



Commonly used health/pain policy acronyms

ACA: Affordable Care Act

AHRQ: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

CARA: Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. A large bill addressing substance use disorder with only one pain provision - Section 101, creating the Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CURES Act: The 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016 allocated funding for innovation at the NIH and FDA and state grants to tackle opioid abuse.

DOD: Department of Defense

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FPRS: Federal Pain Research Strategy

HEAL Initiative: Help End Addiction Long-term Initiative - a \$500 million investment to support pain and addiction research at the NIH.

HHS: Department of Health and Human Services

IOM: Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine)

IPRCC: Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee

NIH: National Institutes of Health

NPS: National Pain Strategy

PDMP: Prescription drug monitoring program

PMTF: Pain Management Best Practices Task Force

VA: Veterans Administration

Legislative terms

Act: Legislation that has been passed by a legislative body and signed into law.

Adhere: A step in parliamentary procedure whereby one house of the legislature votes to stand by its previous action in response to some conflicting action by another chamber.

Adjournment: Termination of a session for that day, with the hour and day of the next meeting being set.

Adjournment sine die: Final termination of a regular or special legislative session.

Adoption: Approval or acceptance, usually applies to amendments, committee reports or resolutions.

Advocate: Person who publicly supports or represents a cause or policy.

Aide: An assistant to a public official.

Amendment: The proposal by a member of a legislature to alter the wording of a bill under consideration.

Appeal: A procedure for testing, and possibly changing, the decision of a presiding officer.

Appropriation: Legislation that directs the spending of public funds during a certain period, usually the fiscal year.



Author: The person, normally a legislator, who presents a bill or resolution for consideration; may be joined by others who are known as coauthors.

Authorization: An act that creates or extends a program.

Bill: A proposed law that has not yet been passed.

Bipartisan: Having an affiliation or association with both political parties or caucuses.

Carry-over legislation: Legislation that is held over from the first year of a legislative biennium to the second year.

Caucus: An informal meeting of a group of members of a legislative body; sometimes convened based on interest or party affiliation (as in Elder Caucus).

Chamber: Official hall for the meeting of a legislative body (House/Senate).

Committee: A specialized subgroup of a legislative body established to consider and report on a specific area of legislation and to monitor the implementation of programs enacted.

Committee report: Official release of a bill or resolution from committee with or without a specific recommendation, such as "pass", "pass as amended" or "do not pass."

Committee substitute: A bill offered by a committee in lieu of another bill that was originally referred to the committee for consideration; an amendment to the original bill by the committee.

Concurrence (to concur): Action by which one house agrees to a proposal or action that the other chamber has approved.

Conference: A meeting between members of the House and Senate to iron out a compromise between different versions of a bill. Once a compromise is worked out, the conference report is voted upon for approval.

Constituent: A voter or elector who an elected official represents; a citizen residing within the district of a legislator.

Convene: When members of a chamber gather for the meeting of the legislature daily, weekly and at the beginning of a session as provided by the constitution or law.

Died in committee ("bill dies"): The defeat of a bill by not returning it from committee to the house for further action.

Effective date: When a law generally becomes effective or binding, either upon a specific date in the law itself or a fixed number of days (depending on the state) after the final adjournment of the session during which it was enacted or on signature by the governor.

Engross: The process by which a bill is updated; incorporating adopted amendments and other changes into a bill as it makes its way through the Senate or House.

Enroll: The process of changing a bill passed by both chambers into its final format so that it's ready for transmission to the governor.

Executive session: A session that excuses all persons from the room other than members and essential staff personnel.

First reading: The first presentation of a bill or its title for consideration; the first reading is done at the time of introduction in some states.



Fiscal: Dealing with government revenue, especially taxes.

Fiscal note: The estimated dollar amount of increase or decrease in revenue or expenditures; includes the present and future implications of a piece of pending legislation.

Fiscal year: An accounting period of 12 months.

Floor: A colloquialism describing the interior meeting room of a legislative body; matters before the body are referred to as "on the floor" or "going to the floor."

Hearing: A meeting of legislators open to the public in which members of the public have the opportunity to voice support or opposition to a bill.

House: The generic term for a legislative body; shortened name for House of Representatives or House of Delegates.

Indefinite postponement: A motion used to kill a main motion without taking a direct vote on it;

Initiative: A proposal put directly before voters, bypassing the legislative process.

Legislature: The branch of state government responsible for enacting laws.

Lobbyist: A person paid to represent the interests of a group to the government.

Majority leader: A member of the majority political party designated to be a leader.

Measure: General term for a bill, resolution or memorial.

Minority leader: A member of the minority political party designated to be leader.

Motion: Formal proposal offered by a member of a deliberative assembly.

Officers: That portion of the legislature elected by its members to serve in positions of authority, such as Speaker of the House.

Petition: Formal request submitted by an individual or group of individuals to the legislature.

Policy: Courses of action, regulatory measures, laws and funding priorities concerning a given topic.

Postpone indefinitely: A means of disposing of an issue by not setting a date on which to consider it again.

Reading: The presentation of a bill before either house by reading the title thereof; a stage in the enactment of a bill.

Recess: Intermission on a daily session; intermission from one day to the next.

Referendum: The method by which a measure adopted by a legislature may be submitted to popular vote.

Repeal: A method by which a legislative action is revoked or annulled.

Resolution: A document that expresses the sentiment or intent of a legislature or a chamber that governs the business of the legislature or a chamber, or that expresses recognition by the legislature or a chamber.

Session: The period during which the legislature meets.

Sine die: Usually adjournment without a day being set for reconvening; final adjournment.

Special order: To set consideration of a bill or measure for a specific, future time of the session.

Sponsor: The person (usually a legislator) who presents a bill or resolution for consideration; may be joined by others, who are known as a cosponsor.



Statute: A formal enactment of the legislature of a more permanent nature; used to designate written law.

Status of bill: The progress of a bill at any given time in the legislative process. It can be in committee, on the calendar, in the other house, etc.

Strike out: The deletion of language from a bill or resolution.

Sunset: Expiration date of a measure.

Suspension of the rules: Parliamentary procedure whereby actions can be taken that would otherwise be out of order.

Testimony: A formal written or spoken statement given at a public hearing, forum or other meeting.

Title: The heading or preliminary part, furnishing the name by which the act is individually known.

Veto: An executive's formal disapproval of legislation, usually, an action of the governor to disapprove a measure.

Veto override: Vote by the legislature to pass a bill over a governor's veto.

Vote: Formal expression of decision by the body.

Yeas and nays: Recorded vote of members on an issue.