

Part I

Summary and Analysis

Introduction

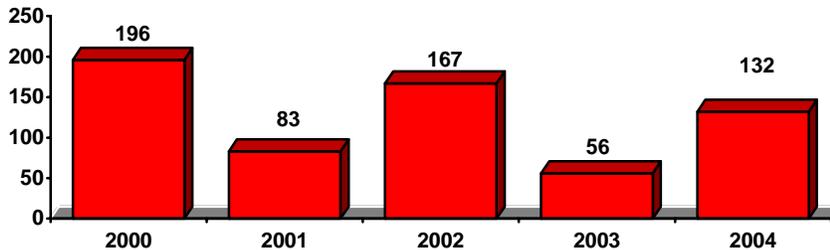
In 1995, the staff of the Legislative Budget Office (since merged with the Legislative Service Commission) produced the first local impact statement (LIS) as required by S.B. 33 of the 120th General Assembly. The purpose of local impact statements is to provide members of the General Assembly with more 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 2004 and during the 125th General Assembly. Comparisons are made with the bills enacted in 2004 and those enacted in previous years.

Bills Becoming Law

In calendar year 2004, the 125th General Assembly passed 99 House bills and 33 Senate bills, for a total of 132, the lowest number in a non-budget year since 1998. The number of enacted bills has varied in even numbered years (the non-budget years) from a high of 196 in 2000 to a low of 132 in 2004.

Figure 1. Bills Passed and Becoming Law, 2000 - 2004



Of the 340 bills introduced in 2004, 71 were determined to have a local impact, and 229 bills were determined to have no local impact. Of the 132 bills that became law, 119 were initially determined by LSC to have no local impact. The remaining 13 of the bills

were initially determined to meet LSC thresholds for a "yes" local impact determination.¹ All 13 of the bills passed in 2004 had a local impact when they were enacted.

Local Impact Determinations for 2003 and Prior Year Comparisons

Next, this report compares bills enacted in 2004 to prior years, with a word of caution about making comparisons to prior years. 2004 was the second year of the 125th General Assembly, during which many of the bills introduced in 2003, the first year of the general assembly, were enacted. Thus, in order to make valid comparisons, this section of the report analyzes bill introduction and enactment rates in 2004 to figures from 2002 and 2000, the second year of the preceding two General Assemblies.

Table 1 below compares the number of enactments during 2004—the second year of the 125th General Assembly—to the second year of the two preceding General Assemblies. Ten percent, or 13 of the bills enacted in 2004, were designated with a "Yes" local impact determination. This is approximately the same as in 2002, when 11%, or 18 of the bills enacted in that year triggered LSC's criteria for a "Yes" local impact determination. For 2000, which encompasses the second year of the 123rd General Assembly, the enactment rate for such bills was slightly higher at 14%.

Table 1. Local Impact Determinations of Enacted Bills

G.A.	Year	# of Yes (%)	# of No (%)	Total (%)
125th	2004	13 (10%)	119 (90%)	132 (100%)
124th	2002	18 (11%)	149 (89%)	167 (100%)
123rd	2000	28 (14%)	168 (86%)	196 (100%)

The following three tables provide more detailed data for the same period. 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 2004.

Table 2 shows that during the second year of the 125th General Assembly, 18% of all bills with an initial "Yes" local impact determination, or 13 of 71 such bills, were enacted. This compares with an enactment rate of 52% (119 of 229) for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, about 38% of all the bills introduced in 2004 were enacted.

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

Table 2. Bills Passed by the 125th General Assembly in 2004 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	71	13	18%
No	229	119	52%
Total	340	132	38%

Table 3 presents figures for 2002, the second year of the 124th General Assembly. For that year, 39% of enacted bills met LSC's thresholds for an initial "Yes" local impact determination, compared to 54% of those bills determined to bear no local impact. Overall, 51 % of all the bills introduced in that year were enacted.

Table 3. Bills Passed by the 124th General Assembly in 2002 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	51	20	39%
No	272	147	54%
Total	323	167	51%

Table 4 shows that 28% of bills with a " Yes" local impact determination in 2000, the second year of the 123rd General Assembly were enacted, compared to 56% for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, 49% of all the bills introduced in 1999 were enacted.

Table 4. Bills Passed by the 123rd General Assembly in 2000 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	98	27	28%
No	301	169	56%
Total	399	196	49%

The chart below consolidated the data in those previous tables for easy comparison, by showing the percentage of bills carrying a local impact that were enacted in 2004 compared to the final year of the previous two General Assemblies. It illustrates that a lower percentage of bills with a "Yes" local impact are enacted when compared to all bills. For example, 18% of bills with local impact were enacted in 2004, whereas 38% 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

