



# SNAPSHOT

March 4, 2026

## Legislative Trends Among Neighboring States

Lawmakers are heading back to the Capitol with wide latitude for this regular legislative session as they are free to propose an unlimited number of bills on statewide and local issues, excluding most tax-related measures.

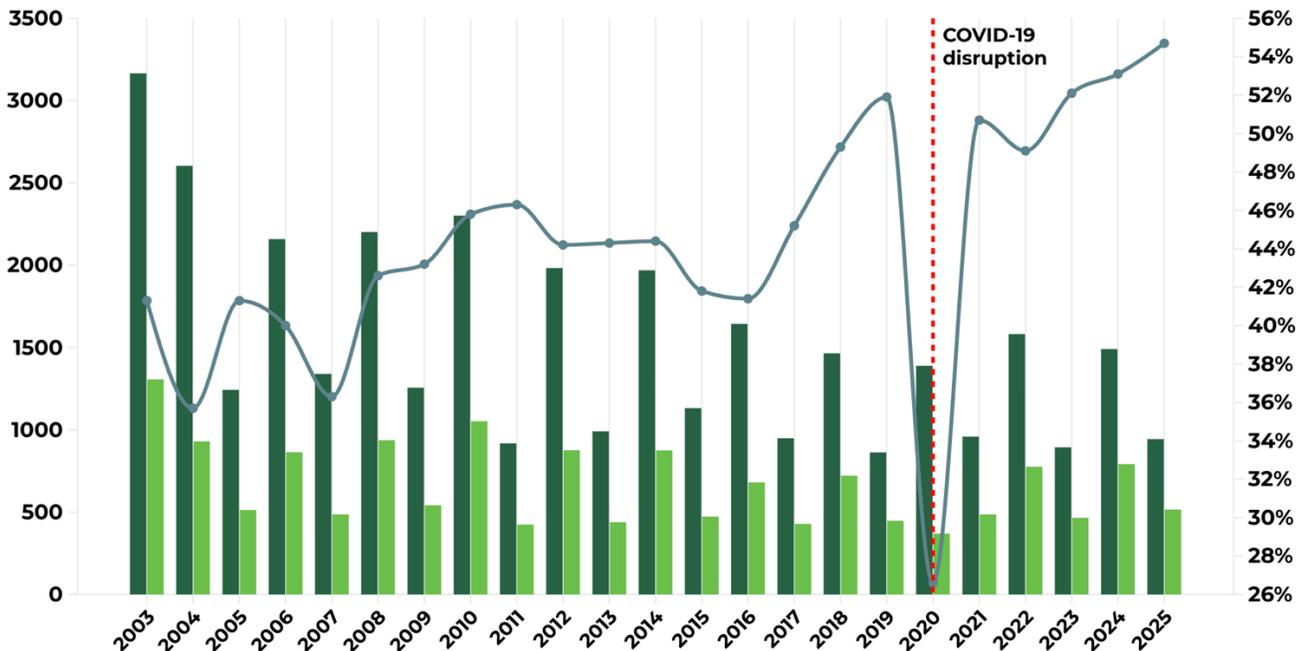
More than 1,350 bills have been prefiled ahead of the session, which begins on March 9 and should adjourn by June 1. The House and Senate can convene for 60 working days in the 85-day period.

The rules governing the regular session stem from a [2002 constitutional amendment](#) that sets fiscal sessions in odd-numbered years and general sessions in even-numbered years. Fiscal sessions are designed to focus most on tax and budget matters.

In non-fiscal sessions such as this year, legislators may prefile as many bills as they would like and can add another five bills each once session has started. They can't deal with most tax topics, with a few narrow exceptions.

### Bills Filed v. Enacted

■ Percent Passed ■ Bills Filed ■ Bills Enacted



Source: [Louisiana Legislature](#)

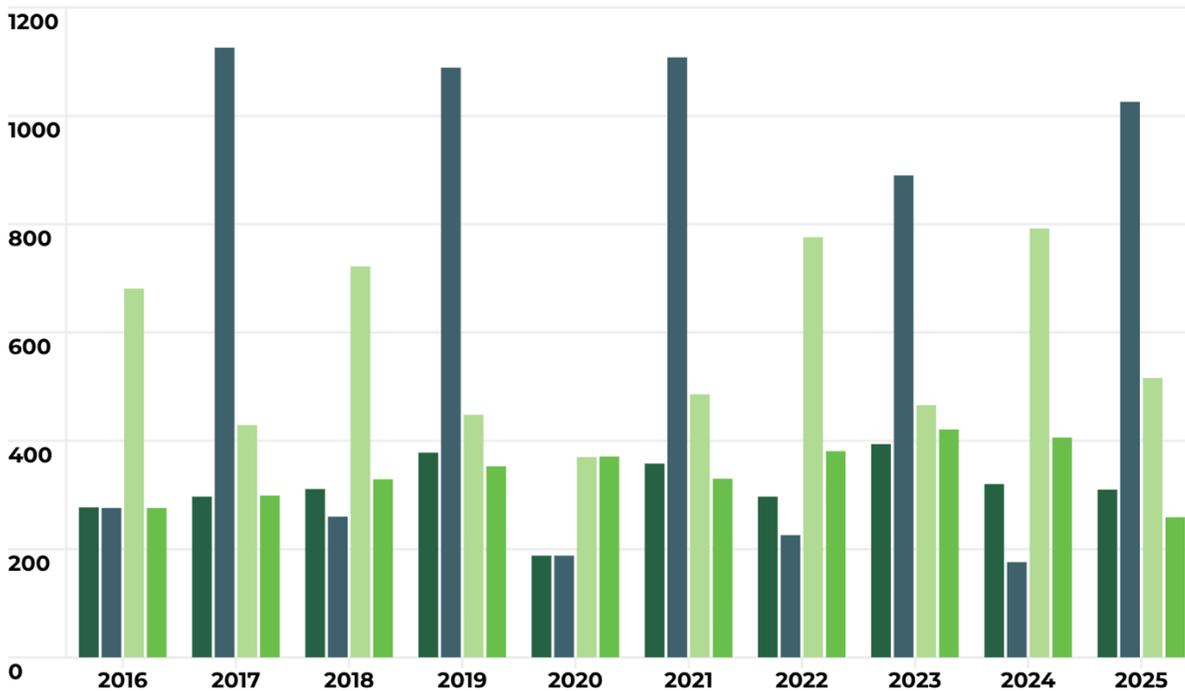
In the 2025 regular session, which was more limited to fiscal matters, the Legislature filed 944 bills, with 55% passed and 516 bills signed into law.

Overall, the number of bills filed, regardless of session type, has been decreasing since a peak of 3,166 bills filed in 2003, when the Louisiana Legislature held back-to-back non-fiscal sessions in 2003 and 2004 to reorder the session types.

This data excludes the two dozen special sessions lawmakers have held since 2003.

## Bills Passed by State Annually, 2016-2025

■ Alabama ■ Arkansas ■ Louisiana ■ Mississippi



Source: [Alabama](#), [Arkansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Mississippi](#) State Legislatures

The graph above depicts the bills passed per session in neighboring state legislatures since 2016.

Arkansas and Louisiana both have a unique fluctuation of passage rates each year, because of certain limits and focuses of their individual sessions. For Arkansas, even years represent its fiscal session. For Louisiana, fiscal sessions take place during odd-number years, which results in the Louisiana graph inverting the pattern of Arkansas.

Alabama and Mississippi have been consistent in recent bill passage numbers. Alabama passed an average of 313 bills yearly while Mississippi averaged around 343. Arkansas has similar numbers in fiscal years, 225 on average, but that climbs to an average of 1,048 during non-fiscal sessions.

One year stands out as particularly inactive for bill passage, as legislative sessions during 2020 started at the same time as the COVID-19 outbreak, limiting gatherings of lawmakers.

Arkansas started including a fiscal session in 2010. Its non-appropriation bills are considered during fiscal sessions only if two-thirds of the House and Senate approve the bill to be considered.

Louisiana is unusual because its legislative session starts later than most other states, with most legislatures convening in January or February. In Louisiana, lawmakers start their regular session in March or April, depending on the type of session.