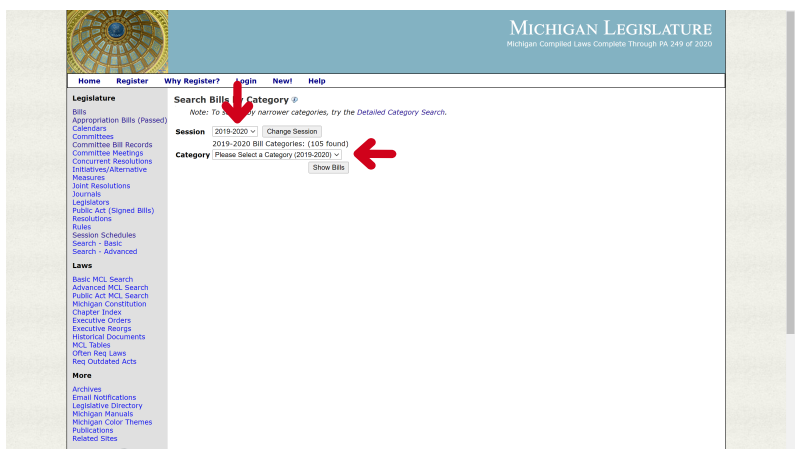


What bills are there involving healthcare?

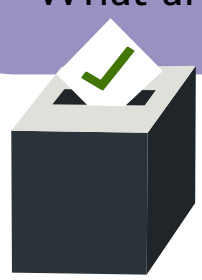
>To find bills about healthcare go to the "Bills" link in the upper left. Here there are lots of options, but the easiest is to search "by Category" and filter for health related bills.



>Select the session you want to search and then choose the category. There is also the advanced search that can help you be more specific and "by Committee" where you can find bills sent to the health committees.



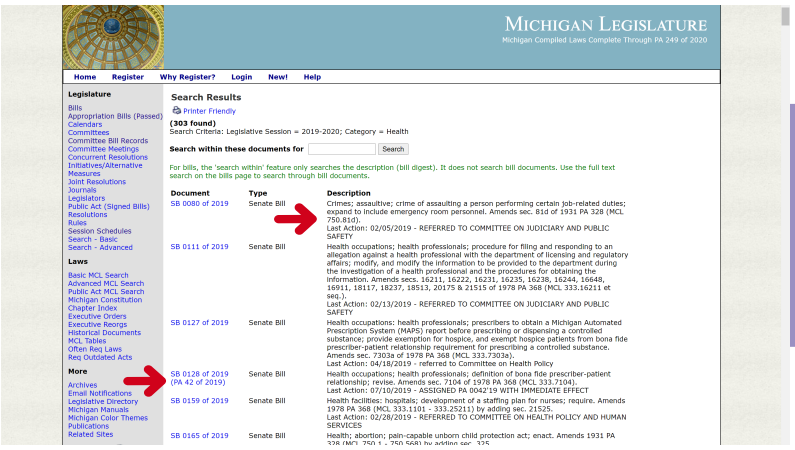
What are they voting for?

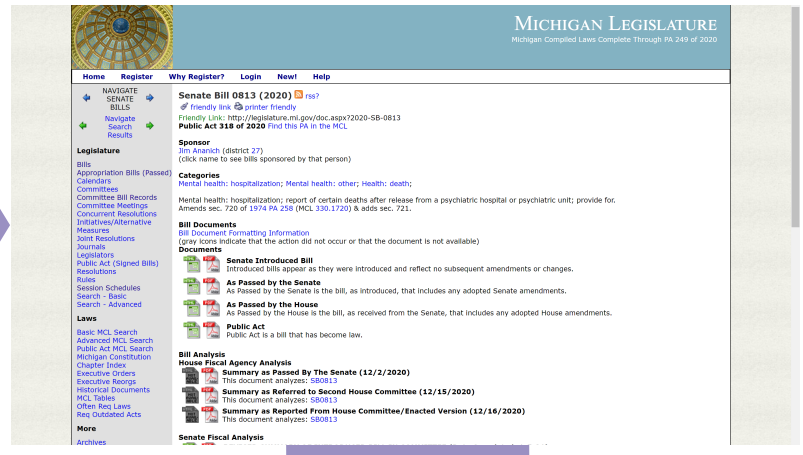


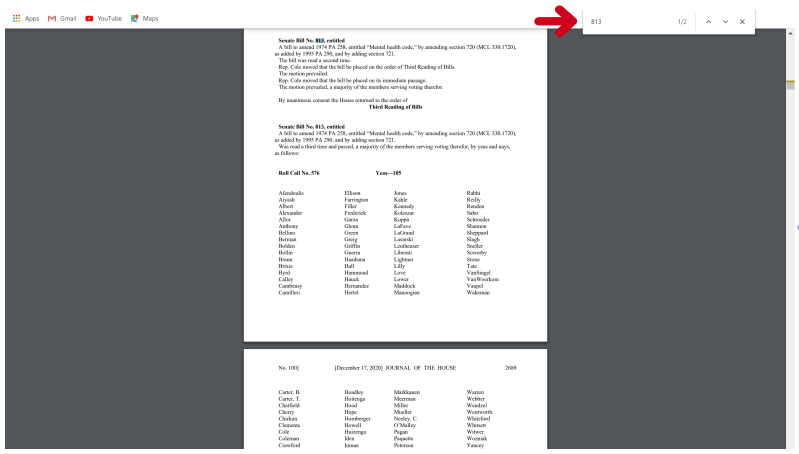
Once you know who is representing you, it is key to know how they are voting on different bills. This helps you to identify what bills they are supporting and if you would like to keep them in office.

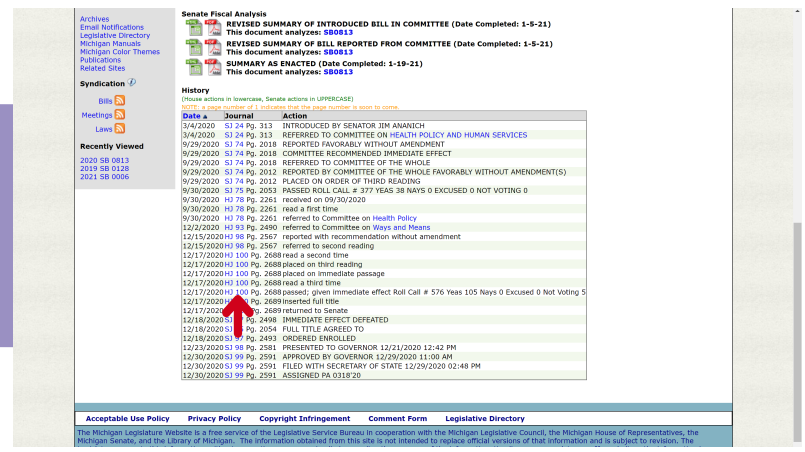
>Yielded search results will then be displayed. The bill number will be listed with a description of the bill and the last action taken on the bill. "PA" below a bill means Public Act and the bill has become law.

>Selecting your desired bill will result in a more detailed page about he bill. Here you can read and see how the bill has evolved under "Bill Documents."







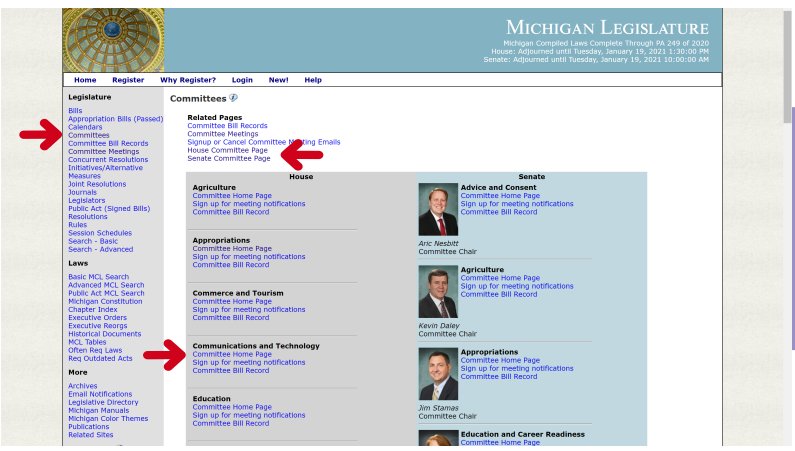


>In order to find the correct votes, press the "Ctrl" and "F" key on your keyboard at the same time. A small box will pop up in the upper right. Entering the bill number here moves you to the correct page.

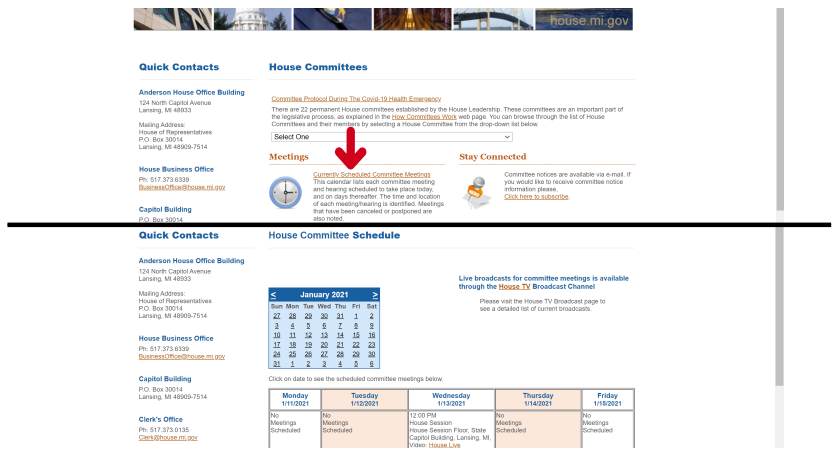
>By scrolling to the bottom of the page, you can see a history of the actions on the bill. To see how the legislators voted, find the roll calls and select the blue highlighted journal in the same row. Then download the PDF.

What health committees are there?

>Selecting "Committees" on the left will pull up all of the committees. There are many options on this page to explore like "Committee Home Page" and "Committee Bill Record."



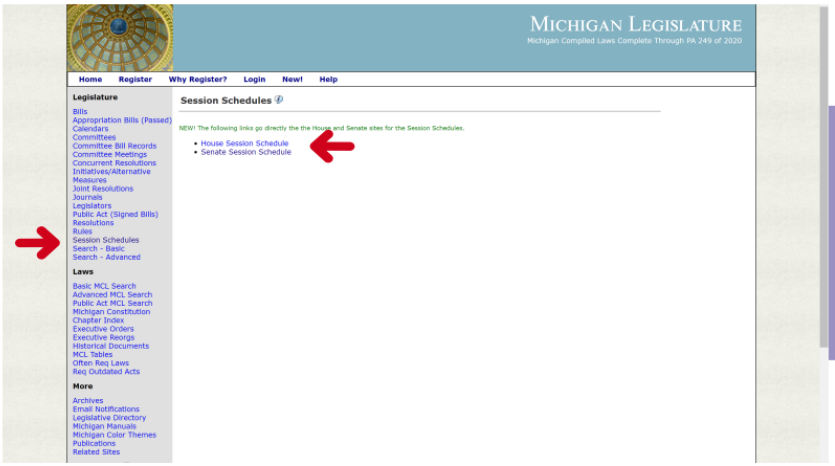
>Next, choose the "House" or "Senate Committee Page", click "Currently Scheduled Committee Meeting," this will then pull up a calendar. The Senate page will already display its calendar.

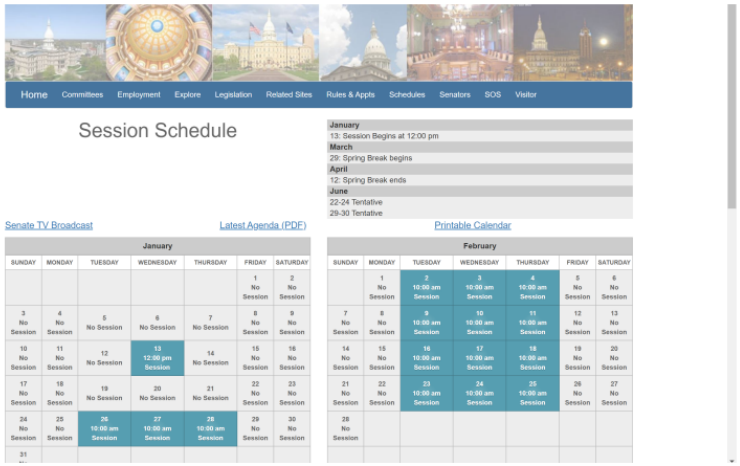


When do the House and Senate meet?

>To see the Assembly's schedule, you can select "Session Schedules" on the left and then choose the Senate or House schedule.

>This will display the schedule for the year that can be subject to change. Selecting the House session opens a PDF schedule.





It is important for your voice to be heard and for you to be engaged in decisions that can impact your health. This can be done by staying up-to-date with the legislation that is being passed by the state government. Being active in this process keeps you more informed, and helps you come election time.

For information about how to vote and register to vote, visit one of these websites

https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/

https://www.michigan.gov/sos/

https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote

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