

Part I

Summary and Analysis

Introduction

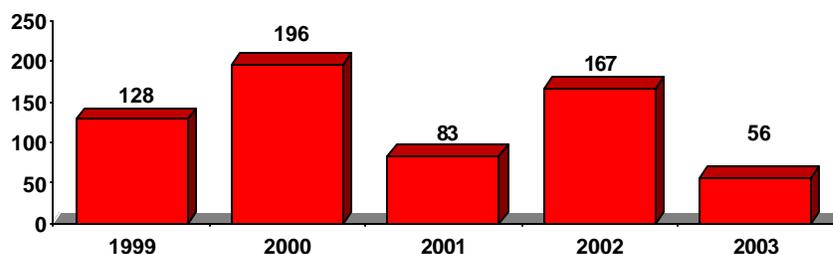
In 1995, the Legislative Budget Office (now the Legislative Service Commission Fiscal Staff) produced the first local impact statement (LIS) as required by S.B. 33 of the 120th General Assembly. The purpose of local impact statements is to provide members of the General Assembly with more thorough and timely information on the potential impacts of proposed legislation on counties, municipalities, townships, and school districts (referred to generically as “local governments” hereafter). The LIS information is designed to allow legislators to make better-informed decisions on bills that could affect local governments.

This section will examine the bills that were enacted in 2003 and during the 125th General Assembly. Comparisons are made with the bills enacted in 2003 and those enacted in previous years.

Bills Becoming Law

In calendar year 2003, the 125th General Assembly passed 36 House bills and 20 Senate bills, for a total of 56, the lowest total in five years. The number of enacted bills has varied from a low of 56 in 2003 to a high of 196 in 2000.

Figure 1. Bills Passed and Becoming Law, 1999 - 2003



Of the 533 bills introduced in 2003, 122 were determined to have a local impact, and 411 bills were determined to have no local impact. Of the 56 bills that became law, 45 were initially determined by LSC to have no local impact. Twelve of the bills were initially determined to meet LSC thresholds for a "yes" local impact determination.¹ Eleven of the bills passed in 2003 had a local impact "As Enacted."

¹ Please see the introduction for an explanation of the criteria LSC uses when making local impact determinations.

Local Impact Determinations for 2003 and Prior Year Comparisons

Of the 533 bills introduced in the General Assembly in 2003, 56 were enacted. However, 2003 was the first year of the 125th General Assembly, and many of the bills introduced in 2003 may be enacted in 2004. Thus, in order to make valid comparisons, this section of the report analyzes bill introduction and enactment rates in 2003 to figures from 2001 and 1999, the first year of the preceding two General Assemblies.

Table 1 below compares the number of enactments during 2003—the first year of the 125th General Assembly—to the first year of the two preceding General Assemblies. Nineteen percent, or 11 of the bills enacted in 2003, were designated with a "Yes" local impact determination. This is slightly higher than in 2001 when 14%, or 12 of the bills enacted in that year triggered LSC's criteria for a "Yes" local impact determination. For 1999, which encompasses the first year of the 123rd General Assembly, the enactment rate for such bills was 17%.

Table 1. Local Impact Determinations of Enacted Bills

G.A.	Year	# of Yes (%)	# of No (%)	Total (%)
125th	2003	11 (19%)*	45 (81%)	56 (100%)
124th	2001	12 (14%)	71 (86%)	83 (100%)
123rd	1999	22 (17%)	106 (83%)	128 (100%)

*S.B. 4 was passed by the General Assembly, but vetoed by the Governor on December 13, 2003.

The following three tables provide more detailed data for the same period. One general observation is that the volume of bill introductions has declined during the two previous and current General Assemblies, from 761 in 1999, to 668 in 2001, and 533 in 2003. Also, a higher percentage of bills with a "No" local impact determination are enacted than those with a "Yes" determination, although this difference narrowed slightly in 2003.

Table 2 shows that during the first year of the 125th General Assembly, 9% of all bills with an initial "Yes" local impact determination, or 11 of 122 such bills, were enacted. This compares with an enactment rate of 11% (46 of 411) for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, about 11% of all the bills introduced in 2003 were enacted.

Table 2. Bills Passed by the 125th General Assembly in 2003 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	122	11	9%
No	411	46	11%
Total	533	56	11%

Table 3 presents figures for 2001, the first year of the 124th General Assembly. For that year, 8% of enacted bills met LSC's thresholds for an initial "Yes" local impact determination, compared to 14% of those bills determined to bear no local impact. Overall, 12 % of all the bills introduced in that year were enacted.

Table 3. Bills Passed by the 124th General Assembly in 2001 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	145	12	8%
No	522	71	14%
Total	668*	83	12%

*HB 246 was not assigned to a committee. A local impact determination was not completed.

Table 4 shows that 12% of bills with a " Yes" local impact determination in 1999, the first year of the 123rd General Assembly were enacted, compared to 18% for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, 17% of all the bills introduced in 1999 were enacted.

Table 4. Bills Passed by the 123rd General Assembly in 1999 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	178	22	12%
No	583	106	18%
Total	761	128	17%

The chart below presents the data for all three General Assemblies, indicating that a lower percentage of bills with a "Yes" local impact are enacted when compared to the average for all bills. For example, 12% of bills with local impact were enacted in 1999, whereas 17% of all bills were enacted. Thus, bills with local impact tend to be enacted less frequently than bills with no local impact.

Figure 2. Enactment Rates for Bills With and Without Local Impact

