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# SNAPSHOT

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May 8, 2025

## Legislative Session Trends Revisited

Nearing the midpoint of the Louisiana Legislature's annual regular session, lawmakers are debating more than 900 bills, continuing the trend of fewer filed bills.

The fiscal session that began April 14 is designed to focus most heavily on Louisiana's finances.

Until reaching certain deadlines, lawmakers could file unlimited bills involving the budget, taxes, fees and other financial matters, along with five non-fiscal bills of statewide impact and other bills dealing with municipal issues.

These parameters were set in November 2002 after voters agreed to a legislative effort to rework the session calendar. That constitutional amendment flipped the sessions, moving fiscal sessions from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years and lengthening the fiscal sessions to 45 working legislative days in 60 calendar days. The change also allowed the introduction of five non-financial bills on statewide issues.

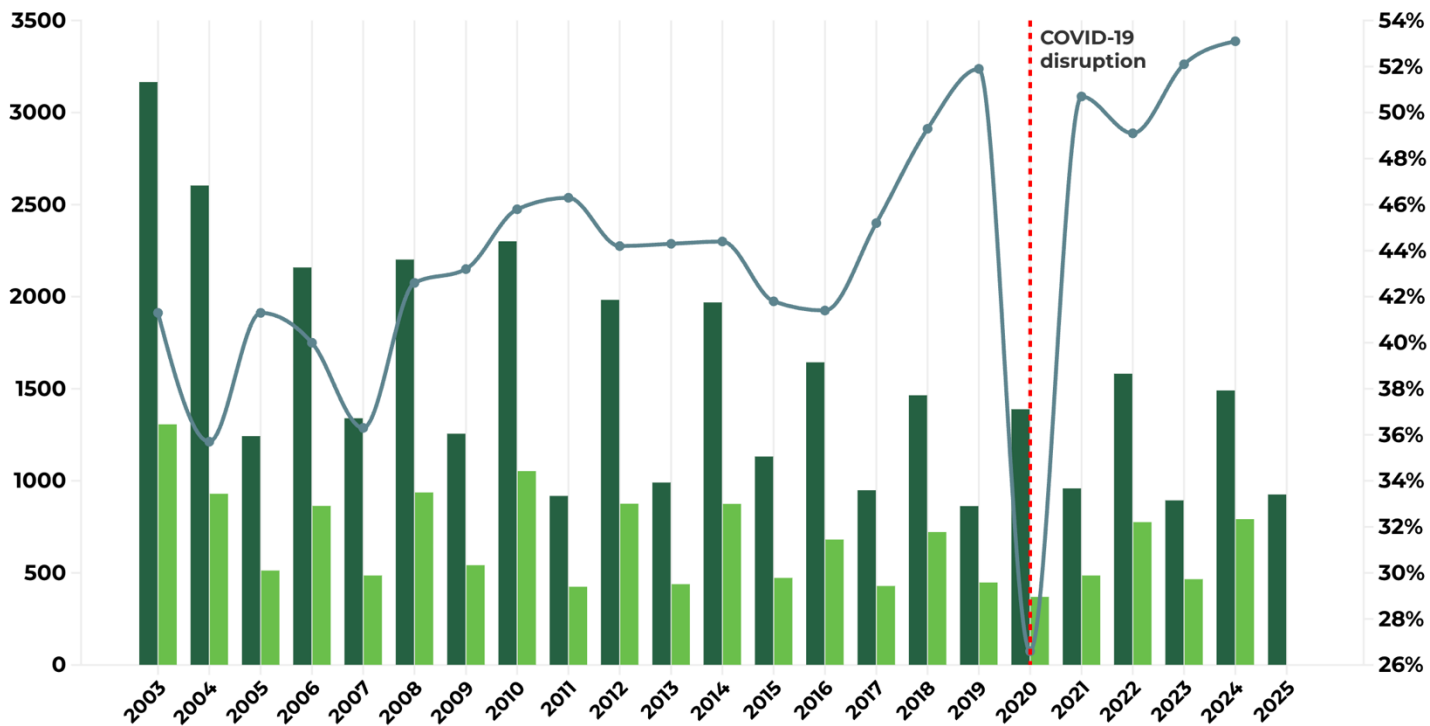
Tax matters largely cannot be debated in regular sessions held in even-numbered years.

After the amendment passed, lawmakers held back-to-back non-fiscal sessions in 2003 and 2004 to reorder the calendar.

Since then, the number of bill filings has fallen over the years.

## Bills Filed v. Enacted

■ Percent Passed ■ Bills Filed ■ Bills Enacted



Source: [Louisiana State Legislature](#)

*The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the 2020 regular session and special sessions were held later.*

The graphic above shows a gradual decline in the number of bills filed since 2003. This may reflect the impact of term limits on legislators, which took effect during the 2007 election cycle, along with repeated special sessions over the period on specific topics.

The average number of bills filed from 2003 to 2014 was 1,844, while the average filed from 2015 to 2025 was 1,208, a decrease of 34% or 636 bills.

PAR's data pulls from bills filed and enacted during regular sessions of the Legislature and does not include data on the 26 special sessions called over the last two decades. Louisiana has had eight special sessions in the last five years alone.

Those sessions may impact the number of bills considered in regular sessions since bills that might have been presented in a regular session were instead debated in special sessions. That likely doesn't account for the entire drop in bill filings, however.

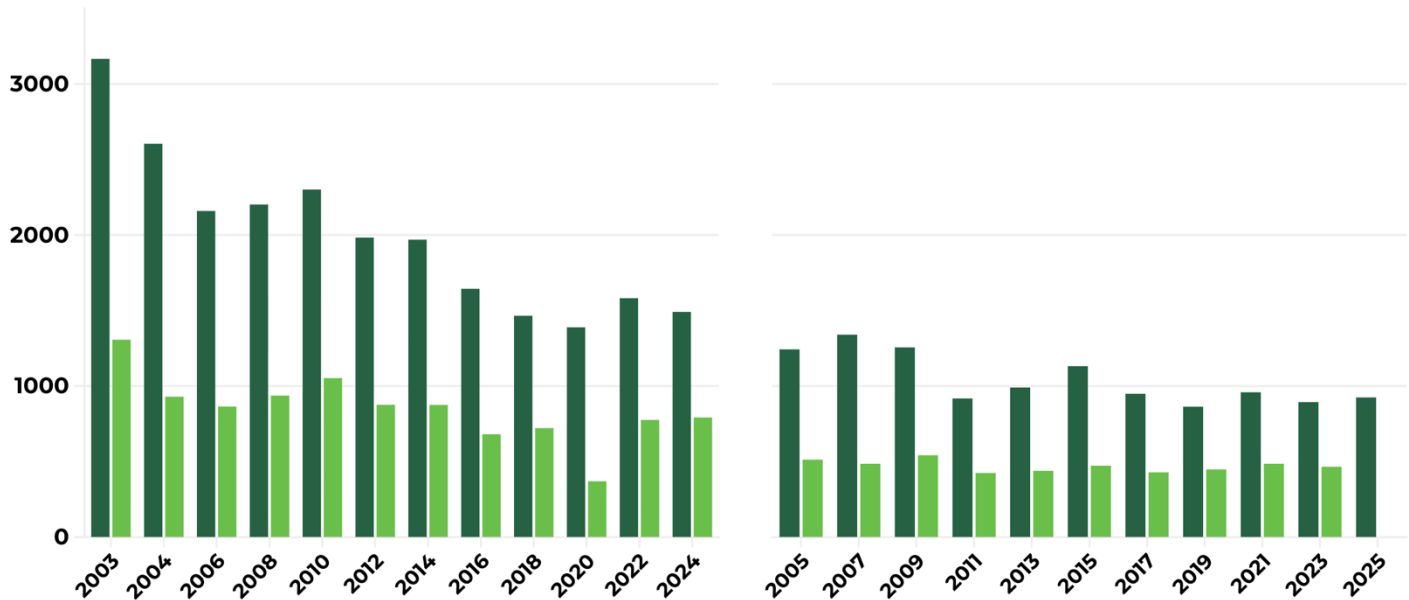
Historically, sessions seldom see most bills proposed win final passage. However, within the current decade, lawmakers in three regular sessions have passed into law more than half the bills they introduced: the 2021 session with 50.7% of bills enacted, the 2023 session with 52.1% and the 2024 session with 53.1%.

Since PAR's last snapshot on [legislative session trends](#), the average number of bills passed has decreased from 682 to 677 per year.

In the time period reviewed by PAR, lawmakers passed the most bills in 2003, with 1,307 bills becoming law. They sent the governor the lowest number of bills in the 2020 regular session, only 370 because the session was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Non-Fiscal v. Fiscal Bill Trends

■ Bills Filed ■ Bills Enacted



**Source:** Louisiana State Legislature

Because each lawmaker is limited to five non-financial bills of statewide impact during a fiscal session, the number of bills filed decreases significantly when comparing odd-numbered years to even-numbered ones.

While non-fiscal sessions pass a larger number of bills, with an average of 795 compared to 471 bills, fiscal sessions have a higher passage rate.

The average percentage of bills passed in the last 10 fiscal sessions is 45.3%, and the average percentage in the same number of non-fiscal sessions is 43.7%, according to PAR analyses of data from the Louisiana Legislature's website.

The 2025 regular session must end by June 12.