# Illinois Legislative Update

Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Spring 2025



# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN ILLINOIS











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Bill is drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau Bill is introduced by a Sponsor in:

- House (HB 1234)
- Senate (SB 1234)
- Both (HB 1234 & SB 1234)

Bill is read into the record for the first time Bill assigned to:

- Rules Committee (House) or
- Assignments Committee (Senate)















Bill assigned to a substantive committee Bill is heard and voted on by that committee:

- ☑ Passes out of committee
- Stays in committee (bill dies)

Bill is read into the record for the second time. Amendments can be considered and voted on Bill is read into the record for the third time















Bill is voted on by full chamber:

- ✓ Passes
- Re-vote

If the bill passes the first chamber, it repeats the process in the second chamber (jump back to ■)

Bill passes the second chamber.

- If there are changes: the first chamber revotes on the bill
- No changes: bill sent to Governor

Bill has 30 days to be sent to the Governor

Credit: ACLU Illinois: https://www.acluil.org/sites/default/files/how\_a\_ bill\_becomes\_a\_law\_one\_pager. pdf How to get your voice heard

# Call or Write Your Legislators

Submit a Witness Slip How do I find my representative?





#### Find My Elected Officials

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, if a voter has a question concerning their Legislative or Congressional district, the Board suggests ...



#### Find and contact your Illinois state senator ...

Use the maps to find the legislators representing you. You can search for Illinois state senators, house representatives and Chicago alderman.

Illinois House · Illinois Senate · Chicago Alderman · Chicago School Board



#### Find Your Representative

This service will assist you by matching your ZIP code to your congressional district, with links to your member's website and contact page.

Special thanks to **AARP Illinois** for sharing their legislative guide





#### A LEGISLATIVE GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

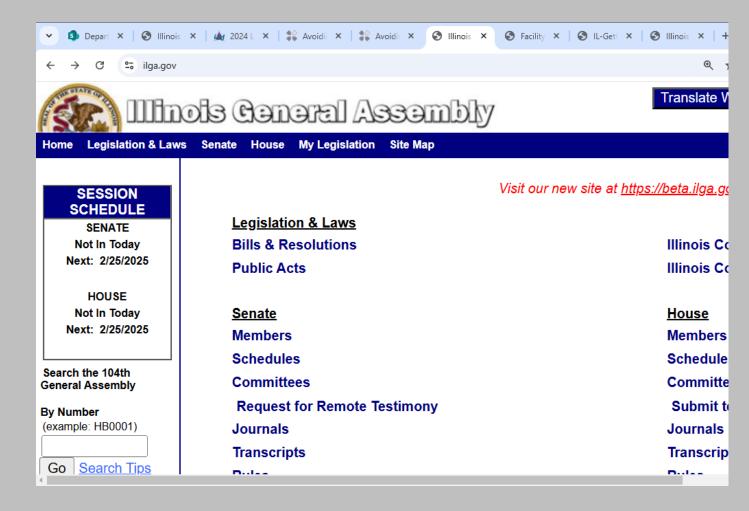
300 W Edwards St., 3rd Fl. | Springfield, IL 62704 | Phone: 217-522-7700 | www.aarp.org/il

## Two Options

- From the Bill Number
- From the Committee

## www.ilga.gov





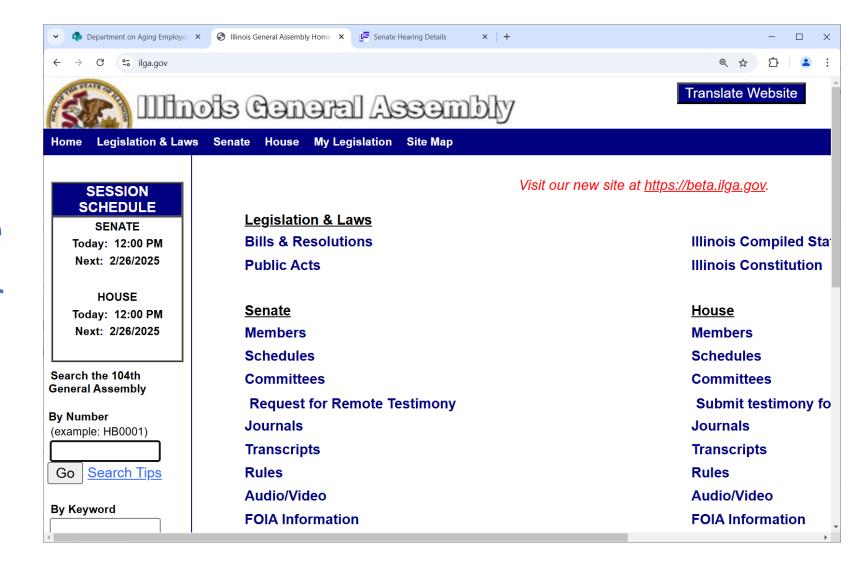
#### How to File a Witness Slip

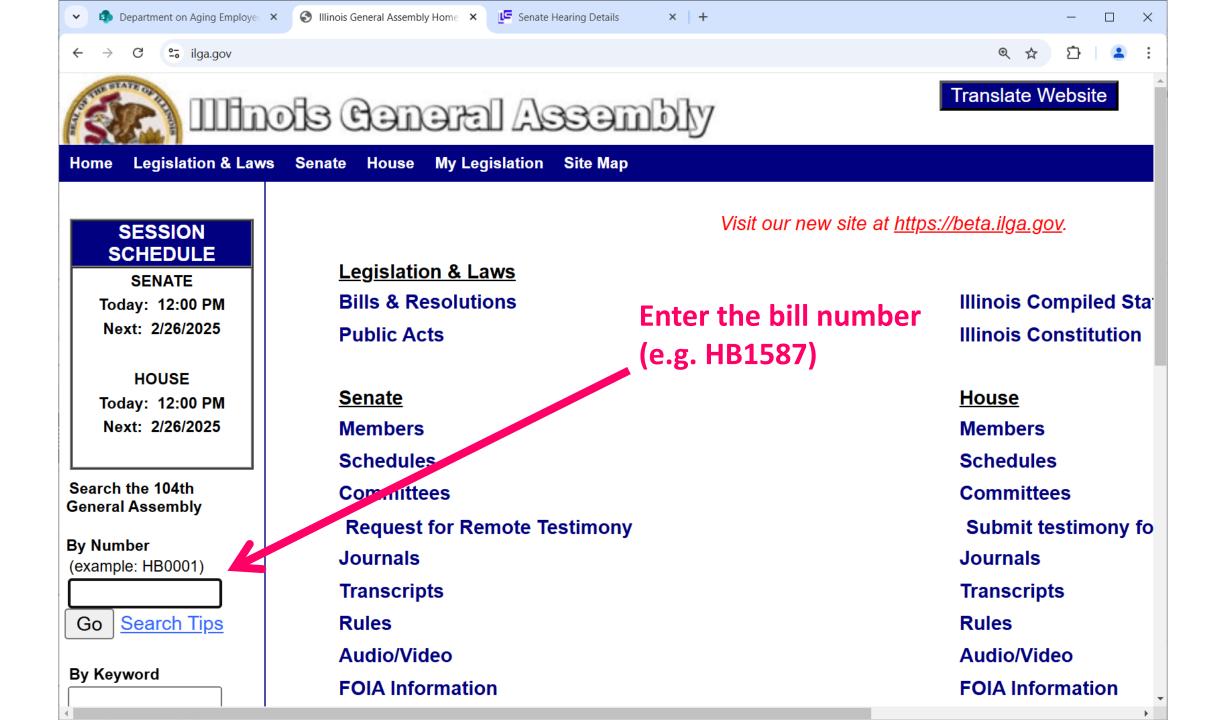
To file an electronic witness slip, follow these steps.

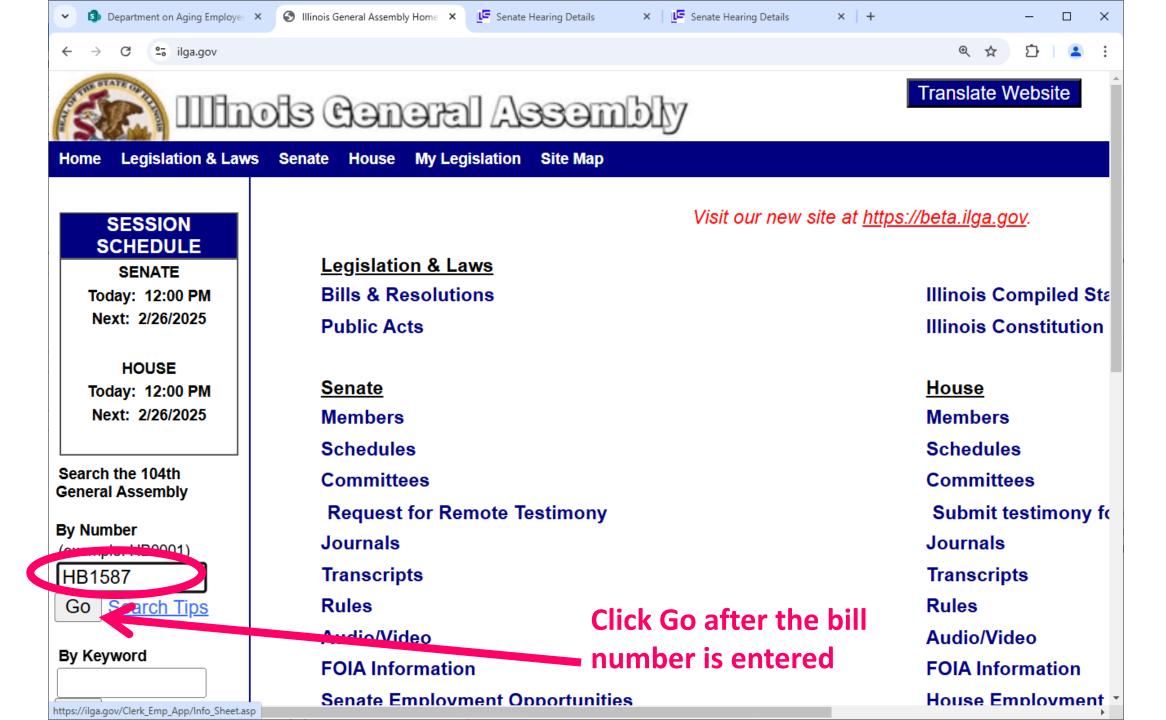
- 1. Go to ilga.gov
- 2. Click on "GA Dashboard" under "Reports & Inquiry"
- On the left-hand side bar, click "House" or "Senate," depending on which chamber the bill is in.
  - a. From the drop-down menu, click "Committee Hearings"
    - Choose "Today," "Week" or "Month," depending on when the committee is next meeting.
  - b. Click on the relevant committee.
    - Clicking the text itself will not have an effect, so click on the notepad icon to the right of the committee name.
- 4. Find the relevant bill number. Click the corresponding pencil and notepad icon in the right-hand column.
- 5. Fill out the fields with your identifying information, including:
  - a. Name
  - b. Address
  - c. City
  - d. Firm
  - e. Title
  - f. Email (if you wish to receive a confirmation of your witness slip)

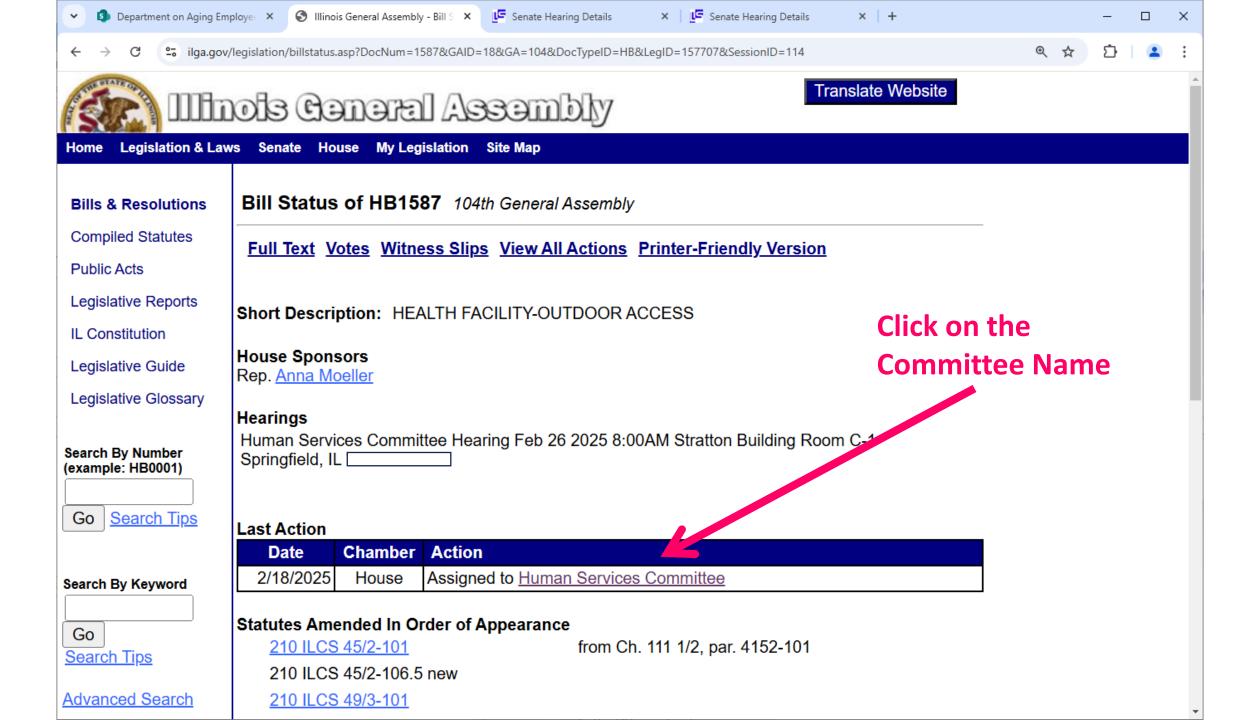
- g. Phone number
- h. Representation (name of group you represent)
- For position, click the drop-down menu and select either the original bill or an amendment, if relevant.
   a. Select your position by clicking the appropriate box.
- Under testimony, click "Oral Testimony," "Written Testimony" or "Record of Appearance Only" if you wish to have your position on record.
- Correctly fill out the captcha code words for security verification. If you cannot read the words, you can reload them for a new set.
- Click the check box at the very bottom of the page to indicate your acceptance of the terms.
- 10. To submit your witness slip, click "Create Slip." You will see a page with a green check mark that indicates your witness slip has been successfully submitted. If you completed the email field, you will receive a confirmation email with the slip info. If there were any errors in any fields, they will be shaded red and you must correct them. When correcting errors, you must re-complete the captcha code section (step 8) and agree to the terms again (step 9), before finalizing to "Create Slip" again.

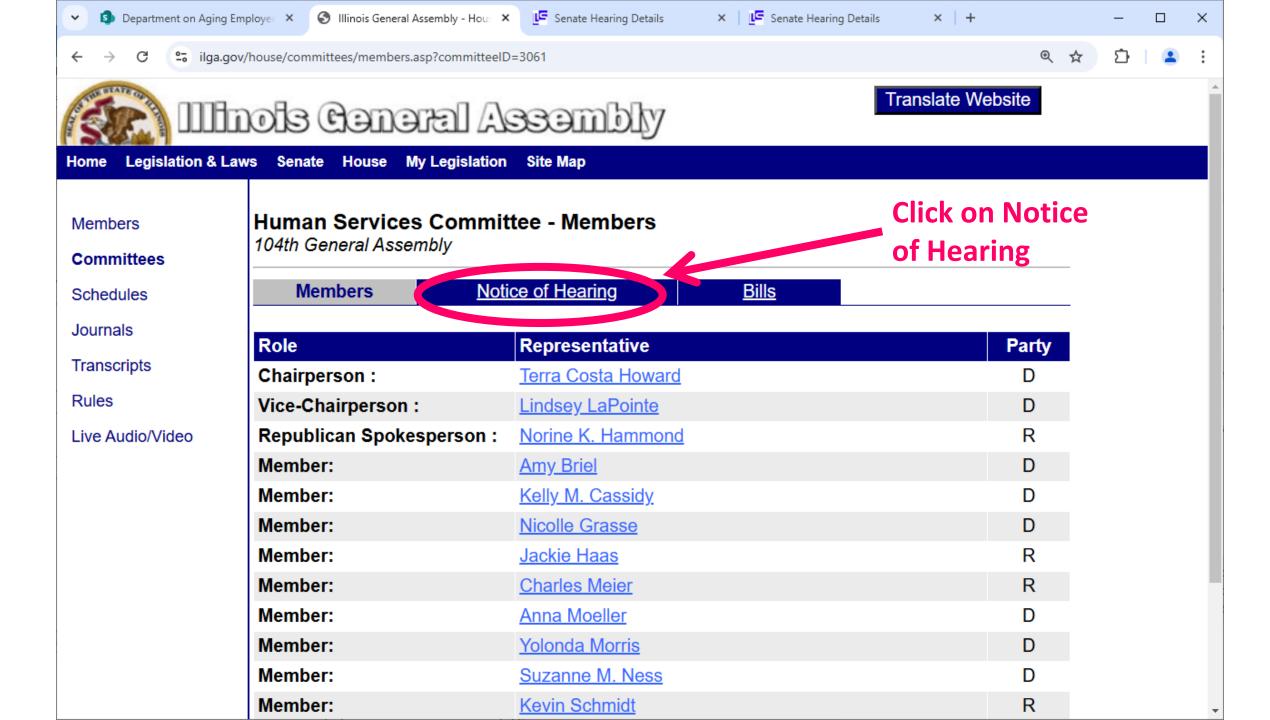
# Using the Bill Number

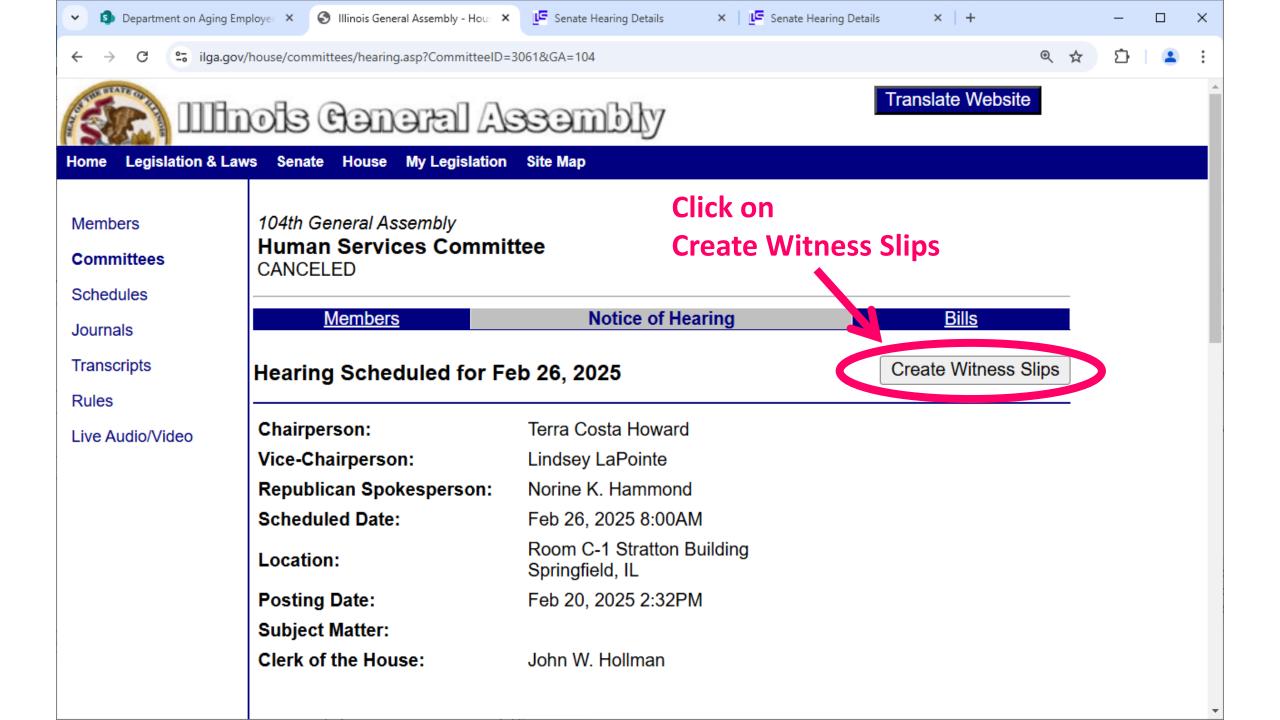


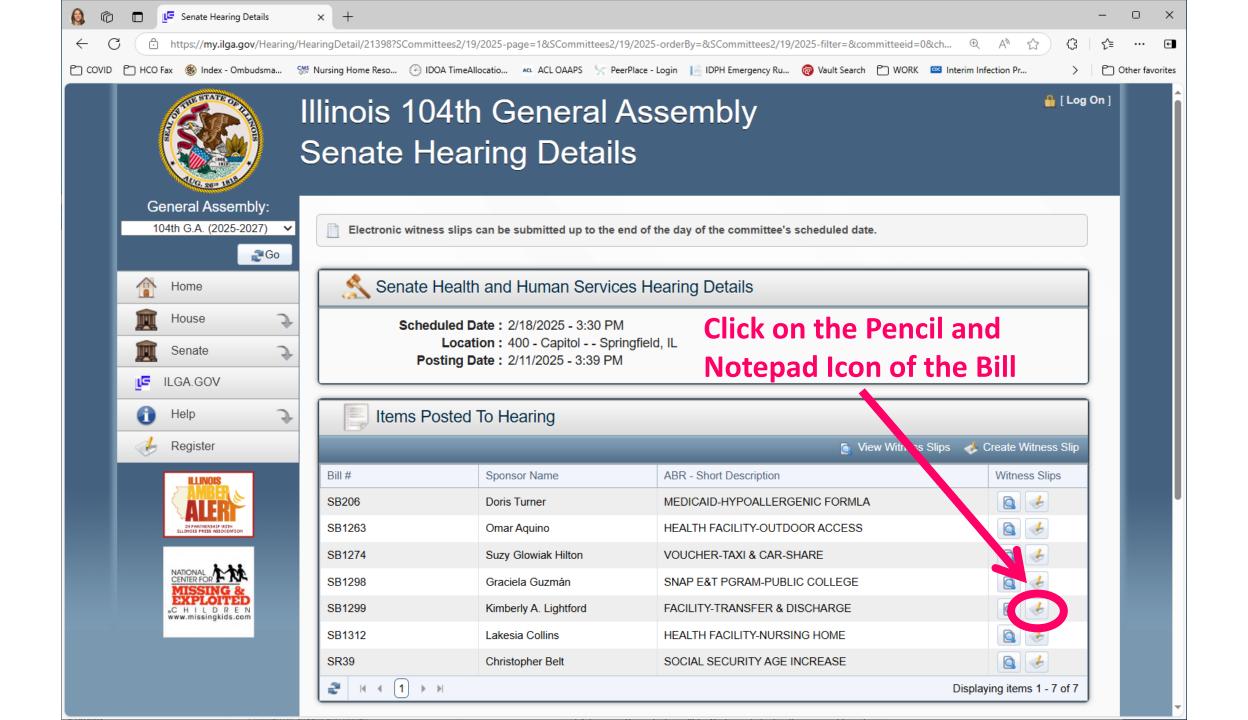


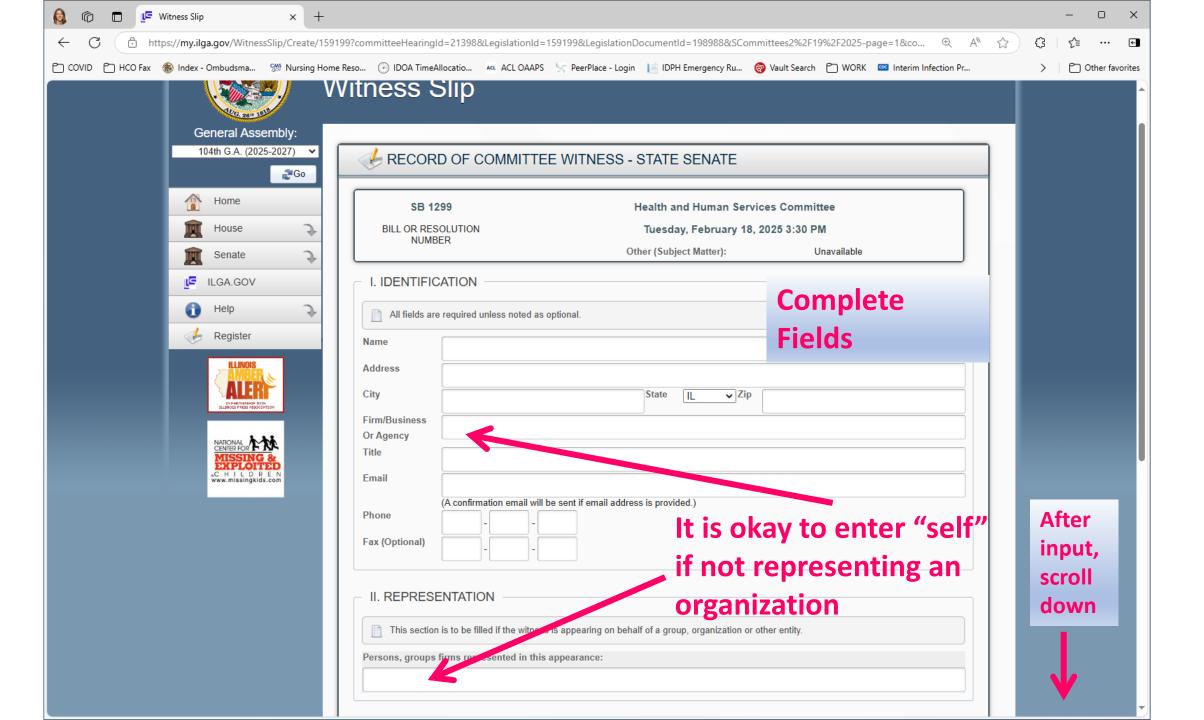


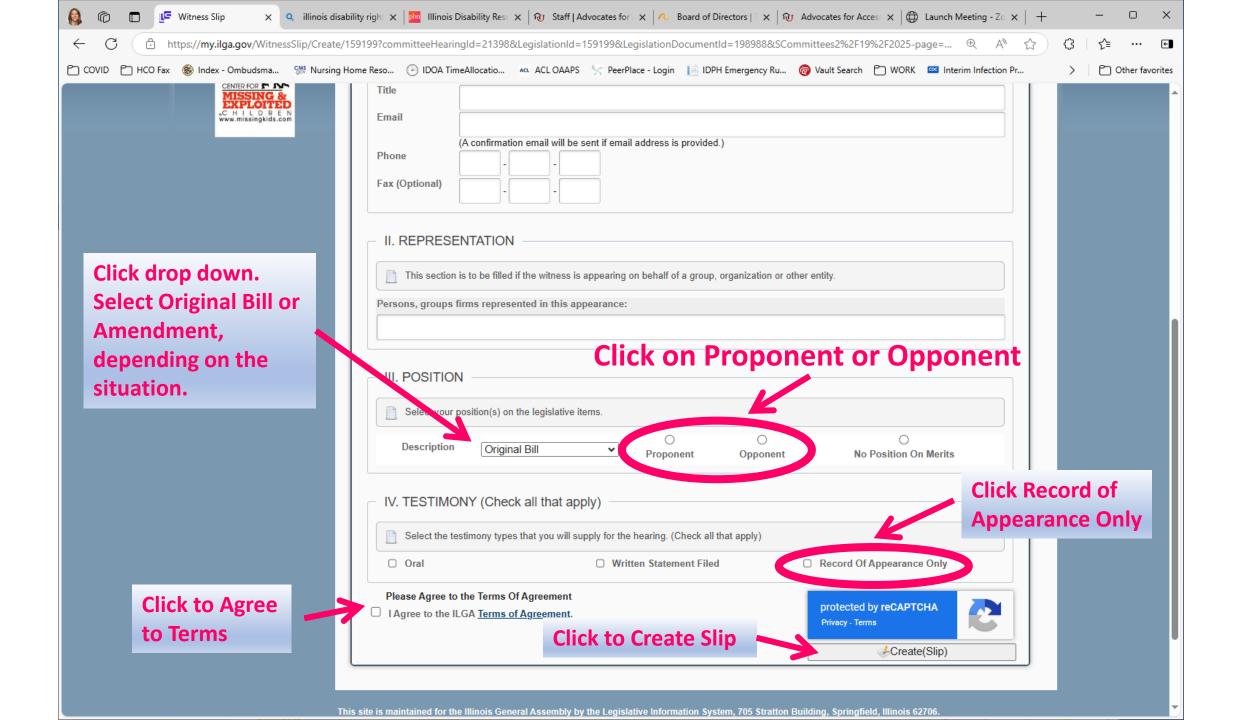














# Illinois 104th General Assembly Witness Slip Successful

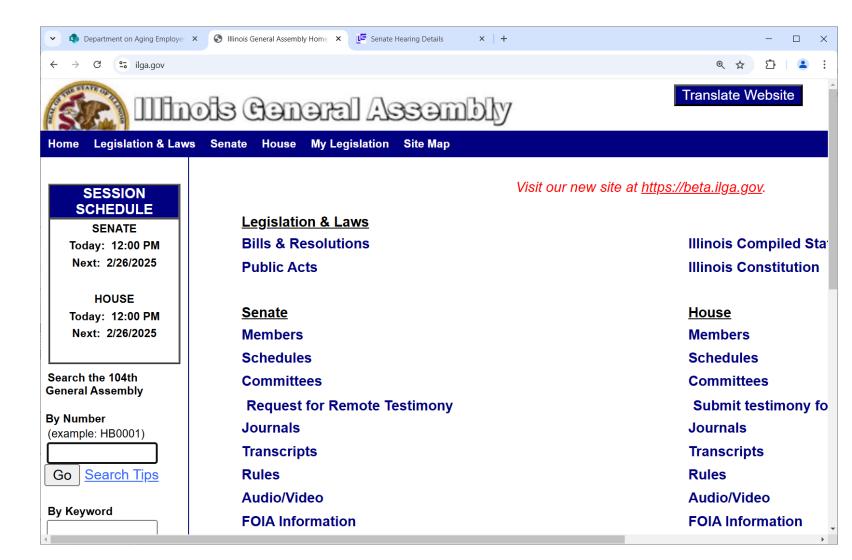


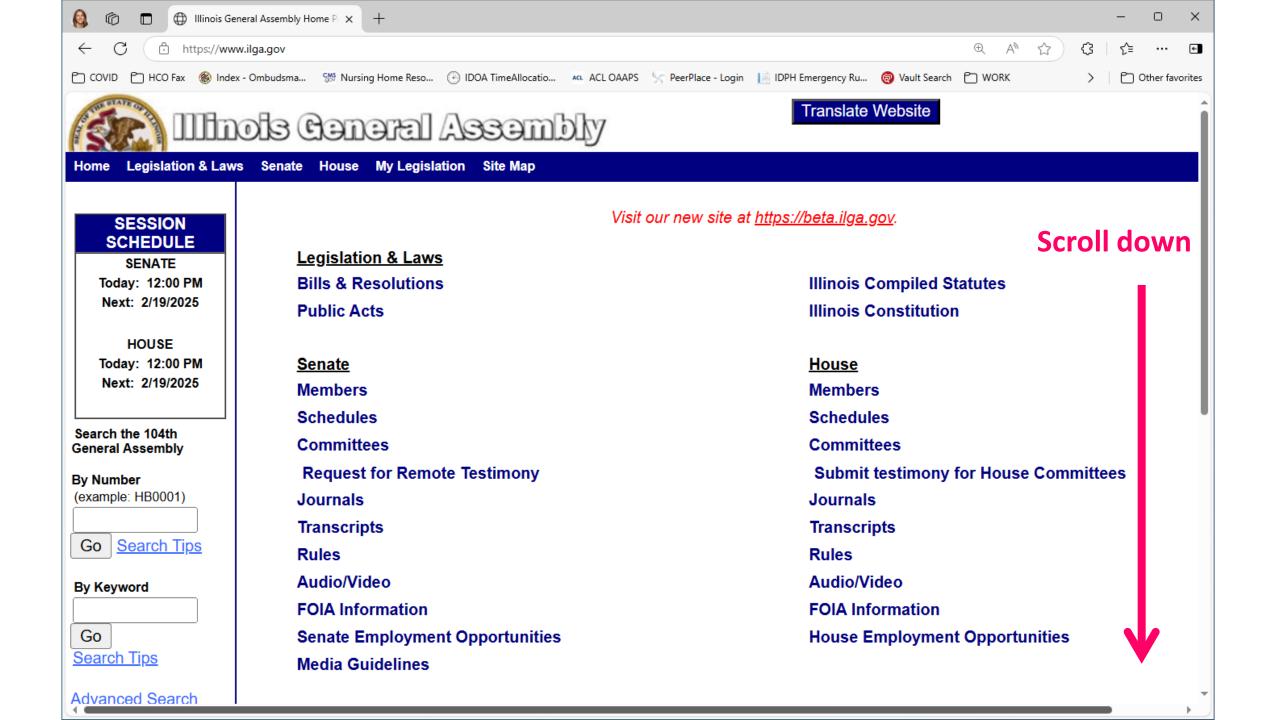


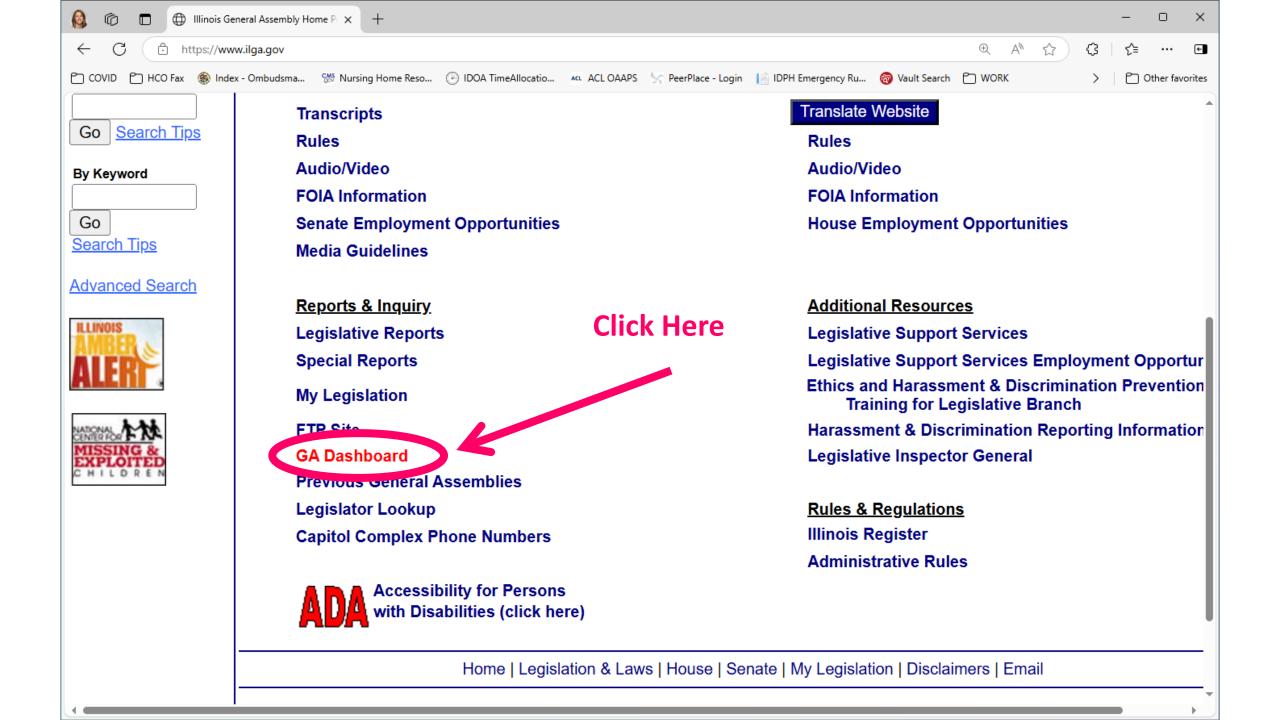
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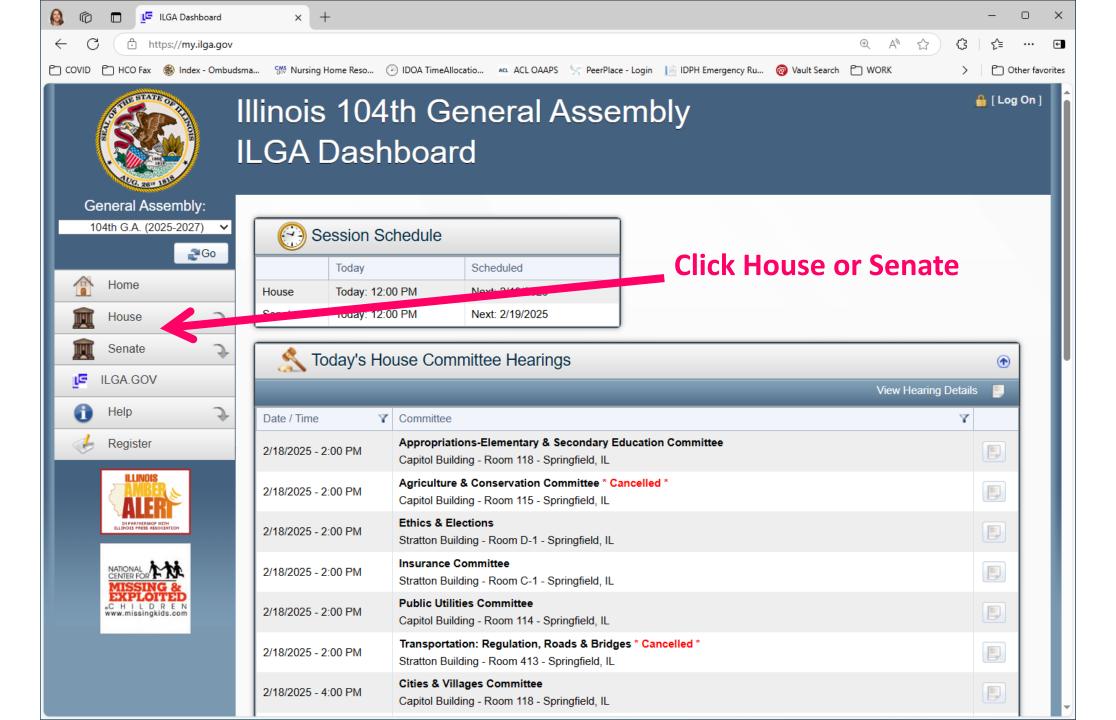
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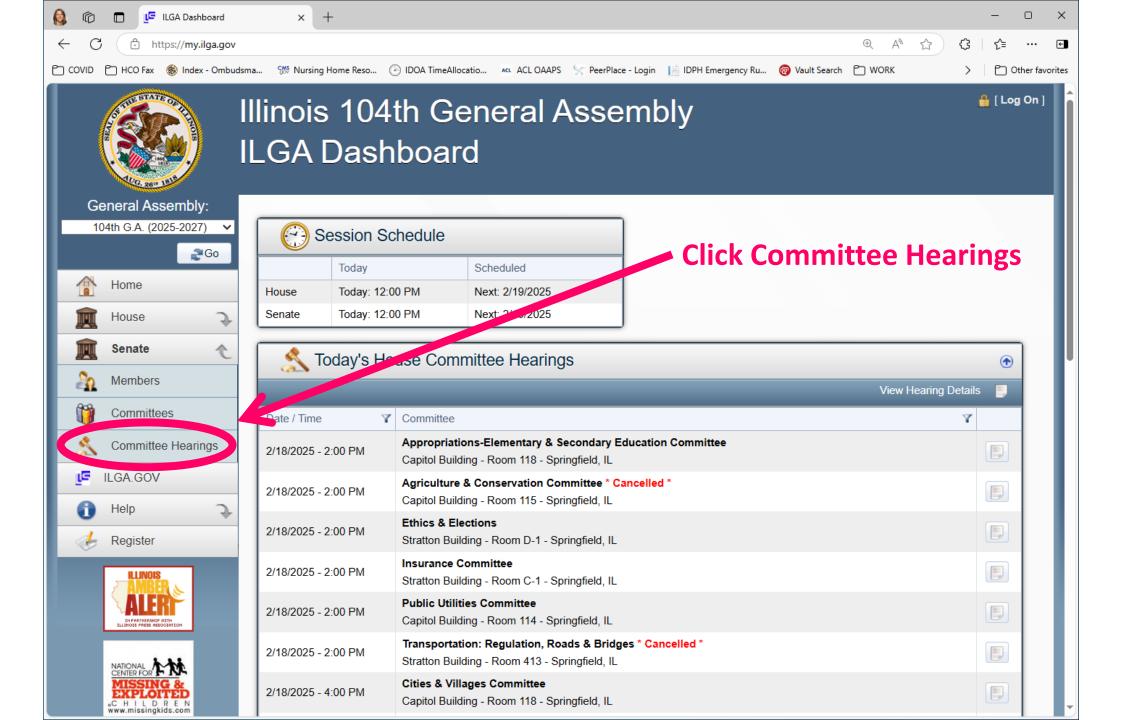
# Using the Committee Posting

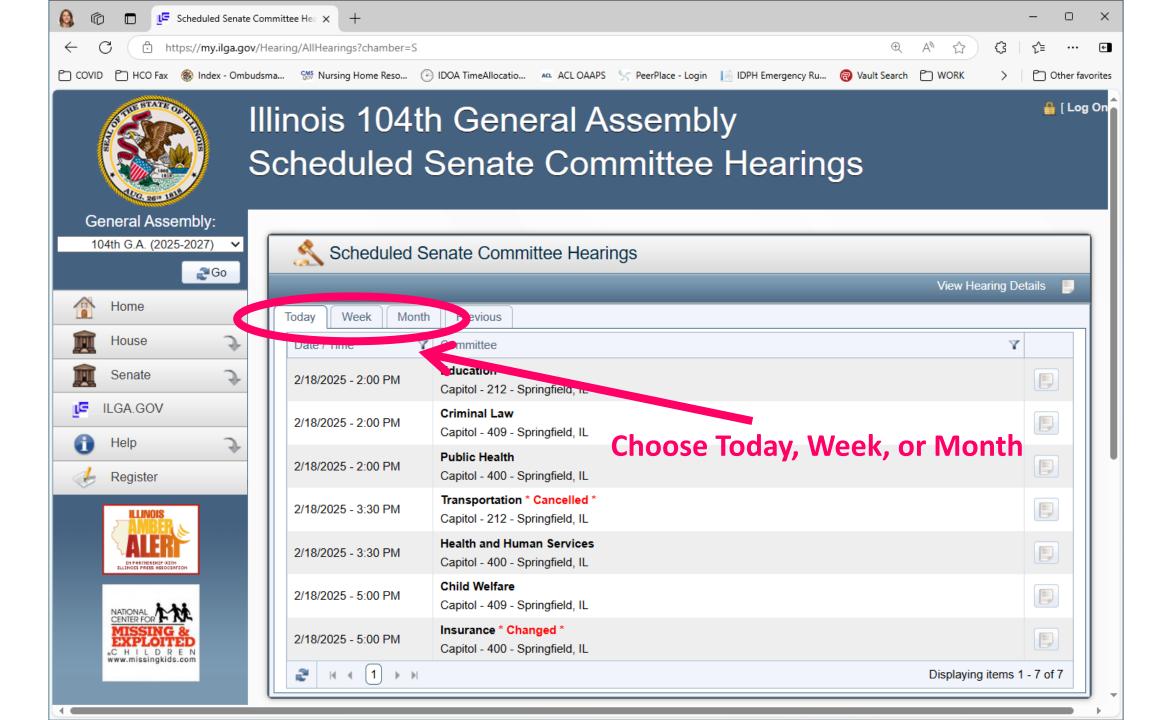


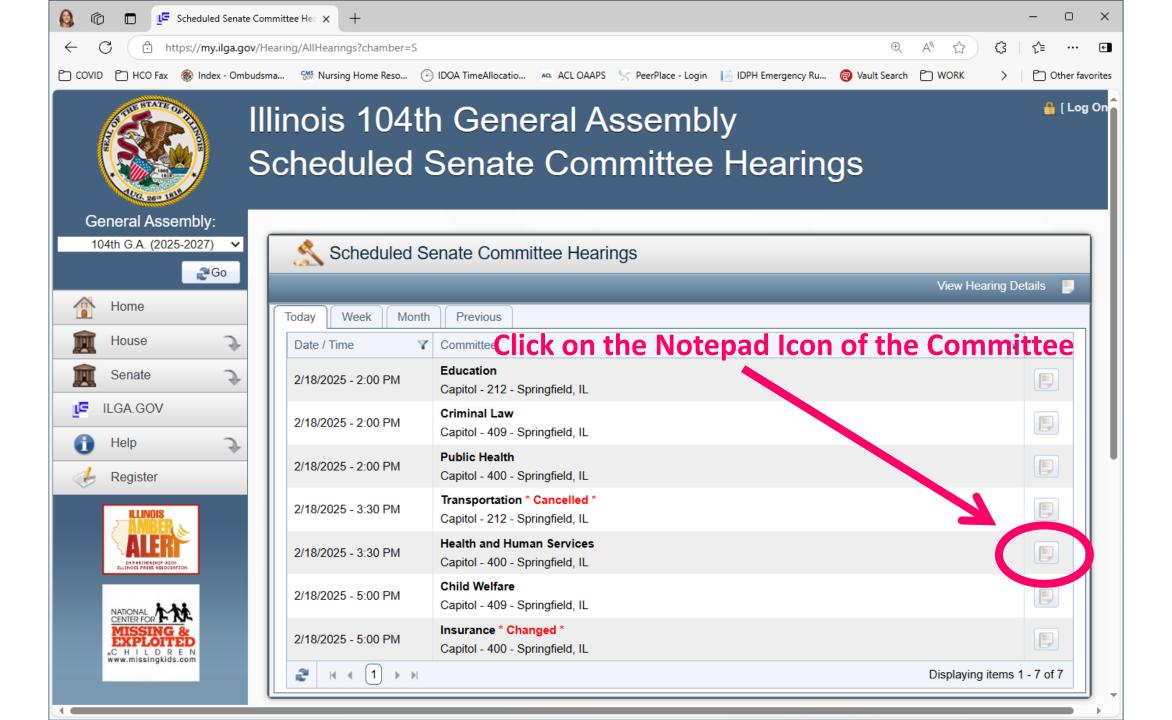


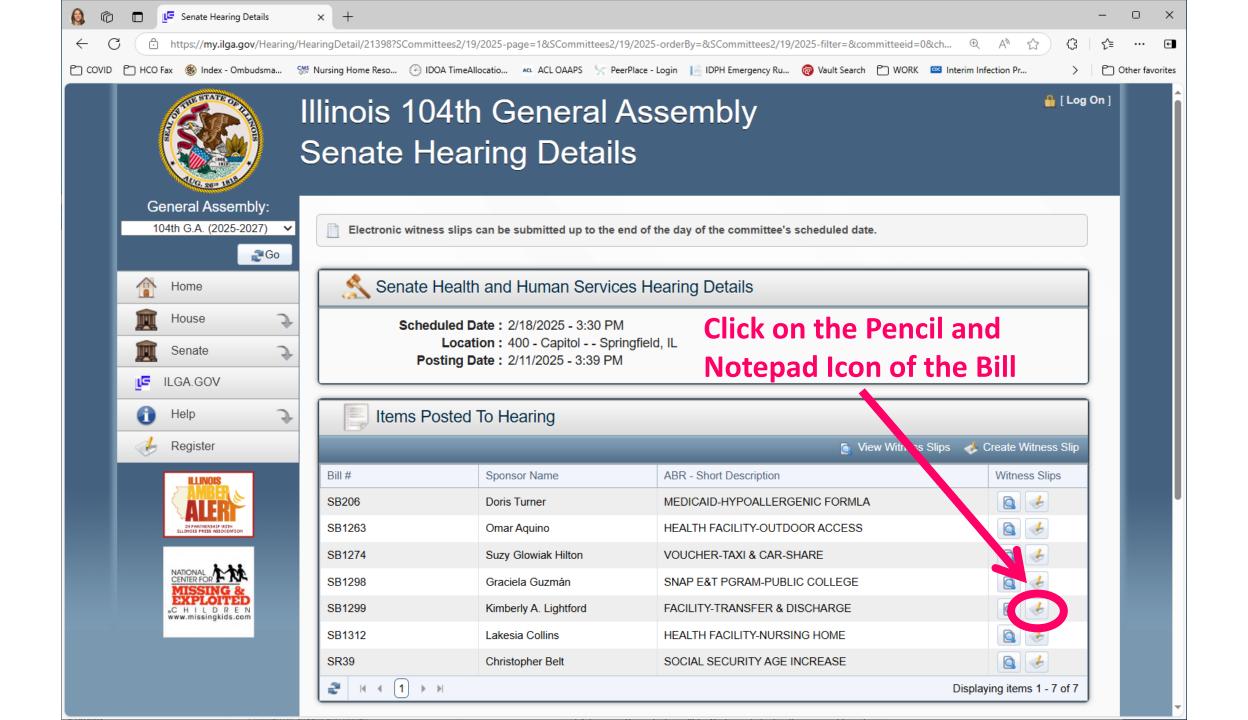


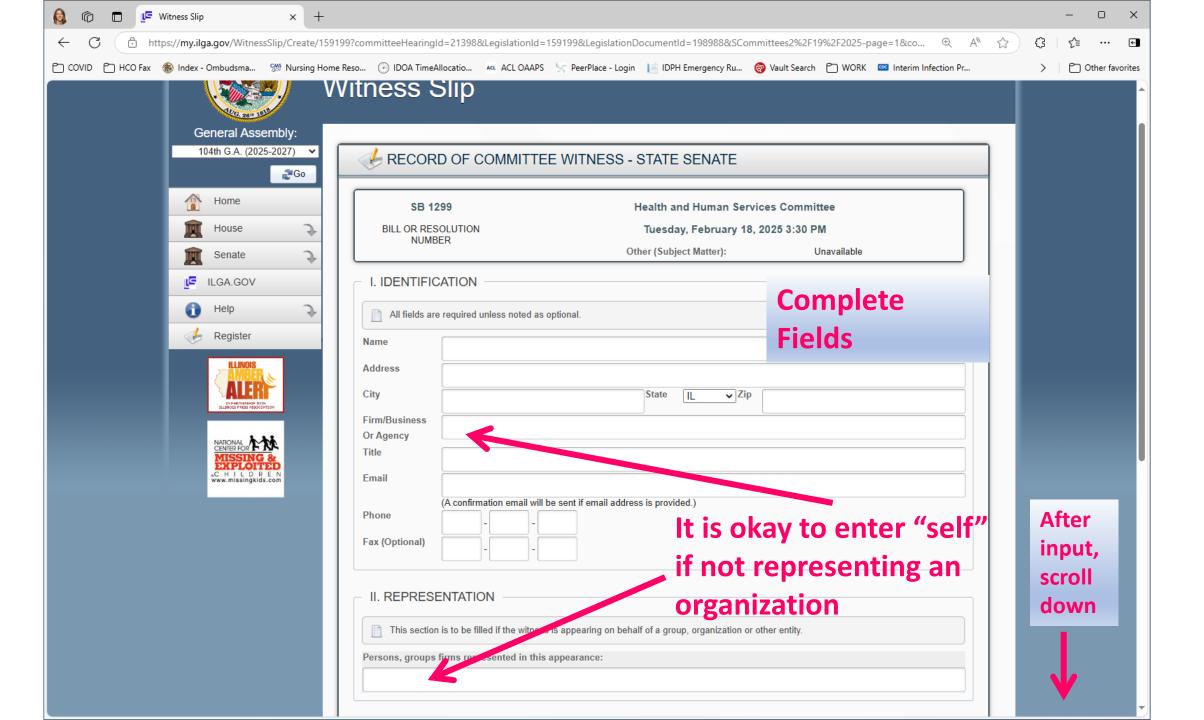


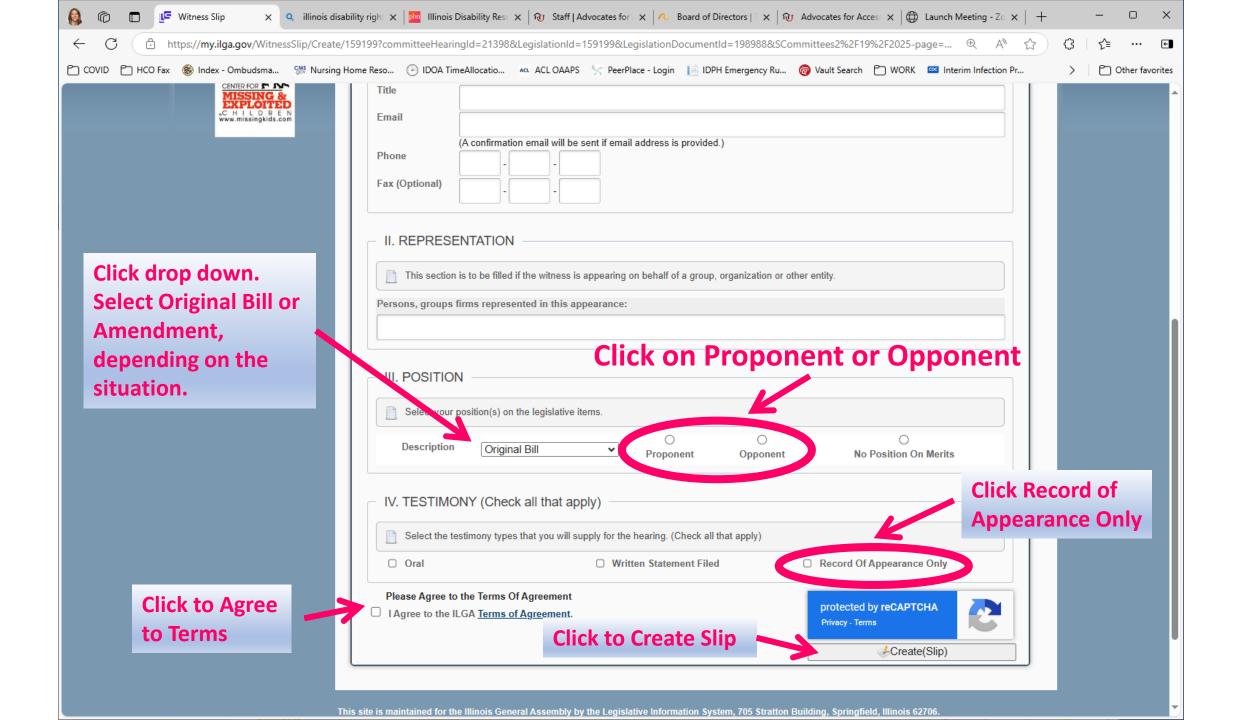














# Illinois 104th General Assembly Witness Slip Successful





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### Spring 2025 Ombudsman Initiatives

#### OUTDOOR ACCESS SB1263/HB1587

Specifies a resident's right to outdoor access unless the resident's physician documents it would put the resident or others in danger



Modifies the Nursing Home Care Act and the SMHRF Act.

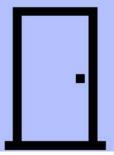
# AED REQUIREMENT SB0084/HB1287

Requires AEDs to be available in nursing homes and other long-term care settings



### DISCHARGE RIGHTS SB1299/HB1597

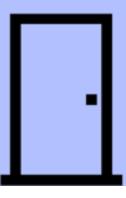
Strengthens resident protections when a nursing home tries to kick them out



Amends the Nursing Home Care Act and the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act

### DISCHARGE RIGHTS SB1299/HB1597

Strengthens resident protections when a nursing home tries to kick them out



Amends the Nursing Home Care Act and the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act

- The hearing process is the resident's main recourse after a home tries to dump them at a hospital and refuses to take them back.
- The administrative hearing process for an involuntary discharge exists to protect a resident's right to due process.
- These bills strengthen that right by:
  - Requiring a home to readmit a resident if an administrative law judge rules in the resident's favor
  - Clarifies home may be fined for refusing to take a resident back after a hearing decision in the resident's favor.
  - Providing for a 30-day notice of involuntary transfer or discharge to align with federal rules.

### OUTDOOR ACCESS SB1263/HB1587

Specifies a resident's right to outdoor access unless the resident's physician documents it would put the resident or others in danger



- Current law does not explicitly state a resident has the right to enter and leave the facility.
- Some long-term care operators have normalized the idea that residents must earn the right to go outside by being cooperative.
- These bills specify residents have a right to enter and leave unless the resident's physician documents that leaving would pose a danger to the resident or others.

### AED REQUIREMENT SB0084/HB1287

Requires AEDs to be available in nursing homes and other long-term care settings



- An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest and heart when it detects and abnormal rhythm.
- AEDs combined with CPR provide the best chance of survival when a person experiences cardiac arrest.
- AEDs are required in schools, fitness centers, horse racing facilities, police departments, and dental offices.
- These bills would require AEDs in long-term care homes resulting in better outcomes for residents who experience cardiac arrest due to the availability of faster treatment.

Other
Legislation
affecting LongTerm Care



SB0205 – Personal Needs Allowance to increase based on the consumer price index.



SB1465 – Makes changes Nursing Home Care Act regarding the staffing ratio