



WHAT IS A LEGISLATOR?

An Iowa legislator is someone who has many roles—lawmaker, a representative of constituents’ interests, and an overseer of state citizen interests.

To be an Iowa legislator, a person must be a United States citizen, must have been an Iowa resident for at least one year, and a resident of the district he or she will represent for at least 60 days prior to the election. Senators, who serve four-year terms, must be at least 25 years of age, while Representatives serve two-year terms and must be at least 21 years of age.

WHAT IS THEIR JOB?

Lawmaking

- Proposing, studying, discussing, and voting on legislation
- Appropriating money to state agencies and programs
- Creating, eliminating, and modifying Iowa laws and programs

Representing

- Serving constituents living in each district
- Functioning as a liaison between citizens and Iowa government

Evaluating

- Overseeing the work of departments and agencies funded by the Legislature
- Ensuring that laws are being carried out according to legislative intent
- Confirming the Governor’s appointments and responding to vetoes

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Iowa General Assembly web site: www.legis.state.ia.us