

Colorado Legislation Guide

LEGISLATURE v. LEGISLATOR

- **Legislature:** The branch of government responsible for enacting laws. The body made up of the Colorado House and Senate is referred to as the “*Legislature*.”
- **Legislator:** An elected member of a legislative body who makes laws; a member of a legislative body. A State Representative or Senator is referred to as a “*legislator*.”

REPRESENTATIVE v. CONGRESSMAN

- **Representative:** A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others. A “Representative” is a member of the state House of Representatives.
- **Congressman:** Congressman refers to federal lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

ADVOCACY v. LOBBYING

- **Advocacy:** Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. Advocacy involves educating a lawmaker on a subject.
- **Lobbying:** Seek to influence (a politician or public official) on an issue. Lobbying involves a direct ask of a lawmaker (ex: vote for bill xyz). Any money spent on a lawmaker or his/her office also is considered lobbying. **All lobbying is advocacy, but not all advocacy is lobbying.**
- **Lobbyist:** A representative of a special interest group whose function is to influence legislation affecting his special interest.

STATUTE V. BILL V. AMENDMENT

- **Statute:** A formal enactment of the legislature of a more permanent nature. The term "statute" is used to designate written law, as distinguished from unwritten law.
- **Bill:** Draft of a proposed law presented to the legislature for consideration.
- **Amendment:** Any alteration made (or proposed to be made) to a bill or clause thereof, by adding, deleting, substituting or omitting.
 - Committee amendment: An alteration made (or proposed to be made) to a bill that is offered by a legislative committee.
 - Floor amendment: An alteration offered to a legislative document that is presented by a legislator while that document is being discussed on the floor of that legislator's chamber.

SESSION V. HEARING

- **Session:** (1) Period during which the legislature meets; (2) the daily meeting of the Senate or House.
 - Regular session: The annual (or biennial) meeting of the legislature required by constitution
 - Special (or extraordinary) session: A special meeting of the legislature that is called by the governor (or the legislature itself) and limited to specific matters.
- **Hearing:** Public discussion and appearance on a proposal or bill; usually scheduled by a committee.

