

Part I

Summary and Analysis

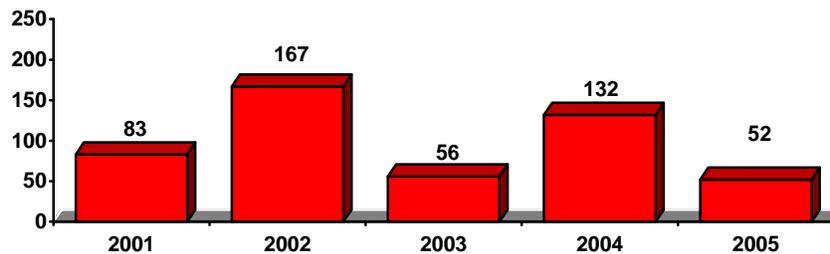
Introduction

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. This section covers bills that were enacted in 2005, during the first year of the 126th General Assembly.

Bills Becoming Law

In calendar year 2005, the 126th General Assembly passed 29 House bills and 22 Senate bills, for a total of 52, the lowest number in a budget year since LSC began producing this report in 1995. Figure 1 below shows that, looking at the four preceding years the number of enacted bills has varied in odd-numbered years (the budget years) from a high of 83 in 2001 to a low of 51 in 2005.

Figure 1. Bills Passed and Becoming Law, 2001 - 2005



Of the 710 bills *introduced* in 2005, 131 were determined to have a local impact, and 579 bills were determined to have no local impact. Of the 52 bills that became law, LSC's initial determination was that 46 bore no local impact. The remaining six bills were initially determined to meet LSC thresholds for a "Yes" local impact determination.¹ None of these five bills were modified to remove the local costs that triggered the initial local impact determination; thus all six of the bills passed in 2005 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 2005 and Prior Year Comparisons

Of the 710 bills introduced in 2005, 52 were enacted. This might appear to be a low number. However, 2005 was the first year of the 126th General Assembly. It is quite likely that many of the bills introduced in 2005 may be enacted in 2006. Thus, in order to make valid comparisons between 2005 and prior calendar years, this section of the report analyzes bill introduction and enactment rates in 2005 to figures from 2003 and 2001, the first years of the preceding two General Assemblies.

Table 1 below compares the number of enactments during 2005—the first year of the 126th General Assembly—to the first year of the two preceding General Assemblies. Twelve percent, or six of the bills enacted in 2005, were designated with a "Yes" local impact determination. This is a lower rate than 2003, when 19%, or 11 of the bills enacted in that year triggered LSC's criteria for a "Yes" local impact determination. For 2001, which encompasses the first year of the 124th General Assembly, the enactment rate for such bills was slightly higher than 2005, at 14%.

Table 1. Local Impact Determinations for Enacted Bills

G.A.	Year	# of Yes (%)	# of No (%)	Total (%)
126th	2005	6 (12%)	46 (88%)	52 (100%)
125th	2003	11 (19%)	45 (81%)	56 (100%)
124th	2001	12 (14%)	71 (86%)	83 (100%)

Table 2 shows that during the first year of the 126th General Assembly, 5% of all bills with an initial "Yes" local impact determination, or 6 of 131 such bills, were enacted. This compares with an enactment rate of 8% (46 of 579) for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, about 7% of all the bills introduced in 2005 were enacted.

Table 2. Bills Passed by the 126th General Assembly in 2005 that Became Law

Initial Review	# of Introduced Bills	# of Enacted Bills	% Becoming Law
Yes	131	6	5%
No	579	46	8%
Total	709	51	7%

Table 3 presents figures for 2003, the first year of the 125th General Assembly. For that year, 9% or 11 of the 122 bills introduced with an initial "Yes" local impact determination were enacted. This compares with an enactment rate of 11% (57 of 533) for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, about 11% of all the bills introduced in 2005 were enacted.

Table 3. 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	57	11%

Table 4 presents figures for 2001, the first year of the 124th General Assembly. For that year, 8% of all bills with an initial "Yes" local impact determination, or 12 of 145 such bills, were enacted. The enactment rate was 14% (71 of 522) for bills with a "No" local impact determination. Overall, about 12% of all the bills introduced in 2005 were enacted.

Table 4. 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%

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

Summarizing these data, the figure below shows enactment rates for bills with a "Yes" local impact compared to all bills enacted during the first years of the 124th, 125th, and 126th General Assemblies, covering calendar years 2001, 2003, and 2005. It confirms that the enactment rate for bills carrying a local impact is lower than the enactment rate for all bills, even though the difference is quite small. This has held true since this report was first published in 1996.

Figure 2. Enactment Rates for Bills with Local Impact vs. Enactment Rate for All Bills

