

## **BILL NUMBERING 101**

By Jose Borrajero

Regular senate bills have the prefix SB, begin with 1001, and are numbered sequentially, as in SB1001, SB1002, SB1003, etc.

Regular house bills have the prefix HB, begin with 2001, and are also numbered sequentially, as in HB2001, HB2002, HB2003, etc.

That is why, when searching regular bills in the legislature's website, the two-letter prefix need not be applied. This is good to keep in mind when searching a lot of bills.

The vast majority of bills are either HB or SB.

Bills other than HB or SB, as in SCR1002 and HCR2003, are a different matter. To conduct a successful search, the two-letter or three-letter prefix must be entered.

Bill numbers are reset every session. Therefore, every session has a bill numbered SB1002, HB2003, and so on. In order to avoid the obvious confusion that takes place when dealing with bills from different sessions, a four-character suffix is added. For example, the suffix 542R identifies the bill as having been introduced in the 54<sup>th</sup> legislature, second regular session, which happens to be the 2020 session. Likewise, suffix 521S was introduced during the 52<sup>nd</sup> legislature, first special session, which took place in 2015. Hint: each legislature comprises two years, so the 54<sup>th</sup> legislature comprised years 2019 and 2020. The 53<sup>rd</sup> legislature comprised years 2017 and 2018. And so on.

When going to [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) the home page defaults to the current legislature. On the upper left of the home page you will see, highlighted in yellow, "2020 – Fifty-Fourth Legislature – Second Regular". If you click on that, a drop-down menu will list all past legislatures. If you need to research a bill from a previous session, click on the appropriate session on the list.

How useful is all this information? Let's look at one example. We often hear comments about SB1070, the controversial immigration bill. Fact checking comments entails reading the original bill, but most people have no idea where to look. If the bill number included the proper suffix, it would be SB1070-492R. Now we can go to the 49<sup>th</sup> legislature, second regular session to do our research.