

Messaging

Purposes. Messaging is one mode of official legislative communication, and it is used by almost all legislative assemblies. Only three chambers—the Connecticut Senate, Massachusetts Senate and Rhode Island House—reported that they do not use messages (see Table 08-6.49).

Messages are means through which a chamber provides notice of various actions to the other chamber or branches of government. Legislative assemblies most frequently send messages to give notice of:

- the passage of a bill (80 chambers),
- the appointment of conference committee members (78 chambers),
- the refusal to concur in amendments (77 chambers),
- the adoption of a conference report (74 chambers), and
- the override of a veto (74 chambers).

Tables 08-6.50 through 08-6.52 also highlight other purposes for which messages are sent.

Processing Messages Generally. Because messages are official communications, chambers usually have specific processes for sending, receiving and handling them.

Legislative bodies may assign the responsibility for sending messages to a particular individual. In 82 chambers, the clerk or secretary is responsible for sending messages (see Table 08-6.53). Legislative assemblies also may specify the format in which messages are sent, and in 83 chambers, this is by typed—or written—hard copy (see Table 08.6-54).

Chambers may assign the responsibility for receiving messages to a particular individual and, again, this is most commonly the clerk or secretary (see Table 08-6.55). Table 08-6.56 illustrates that the timing of when a message is received varies greatly. Twenty-seven legislative assemblies do not require that a message be received; on the other hand, 25 legislative bodies require immediate receipt of a message. Forty-seven chambers require confirmation of the receipt of a message (see Table 08-6.57); and Table 08-6.58 shows that a message's receipt most frequently is recorded in the journal.

Messages are taken up on the floor in 71 legislative assemblies. Most often, messages are discussed under the appropriate order of business (see Table 08-6.59), but they typically are not taken up in a certain order (see Table 08-6.60).

Transmitting Bills with Messages. Forty-nine of the 50 states and three of the six territories have bicameral legislatures; only the District of Columbia Council and the Guam, Nebraska and Virgin Islands legislatures are unicameral. As a result, most legislatures must have some mechanism to officially move legislation between their senates and houses or assemblies. For the vast majority of legislative chambers, a message is the mechanism used to transmit bills to the other body (see Table 08-6.61). Only four legislative bodies—the Connecticut Senate, Massachusetts Senate and House, and the New York Senate—reported that bills are not transmitted with a message.

Once a chamber has transmitted a bill, at what point does the other chamber have legal possession of the document? Table 08-6.62 shows that the answer most often is upon taking physical possession of the bill.

What happens if there is a mistake in the message accompanying a bill? Seventy-four chambers accept a corrected message (see Table 08-6.63).

A legislature also transmits enacted legislation to the governor for his or her consideration. But can the governor refuse to accept delivery of a bill? Only one chamber—the Rhode Island House—reported that the answer is "yes" (see Table 08-6.64).

Table 08-6.49 Use of Messages

In the following chambers, messages are used. (1)	
Alabama Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arizona Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arkansas Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
California Senate and Assembly	New Mexico Senate and House
Colorado House	New York Senate
Delaware House	North Carolina Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	North Dakota Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Oregon Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Indiana House	South Carolina Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Kansas Senate and House	Tennessee Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Vermont Senate and House
Massachusetts House	Virginia Senate and House
Michigan Senate	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Missouri Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Montana Senate and House	Puerto Rico Senate
In the following chambers, messages are not used.	
Connecticut Senate	Rhode Island House
Massachusetts Senate	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.50 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 1

State (1)	To send notice of the organization of the chamber	To send notice of the passage of a bill	To send notice of the rejection of a bill	To request concurrence in amendments	To send notice of the refusal to concur in amendments	To send notice of the concurrence in amendments
Alabama	B	B		B	B	B
Alaska	B	B	B	B	B	B
Arizona	B	B	B		B	B
Arkansas	H	B	B	B	B	B
California		B	H	B	B	B
Colorado	H	H	H	H	H	H
Connecticut						
Delaware	H	H	H			
Florida	S	B	B	B	B	B
Georgia	B	B	H		B	B
Hawaii		B			B	B
Idaho	B	B	B	B		
Illinois	B	B	S	B	B	B
Indiana	H	H		H	H	H
Iowa	B	B	B	B	B	B
Kansas	B	B	B		B	B
Kentucky		S		B	B	B
Louisiana	S	B		B	B	S
Maine						
Maryland	S			S	S	
Massachusetts	H					
Michigan	S	S	S	S	S	S
Minnesota	B	B		B	B	
Mississippi	H	B	S	B	B	B
Missouri	B	B		B	B	B
Montana		B	B	B	B	B
Nebraska		S				
Nevada	H	H	H	H	H	H
New Hampshire	H	H	H	H	H	H
New Jersey	S	S				
New Mexico	H	B	B	B	B	B
New York						
North Carolina	B	B	H	B	B	H
North Dakota	B	B	B		B	B

Table 08-6.50 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 1, cont'd.

State (1)	To send notice of the organization of the chamber	To send notice of the passage of a bill	To send notice of the rejection of a bill	To request concurrence in amendments	To send notice of the refusal to concur in amendments	To send notice of the concurrence in amendments
Ohio	B	B	B	B	B	B
Oklahoma		B	B	S	B	B
Oregon	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pennsylvania	B	B		B	B	B
Rhode Island						
South Carolina	H	B	B	B	B	B
South Dakota		B	B	B	B	B
Tennessee	B	B	S	B	B	B
Texas	B	B		B	B	B
Utah	H	B	B	B	B	B
Vermont	B	B	B	B	B	B
Virginia	B	B	B	B	B	B
Washington	H	B	B	B	B	B
West Virginia	B	B	B	B	B	B
Wisconsin	B	B	B	S	B	B
Wyoming	B	B	B	B	B	B
Puerto Rico	S	S	S	S	S	S

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.51 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 2

State (1)	To send notice of refusal to recede from amendments	To send notice of the decision to recede from amendments	To request a conference committee	To send notice of the appointment of conference committee members
Alabama	S	S	B	B
Alaska	B	B	B	B
Arizona			B	B
Arkansas	B	B	B	B
California			H	B
Colorado	H	H	H	H
Connecticut				
Delaware				
Florida	B	H	B	B
Georgia	S	B		B
Hawaii		S		B
Idaho		B	B	B
Illinois	B	B	B	B
Indiana			H	H
Iowa	B	B	H	B
Kansas			B	B
Kentucky	B	H	B	B
Louisiana			H	B
Maine				
Maryland	S	S	S	S
Massachusetts				H
Michigan	S	S	S	S
Minnesota			B	B
Mississippi	S	S	B	B
Missouri	B	B	B	B
Montana			B	B
Nebraska				
Nevada	H	H	H	H
New Hampshire			H	H
New Jersey				
New Mexico	B	B	B	B
New York				
North Carolina			B	B
North Dakota	B	B	B	B

Table 08-6.51 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 2, cont'd.

State (1)	To send notice of refusal to recede from amendments	To send notice of the decision to recede from amendments	To request a conference committee	To send notice of the appointment of conference committee members
Ohio	B	B	B	B
Oklahoma			B	B
Oregon	S	S	B	B
Pennsylvania	H	B	B	B
Rhode Island				
South Carolina	B	B	B	B
South Dakota			B	B
Tennessee	B	B	B	B
Texas	B	B	B	B
Utah	B	B	B	B
Vermont	B	B	B	B
Virginia	S	B	B	
Washington	B	B	B	B
West Virginia	B	B	B	B
Wisconsin	B	B	B	B
Wyoming		B	B	B
Puerto Rico	S	S	S	S

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.52 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 3

State (1)	To send notice of the adoption of a conference report	To send notice of the decision not to adopt a conference report	To request a joint meeting of the body or committee	To send notice of a veto override	To request the return of a bill for further consideration (recall)	Other
Alabama	B	S		B		2
Alaska	B	B	B	B	B	
Arizona	B	S		B	B	
Arkansas	S	S	S	B	B	3
California	B	B	H	B	B	
Colorado	H	H		H	H	
Connecticut						
Delaware				H	H	
Florida	B	B		B	B	
Georgia	B	H		B		
Hawaii	B			S	S	4
Idaho	S	B	B	B		
Illinois	B	B	H	B		
Indiana	H			H	H	
Iowa	B	B		B		
Kansas	B	B		B	B	
Kentucky				S	B	
Louisiana	B	S		B		
Maine						
Maryland			S	S	S	
Massachusetts						5
Michigan	S	S		S	S	
Minnesota	B	B	B	B	B	
Mississippi	B	B		B	B	
Missouri	B	B	S	B	B	
Montana	B	B				6
Nebraska				S	S	
Nevada	H	H	H	H	H	
New Hampshire	H	H	H	H		7
New Jersey						
New Mexico	B	B	H	B	B	
New York					S	8
North Carolina	B	H	S	B	B	
North Dakota	B	B		B	B	

Table 08-6.52 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 3, cont'd.

State (1)	To send notice of the adoption of a conference report	To send notice of the decision not to adopt a conference report	To request a joint meeting of the body or committee	To send notice of a veto override	To request the return of a bill for further consideration (recall)	Other
Ohio	B	B	S	B	B	
Oklahoma	B	B	B	B	B	
Oregon	B	B	S	B	B	9
Pennsylvania	B	B	B	B	B	
Rhode Island						
South Carolina	B	S		B	B	10
South Dakota	B	B	B	B	B	
Tennessee	B	B		B	B	
Texas	B	B	S	S	B	
Utah	B	B		B	B	
Vermont	B	B	B	B	B	
Virginia	B	B		B		
Washington	B	B		B	H	
West Virginia	B	S	H	H	B	
Wisconsin	B	B	S	B	S	
Wyoming	B	B		B	B	
Puerto Rico	S	S	S	S	S	

Table 08-6.52 Main Purposes for Messages—Part 3, cont'd.**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama. In the Senate, messages also are used to request the signature of the speaker of the House on enrolled bills, and the Senate Rules Committee can issue messages about engrossed and enrolled bills for the journal.
3. Arkansas. In the Senate, messages also are used to send notices to the governor.
4. Hawaii. In the Senate, a message is used to inform the governor that a nominee for a cabinet position, judicial post, or board or commission has been approved or rejected. In addition, a message is sent to the chief justice when a nominee to a judicial post has been approved or rejected.
5. Massachusetts. In the House, messages are sent to give notice of appointments to standing committees, special committees, special commissions or task forces.
6. Montana. In both chambers, other uses for messages include to send notice of extraordinary vote and passage or notice of appointments and to receive messages from the governor about bill signings or amendatory veto.
7. New Hampshire. In the House, messages also are used to accede to a request for conference and to send notice that a veto has been sustained or overridden.
8. New York. In the Senate, messages also can be received from the Assembly or governor.
9. Oregon. In the Senate, messages about bill passage and confirmation of executive appointments also are sent to the governor and secretary of state.
10. South Carolina. In the House, messages also are used to set a time for ratifying acts.

Table 08-6.53 Who Is Responsible for Sending Messages

State (1)	President of the Senate or Speaker of the House	Senate President Pro Tem or House Speaker Pro Tem	Clerk or secretary	Messaging clerk	Other
Alabama			B	H	
Alaska			B		
Arizona			B		
Arkansas	H		B		
California			B		
Colorado			H		2
Connecticut					
Delaware			H		
Florida			B	S	
Georgia			B	S	
Hawaii	S		B		
Idaho	H	S	B		
Illinois			B	H	
Indiana			H		
Iowa			B	H	
Kansas			B		
Kentucky			B	S	
Louisiana			B		
Maine					
Maryland			S		
Massachusetts			H		
Michigan			S		
Minnesota			B		
Mississippi			B	S	
Missouri			B	H	
Montana			B		
Nebraska			S		
Nevada			H		3
New Hampshire			H		
New Jersey			S		
New Mexico			B		
New York			S		
North Carolina			B	S	
North Dakota			B		

Table 08-6.53 Who Is Responsible for Sending Messages, cont'd.

State (1)	President of the Senate or Speaker of the House	Senate President Pro Tem or House Speaker Pro Tem	Clerk or secretary	Messaging clerk	Other
Ohio			H	S	
Oklahoma			B	S	
Oregon			B		
Pennsylvania			S	B	
Rhode Island					
South Carolina			B	H	
South Dakota			B		
Tennessee			B		
Texas			B		
Utah			B	S	
Vermont			B		
Virginia	S		B		4
Washington	H		B		
West Virginia			B		
Wisconsin			B		
Wyoming			B		
Puerto Rico	S	S	S		

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Colorado. In the House, the clerk can assign this duty to a staff person.
3. Nevada. In the Assembly, the assistant chief clerk also sends messages.
4. Virginia. In the House, the clerk delegates this duty to a communications clerk.

Table 08-6.54 Formats in Which Messages Are Sent

State (1)	Committee or delegation of legislators	Typed or written (hard copy) message	Electronic (e-mail) message	Other
Alabama		B		
Alaska		B		
Arizona	H	B		
Arkansas	H	B		
California		B		
Colorado		H	H	
Connecticut				
Delaware		H		
Florida		B	B	
Georgia		B		2
Hawaii		B		
Idaho	B	B		
Illinois		B	H	
Indiana		H		
Iowa	B	B		
Kansas		B		
Kentucky		B		
Louisiana		B		
Maine				
Maryland		S		
Massachusetts	H	H	H	
Michigan		S	S	
Minnesota		B		
Mississippi	H	H		
Missouri		B		
Montana		B		
Nebraska		S		
Nevada	H	H		
New Hampshire		H		
New Jersey		S		
New Mexico		B		
New York		S		
North Carolina		B		
North Dakota		B	B	

Table 08-6.54 Formats in Which Messages Are Sent, cont'd.

State (1)	Committee or delegation of legislators	Typed or written (hard copy) message	Electronic (e-mail) message	Other
Ohio		B	S	
Oklahoma		B		
Oregon		B		
Pennsylvania		B		
Rhode Island				
South Carolina		B	H	
South Dakota		B		
Tennessee		B		
Texas	B	B		
Utah	B	B		
Vermont		B		
Virginia		B		3
Washington	B	B		
West Virginia	S	B		4
Wisconsin		B		
Wyoming		B		
Puerto Rico	S	S	S	

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Georgia. In the Senate, messages are entered in the legislative management system for journal access by the receiving body.
3. Virginia. In both chambers, messages can be carried by a legislator.
4. West Virginia. The Senate also can hand deliver messages to the House.

Table 08-6.55 Who Is Responsible for Receiving Messages

State (1)	President of the Senate or Speaker of the House	Senate President Pro Tem or House Speaker Pro Tem	Senate or House majority leader	Clerk or secretary	Messaging clerk	Other
Alabama		S		H		
Alaska				B		
Arizona				B		
Arkansas	H			B		
California				B		
Colorado				H		
Connecticut						
Delaware				H		
Florida				B	S	
Georgia				B		
Hawaii	S			B		
Idaho				B		
Illinois				B		2
Indiana				H		
Iowa				B	H	
Kansas				B		
Kentucky				B		3
Louisiana				B		
Maine						
Maryland				S		
Massachusetts				B		
Michigan				S		
Minnesota				B		
Mississippi				B		
Missouri			H	S		4
Montana				B		
Nebraska				S		
Nevada				B		5
New Hampshire				H		
New Jersey				S		
New Mexico				B		6
New York				S		
North Carolina				B	S	
North Dakota				B		

Table 08-6.55 Who Is Responsible for Receiving Messages, cont'd.

State (1)	President of the Senate or Speaker of the House	Senate President Pro Tem or House Speaker Pro Tem	Senate or House majority leader	Clerk or secretary	Messaging clerk	Other
Ohio				H	S	
Oklahoma				B	S	
Oregon				B		
Pennsylvania				S	B	
Rhode Island	H					
South Carolina				B		
South Dakota				B		
Tennessee	B					
Texas	H					7
Utah				B		
Vermont				B		
Virginia	S			B		8
Washington	H			B		
West Virginia				B		
Wisconsin				B		
Wyoming				B		
Puerto Rico	S	S		S		

Table 08-6.55 Who Is Responsible for Receiving Messages, cont'd.**Key:**

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Illinois. In the Senate, the chief journal clerk also receives messages.
3. Kentucky. In the Senate, messages also are read to the body.
4. Missouri. In the House, the journal clerk accepts messages when delivered by Senate messengers.
5. Nevada. In the Senate, the secretary delegates this authority to the assistant secretary.
6. New Mexico. In both chambers, the clerk can delegate this responsibility to another staff person in the clerk's office.
7. Texas. In the Senate, messages must be received while the Senate is in session; messages are read to the body and then delivered to the secretary.
8. Virginia. In the House, the clerk delegates this duty to a communications clerk.

Table 08-6.56 Receipt of a Message Is Required

State (1)	No	Yes, immediately	Yes, but at a time designated by the body or presiding officer	Other
Alabama	S			
Alaska				2
Arizona		H		3
Arkansas	H	S		
California		H		4
Colorado		H		
Connecticut				
Delaware	H			
Florida	H	S		
Georgia		B		
Hawaii		H	S	
Idaho	B			
Illinois	B			
Indiana	H			
Iowa	B			
Kansas		S	H	
Kentucky	S	H		
Louisiana		B		
Maine				
Maryland			S	
Massachusetts			H	
Michigan		S		
Minnesota			B	
Mississippi	H	S		
Missouri	B			
Montana	B			
Nebraska			S	
Nevada			H	5
New Hampshire			H	
New Jersey		S		
New Mexico		H	S	
New York			S	
North Carolina	S		H	
North Dakota		B		

Table 08-6.56 Receipt of a Message Is Required, cont'd.

State (1)	No	Yes, immediately	Yes, but at a time designated by the body or presiding officer	Other
Ohio	H		S	
Oklahoma	H	S		
Oregon		S		6
Pennsylvania		H	S	
Rhode Island	H			
South Carolina			B	
South Dakota	B			
Tennessee		S		
Texas			B	
Utah			B	
Vermont		B		
Virginia	S		H	
Washington	B			
West Virginia	H		S	
Wisconsin			B	
Wyoming			B	
Puerto Rico		S		

Table 08-6.56 Receipt of a Message Is Required, cont'd.**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alaska. In both chambers, messages must be received upon delivery.
3. Arizona. In the Senate, message must be received, but there is no specific time frame.
4. California. In the Senate, messages normally are received immediately; in some situations, however, a receipt time is designated by the body or presiding officer.
5. Nevada. In the Senate, messages are placed on the next scheduled floor agenda. In the Assembly, written messages are received immediately and read into the record under the appropriate order of business. If the body has already moved past the order of business for messages, the message usually is read at the direction of the presiding officer or on the next legislative day, whichever occurs first. A committee of legislators sent to deliver a message, such as a committee to notify the Assembly that the Senate is organized and ready to do business, must have permission of the presiding officer to deliver the message. The sergeant at arms announces the presence of the committee at the bar, and the presiding officer invites the committee to deliver the message.
6. Oregon. In the House, messages are set as an order of business; they usually are read the next day, but can be read any time.

Table 08-6.57 Confirmation of the Receipt of a Message Is Required

In the following chambers, confirmation of the receipt of a message is required. (1)	
Arizona Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arkansas Senate	New Jersey Senate
California Senate and Assembly	New Mexico Senate and House
Colorado House	New York Senate
Delaware House	North Carolina House
Florida Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Illinois House	Oregon Senate and House
Kansas Senate	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	South Carolina House
Massachusetts House	Utah Senate and House
Michigan Senate	Washington House
Minnesota Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Mississippi Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Missouri Senate and House	Puerto Rico Senate
In the following chambers, confirmation of the receipt of a message is not required.	
Alabama Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Alaska Senate and House	North Carolina Senate
Arkansas House	North Dakota Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Rhode Island House
Idaho Senate and House	South Carolina Senate
Illinois Senate	South Dakota Senate and House
Indiana House	Tennessee Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Kansas House	Vermont Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Washington Senate
Montana Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Nebraska Senate	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.58 Where the Receipt of a Message Is Recorded

State (1)	Special log or receipt book	Special calendar	Journal	Other
Alabama			B	
Alaska	B		B	
Arizona	B			
Arkansas			B	
California	B		B	
Colorado			H	
Connecticut				
Delaware			H	2
Florida	B		S	
Georgia	B			
Hawaii			B	3
Idaho	B			
Illinois	B		H	
Indiana			H	
Iowa		S	B	
Kansas	H		B	
Kentucky			B	
Louisiana			B	4
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts			H	
Michigan	S			
Minnesota	B		B	5
Mississippi			B	
Missouri	B		H	
Montana			B	
Nebraska			S	
Nevada	B		H	
New Hampshire			H	
New Jersey			S	6
New Mexico			B	
New York	S		S	
North Carolina	H		B	7
North Dakota				

Table 08-6.58 Where the Receipt of a Message Is Recorded, cont'd.

State (1)	Special log or receipt book	Special calendar	Journal	Other
Ohio	B			
Oklahoma			B	
Oregon			B	
Pennsylvania	B			
Rhode Island		H		
South Carolina	H		S	
South Dakota			B	
Tennessee			H	
Texas			B	
Utah	H		B	
Vermont			B	
Virginia			B	
Washington			B	
West Virginia			B	
Wisconsin			S	8
Wyoming	B		H	
Puerto Rico			S	9

Table 08-6.58 Where the Receipt of a Message Is Recorded, cont'd.**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Delaware. In the House, the receipt of a message also is recorded in the bill clerk's binder.
3. Hawaii. In the Senate, messages also are reflected in the measure history, which is maintained in an electronic data base.
4. Louisiana. In the House, messages are read to the body.
5. Minnesota. In the Senate, messages are recorded on the daily agenda.
6. New Jersey. In the Senate, the receipt of messages is noted in the *Legislative Digest*, which is produced by the Office of Legislative Services.
7. North Carolina. In the Senate, received bills are listed in the Senate calendar.
8. Wisconsin. In the Senate, the receipt of a message is recorded in the bill history. In the Assembly, the receipt is noted on the message.
9. Puerto Rico. In the Senate, the receipt of messages is recorded in the registry book and the minutes proceedings book.

Table 08-6.59 If and When Messages Are Taken Up on the Floor

State (1)	If Taken Up		When Taken Up			
	No	Yes	Immediately	When presented by the presiding officer or chair	Under the appropriate order of business	Other
Alabama		B		H		2
Alaska		B			B	
Arizona		B			B	
Arkansas		B		S	H	
California		B			B	
Colorado		H			H	
Connecticut						
Delaware		H			H	
Florida		B		H		3
Georgia	B					
Hawaii		B		H	S	4
Idaho		B			B	
Illinois	H	S		S		
Indiana	H					
Iowa	B					
Kansas		B			B	
Kentucky		B		H	S	
Louisiana	H	S				5
Maine						
Maryland		S			S	
Massachusetts						6
Michigan		S			S	
Minnesota		B			B	
Mississippi		B		S	H	
Missouri		B		S	H	
Montana		B			B	
Nebraska	S					
Nevada		B			S	7
New Hampshire		H			H	
New Jersey		S		S		
New Mexico		B			B	
New York		S			S	
North Carolina		B	S		B	8
North Dakota	B					

Table 08-6.59 If and When Messages Are Taken Up on the Floor, cont'd.

State (1)	If Taken Up		When Taken Up			
	No	Yes	Immediately	When presented by the presiding officer or chair	Under the appropriate order of business	Other
Ohio		B		H	S	9
Oklahoma	H	S			S	
Oregon	H	S			S	10
Pennsylvania		B		S	B	
Rhode Island		H			H	
South Carolina		B		H	S	
South Dakota		B			B	
Tennessee		B			B	
Texas		B		H	S	
Utah		B			B	
Vermont	B					
Virginia		B			S	11
Washington		B		H	S	
West Virginia		B			B	12
Wisconsin		B		H	S	
Wyoming		B			B	
Puerto Rico		S	S		S	

Table 08-6.59 If and When Messages Are Taken Up on the Floor, cont'd.**Key:**

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama. In the Senate, messages are taken up when called by the Senate president pro tempore.
3. Florida. In the Senate, a message is taken up at a time designated by leadership.
4. Hawaii. In the House, only governor's messages are acted upon.
5. Louisiana. In the Senate, messages usually are taken up during the morning hour, but they are in order at any time.
6. Massachusetts. In the House, only messages presented by the presiding officer or chair are taken up on the floor.
7. Nevada. In the Assembly, messages are received immediately and read into the record under the appropriate order of business. If the body receives a new message after it has moved past the order of business for messages, the message is read at the direction of the presiding officer or on the next legislative day, whichever occurs first.
8. North Carolina. In the Senate, messages sometimes are read in after adjournment.
9. Ohio. In the Senate, messages can be taken up at any time.
10. Oregon. In the House, messages are read on the floor; any required action will be scheduled as prescribed by House rule.
11. Virginia. In the House, messages usually are taken up at the appropriate time in the order of business; if a message is delivered by a member of the Senate, however, it is taken up immediately.
12. West Virginia. In the House, messages between the chambers are receivable at any time, except when the House is engaged in a vote.

Table 08-6.60 Messages Must Be Taken Up in a Certain Order

In the following chambers, messages must be taken up in a certain order. (1)	
California Senate and Assembly	New Mexico Senate and House
Hawaii Senate	North Carolina House
Kentucky House	Rhode Island House
Michigan Senate	Tennessee House
Mississippi House	Utah Senate and House
Montana Senate and House	Wyoming House
Nevada Senate and Assembly	Puerto Rico Senate
In the following chambers, messages are not required to be taken up in a certain order.	
Alabama Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arizona Senate and d House	New Jersey Senate
Arkansas Senate and House	New York Senate
Colorado House	North Carolina Senate
Delaware House	North Dakota Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate
Hawaii House	Oregon Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate	South Carolina Senate and House
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kansas Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky Senate	Vermont Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Washington Senate and House
Massachusetts House	West Virginia Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Mississippi Senate	Wyoming Senate
Missouri Senate and House	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.61 Bills Are Transmitted with a Message

In the following chambers, bills are transmitted with a message. (1)	
Alabama Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Alaska Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arizona Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Arkansas Senate and House	New Mexico Senate and House
California Senate and Assembly	North Carolina Senate and House
Colorado House	North Dakota Senate and House
Delaware House	Ohio Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oregon Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Rhode Island House
Illinois Senate and House	South Carolina Senate and House
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate and House
Kansas Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Virginia Senate and House
Michigan Senate	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Missouri Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Montana Senate and House	Puerto Rico Senate
In the following chambers, bills are not transmitted with a message.	
Connecticut Senate	New York Senate
Massachusetts Senate and House	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.62 Point at Which a Chamber Has Legal Possession of a Bill

State (1)	Upon taking physical possession of the bill	Upon signing a receipt for the bill	Upon taking up the accompanying message on the floor	Other
Alabama	H		S	
Alaska	B			
Arizona	H	S		
Arkansas	B	B		
California	B	B		
Colorado	H			
Connecticut				
Delaware		H		
Florida	S	B		
Georgia	S	B		
Hawaii	H	S		
Idaho	B	B		
Illinois	H	H	S	
Indiana	H			
Iowa	H	S		
Kansas	S		H	
Kentucky		H	S	
Louisiana	H		S	
Maine				
Maryland	S			
Massachusetts				
Michigan	S	S		
Minnesota	B	B		
Mississippi	B	H		
Missouri	H	B		
Montana		B		
Nebraska				
Nevada	B	S		
New Hampshire		H		
New Jersey		S		
New Mexico	H	H	S	
New York	S			
North Carolina	H	H	S	
North Dakota	B			

Table 08-6.62 Point at Which a Chamber Has Legal Possession of a Bill, cont'd.

State (1)	Upon taking physical possession of the bill	Upon signing a receipt for the bill	Upon taking up the accompanying message on the floor	Other
Ohio		B		
Oklahoma		B		
Oregon		S	H	
Pennsylvania	B	S		
Rhode Island			H	
South Carolina	B			
South Dakota	B			
Tennessee	B			
Texas	H		S	
Utah		B		
Vermont	B			
Virginia	B			
Washington	S		H	
West Virginia			B	
Wisconsin	S			2
Wyoming	H	B		
Puerto Rico	S			

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Wisconsin. In the Assembly, this is determined by the presiding officer.

Table 08-6.63 How a Mistake in a Message Is Handled

If a mistake occurs in a message accompanying a bill, the following chambers send a message to the other house requesting a correction. (1)

Arkansas Senate and House
 Illinois Senate
 Missouri House

Montana Senate and House
 Utah Senate and House
 Puerto Rico Senate

The following chambers accept a corrected message.

Alabama House
 Alaska Senate and House
 Arizona Senate and House
 Arkansas Senate and House
 California Senate and Assembly
 Colorado House
 Delaware House
 Florida Senate and House
 Georgia Senate and House
 Hawaii Senate and House
 Idaho Senate and House
 Illinois Senate and House
 Indiana House
 Iowa Senate and House
 Kansas Senate and House
 Kentucky Senate and House
 Louisiana Senate and House
 Michigan Senate
 Minnesota Senate and House
 Mississippi Senate and House
 Missouri Senate and House
 Nevada Senate and Assembly

New Hampshire House
 New Jersey Senate
 New Mexico House
 New York Senate
 North Carolina Senate and House
 North Dakota Senate and House
 Ohio Senate and House
 Oklahoma Senate and House
 Oregon Senate and House
 Pennsylvania Senate
 Rhode Island House
 South Carolina House
 South Dakota Senate and House
 Tennessee Senate and House
 Texas Senate
 Utah Senate and House
 Vermont Senate and House
 Virginia Senate and House
 Washington Senate and House
 West Virginia Senate
 Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
 Wyoming Senate and House

The following chambers handle the error in another way.

Alabama Senate
 Colorado House
 Florida Senate
 Georgia Senate
 Missouri Senate

New Mexico Senate
 Pennsylvania House
 South Carolina Senate and House
 West Virginia House

Table 08-6.63 How a Mistake in a Message Is Handled, cont'd.**Note:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 08-6.64 Governor May Refuse to Accept Delivery of a Bill

The following chamber reported that the governor may refuse to accept delivery of a bill. (1)

Rhode Island House

The following chambers reported that the governor cannot refuse delivery of a bill.

Alabama Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arizona Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arkansas Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
California Senate and Assembly	New Mexico Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	New York Senate
Delaware House	North Carolina Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	North Dakota Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Oregon Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Indiana House	South Carolina Senate and House
Iowa Senate	South Dakota Senate and House
Kansas Senate and House	Tennessee Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Vermont Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate and House	Virginia House
Michigan Senate	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Missouri Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Montana Senate and House	Puerto Rico Senate

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.