

Determining Effective Dates

To determine a bill's effective date, four elements are important:

1. Is the effective date given in the bill itself?
2. On what date did final passage of the legislation occur?
3. If the legislation passed after May 31, how many votes did it get in each chamber of the General Assembly?
4. On what date did the governor sign the legislation?

After you have identified these four things, the Illinois Compiled Statutes (5 ILCS 75/1), Section 10 of the Illinois Constitution and Rules of the General Assembly establish a procedure to determine effective dates. The following is a brief description of these rules:

Bills Passed Prior to June 1

A bill passed prior to June 1 of a calendar year that does not provide for an effective date in the bill shall be effective January 1 of the following year or upon signing, whichever is later.

A bill passed prior to June 1 of a calendar year that does provide for an effective date in the bill shall become effective on that date if that date is the same as the signing date or after the signing date.

A bill passed prior to June 1 of a calendar year that does provide for an effective date in the bill shall become effective on the date that it is signed if the effective date provided in the bill occurs before the date of signing.

Bills Passed After May 31

A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year that does not provide for an effective date in the bill but passes the General Assembly with a 3/5 majority (at least 71 in the House and 36 in the Senate) shall become effective January 1 of the following year or upon signing, whichever is later.

A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year that does not provide for an effective date in the bill and passed the General Assembly with a majority of those voting (at least 60 in the House and 29 in the Senate) shall become effective on July 1 of the next calendar year unless a later effective date is provided for in the bill.

A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year that does provide for an effective date in the bill and passes the General Assembly with a 3/5 majority (at least 71 in the House and 36 in the Senate) shall become effective on the date that is defined in the bill if that date occurs on or after the date of signing.

A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year that does provide for an effective date in the bill and passes the General Assembly with a majority of those voting (at least 60 in the House and 29 in the Senate) shall become effective on July 1 of the next calendar year.

A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year that does provide for an effective date in the bill and passes the General Assembly with a 3/5 majority (at least 71 in the House and 36 in the Senate) shall become effective on the date of signing if that date occurs after the effective date stipulated in the bill.