



The Legislative Process

A legislator's voting record can be a valuable tool when you are working to generate support for key education issues. We caution, however, against jumping to conclusions about legislative support based on a voting record alone. When a bill addresses a single issue, it is easy to determine how a legislator feels on a particular issue. When a legislator votes on an omnibus bill or a bill that has several provisions, it can be more difficult to determine. It is best to reach out to that legislator and ask how they decided to vote.

IASB members often ask how their representative or senator voted on a particular bill. We don't generate voting records but it's easy to see how your legislator voted on a key amendment or a bill.

You can select any bill to track from the Iowa Legislature website at www.legis.iowa.gov. As an example, we will look at HF 308, this session's concurrent enrollment eligibility legislation, and guide you through the tracking process below.

1. On the [legislative home page](#), select **Bills Quick Search** in the left-hand column and type **HF 308** into the search box. As you scroll down the left-hand column, click on **Bill History**. This provides the complete history on the bill, including links to amendments and the journal page number to see how a legislator voted.
2. Scroll down to amendment **S-3028**. To check the proposed amendment, select the link. This amendment was a change from the House and the Senate concurred with those changes.
3. If you would like to see how your senators voted on amendment **S-3028**, use the back button to return to the previous screen and select **S.J. 375** attached to the amendment.
4. Close the current window to return to bill history. This will take you back to the Quick Find Bill History page. The bill you are checking should still be displayed in the Quick Find box. Simply hit enter and you will return to the complete bill history page for HF 308. At this point, you can continue to view other proposed amendments, if any, and see how your legislators voted on proposed amendment and the bill.

There can be multiple reasons why a legislator took a specific vote. Before drawing conclusions, talk to them and ask about their rationale.

IASB staff members are available to help you determine the content and impact of proposed amendments or legislation. If you ever have questions, please contact the IASB government relations team for assistance.