

EFFECTIVE DATES

An effective date is the date a law goes into effect. To create an accurate study, it is essential to include effective dates for each law within the project. Typically, effective dates can be found in three places: 1) within the text of the law itself, 2) in the beginning of chapter where the law lives, 3) or the beginning of the entire title book that houses all the laws passed in a legislative session. The effective date is not to be confused with the passage date, signature date, or date of approval, which are indicators of other steps in the legislative process, although the dates may be the same. For example, the governor signs a bill on February 1, 2015 and it goes into effect upon signature, thus, the effective date is the same as the signature date - February 1, 2015.

When performing your project, you can use other dates such as approval or operational dates, if they fit the goals of your project. However, we recommend using effective dates when doing policy surveillance.

Regulations are rules passed by administrative agencies. While each agency may set its own guidelines for the process, the basic requirements are usually included in a statute referred to as the Administrative Procedures Act.

RESOURCES

Below are some additional resources which may help to determine the effective date for a law.

Date calculator: <http://www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html>. The date calculator can be used when a state indicates that the effective date is a certain number of days or months after another step in the legislative process. For instance, in Utah, legislation becomes effective 60 days after adjournment of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified.

Legislative adjournment dates: Adjournment dates are included in the session law compilations available through Hein Online. They are also available on each state's legislative website.

Legislative adjournment dates are sometimes necessary to determine effective dates as well, as in the Utah example.

Default State Effective Date Rules: If a law does not list the effective date in the places described above, then you can use the table below to find the effective date.

State Effective Date Rules	
State	Effective Date General Rule
Alabama	A clause specifying the effective date is included in each session law.
Alaska	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after enactment, including Saturdays and Sundays, unless specified otherwise in the bill. Alaska Statute § 01.10.070.
Arizona	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.
Arkansas	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die unless there is an emergency clause or an enactment clause that specifies another date.
California	Legislation goes into effect on January 1 of the year following the passage of the law.
Colorado	If a bill is not subject to the citizens' right to file a referendum petition against it, it takes effect on the date specified in it. If no date is specified in the bill text it takes effect when the Governor approves it or allows the legislation to become law without the Governor's signature.
Connecticut	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Delaware	Legislation takes effect as soon as it is signed into law unless otherwise indicated in the bill.
District of Columbia	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Florida	Legislation becomes effective on the 60th day after the Legislature adjourns sine die.
Georgia	Legislation takes effect on July 1 unless otherwise specified in the bill.
Hawaii	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Idaho	Legislation takes effect 60 days following adjournment of the legislative session unless otherwise indicated in the bill.
Illinois	A bill passed prior to June 1 of the calendar year that does not provide for an effective date shall become effective on January 1 of the following year. A bill passed after May 31 of a calendar year shall become effective on June 1 of the next calendar year unless the General Assembly provides for an earlier or later effective date in the terms of the bill. Illinois State Constitution, Art. 4, § 10; 5 ILCS 75/1.
Indiana	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Iowa	Legislation takes effect on July 1 following passage of the law.
Kansas	Legislation becomes effective on July 1 of the year that the legislation was passed.
Louisiana	Legislation takes effect on August 15 of the year that the legislation was passed, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Maine	Legislation takes effect 90 days after the session has ended, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Maine State Constitution, Art. IV, Part Third, Section 16.
Maryland	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Massachusetts	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after it was signed by the Governor, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Massachusetts State Constitution, Art. 48, Referendum, Part 1.
Michigan	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after the end of the legislative session at which it was passed. Laws may be given immediate effect by a two-thirds vote

	of the members elected to and serving in each house. Michigan State Constitution, Art IV § 27 effective January 1, 1964.
Minnesota	The effective date is typically specified in the legislation. If a specific effective date is not provided the legislation will take effect on August 1 following its final enactment. Legislation making appropriations will take effect on July 1 unless otherwise specified. Minnesota Statutes § 645.02.
Mississippi	Legislation becomes effective 60 days after passage unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Missouri	No law passed by the general assembly, except an appropriation act, shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session in either odd-numbered or even-numbered years at which it was enacted. However, in case of an emergency which must be expressed in the preamble or in the body of the act, the general assembly by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house, taken by yeas and nays may otherwise direct; and further except that, if the general assembly recesses for thirty days or more it may prescribe by joint resolution that laws previously passed and not effective shall take effect ninety days from the beginning of the recess. Missouri State Constitution, Art. III, § 29.
Montana	Legislation becomes effective on October 1 of the year that the legislation was passed unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Nebraska	Legislation goes into effect three months after the Legislature adjourns, unless the bill contains an effective date or emergency clause. Legislation with an emergency clause becomes effective as soon as the governor signs the bill, the Legislature overrides the governor's veto, or five days pass after the Legislature approves a bill and the governor fails to act on it.
Nevada	Legislation becomes effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
New Hampshire	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
New Jersey	Legislation becomes effective on July 4 of the year after they are approved, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
New Mexico	Legislation becomes effective ninety days after the adjournment of the legislature enacting them, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Appropriation laws go into effect immediately upon their passage and approval. New Mexico State Constitution, Art. 4 § 23.
New York	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
North Carolina	Legislation becomes effective 60 days after adjournment of the session in which they are passed unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
North Dakota	Legislation becomes effective on August 1, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Appropriations or tax bills become effective on July 1.
Ohio	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after signature by the Governor, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. If the Governor does not sign the bill it becomes effective 90 days after the bill signing deadline passes. Ohio Constitution, Art. II, § 16.
Oklahoma	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after the session adjourns, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Oregon	Legislation becomes effective on January 1 of the year after passage of the bill, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.

Pennsylvania	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
Rhode Island	The effective date is specified in the legislation.
South Carolina	Legislation becomes effective 20 days after approval by the Governor, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
South Dakota	The state Constitution provides that no law can take effect sooner than 90 days following the legislative session. In addition, existing state law sets the effective date of bills passed during the regular session at July 1, unless the new law itself lists a later effective date (SDCL 2-14-16). The exception to this is a law that contains an emergency clause.
Tennessee	Legislation becomes effective 40 days after its passage, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Texas	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after adjournment of the session at which it was enacted, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Texas State Constitution, § 39, Art.
Utah	Legislation becomes effective 60 days after adjournment of the session, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Vermont	Legislation becomes effective on July 1 after adjournment of the session, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Virginia	Legislation enacted at a regular session becomes effective on July 1 following adjournment of the session at which it was enacted, unless otherwise specified in the bill text. Legislation enacted at a special session shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month following the month of adjournment of the special session, unless specified otherwise. Virginia State Constitution, Art. IV, § 13.
Washington	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after adjournment of the session, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
West Virginia	Legislation becomes effective 90 days after its passage, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Wisconsin	Legislation becomes effective one date after the date of publication, unless otherwise specified in the bill text.
Wyoming	The effective date is specified in the legislation. For regulations, according to 16-3-104, the regulation is effective when it is filed, unless otherwise specified.