

PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS IN ISRAEL

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QUOTAS

- Knesset members are not limited in the number of private member bills they are permitted to submit.
- There is a limit to the number of private member bills that can be raised for preliminary deliberation in the Knesset plenum. However, this does not include various exceptions, which make the actual limit much higher than it seems.



LIMITS

- There are no boundaries on the content of private member bills except that they cannot violate Knesset rules of procedure that prohibit approving a bill that is “racist in its essence or that denies the existence of the State of Israel as the national state of the Jewish people.”
- To pass a private member bill that would impact the state budget (cost 5M NIS or more), a minimum of 50 MKs must vote in favor of the bill at each reading.



EXAMPLES OF QUOTAS & LIMITS AROUND THE WORLD

At least five MPs must support a private member bill for it to be submitted.	Austria and Belgium
Time allocated for deliberations on private member bills are very limited and the government almost always opposes them.	Ireland
A lottery called a ballot is held at the beginning of every session (every few months) in which MPs compete for the right to submit private member bills and only 20 are chosen. Only the first 10 are permitted to receive government funding.	Britain
Individual MPs are not permitted to submit legislation. Five percent of the Bundestag, at least 30 MPs, are required.	Germany
There are only deliberations on private member bills once a month, so most of them never reach the stage of deliberations.	Greece
Private member bills must include an explanation of their financial ramifications on the state budget.	Slovenia
Private member's bills, like all other bills, must include an explanation of their financial ramifications on the state budget as well as an explanation of how they are in accordance with the Constitution, international conventions, and the laws of the European Union.	Slovakia
Bills that would require financing must include a proposal for how they will be funded.	Finland
Private member bills must fit the constitution and international conventions signed by the state. They must include an explanation of their financial ramifications on the state budget.	Czech Republic

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Explanatory notes present the goals of a bill and the principles that guided its initiators when drafting it.
- In Israel, there are no clear directives about what has to be provided in the explanatory notes (with rare exception).
- In most countries, explanatory notes must include expected financial spending on the bill from the state budget. In some countries, explanatory notes are required for any bills that have ramifications on society and the environment. The explanatory notes must also explain why the bill is in-line with the Constitution and any other legal conventions.



PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS IN THE KNESSET

Private Bills Accepted		No. of Private Bills Tabled	Term Served	Knesset
Percentage	Number			
35%	81	231	1981-1977	9
7%	30	414	1984-1981	10
9%	71	770	1988-1984	11
10%	143	1,491	1992-1988	12
7%	250	3,607	1996-1991	13
2.5%	140	5,573	1999-1996	14
6%	235	4,164	2003-1999	15
5%	199	4,161	2006-2003	16
6%	226	4,093	2009-2006	17
5%	274	4,499	2013-2009	18
3%	112	2,921	2015-2013	19
1%	33	3,133	7/7/2016 -3/2015	20

PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS VS. GOVERNMENTAL BILLS

Committee Bills Accepted		Governmental bills Accepted		Private Member Bills Accepted		Bills Accepted	Knesset
6%	14	92%	200	2%	4	218	1
-	1	98%	274	2%	5	280	2
1%	2	92%	264	7%	21	287	3
-	-	90%	111	10%	13	124	4
1%	3	86%	244	12%	34	281	5
-	1	90%	234	10%	25	260	6
1%	3	87%	279	12%	40	322	7
-	-	80%	288	20%	72	360	8
1%	2	79%	304	21%	81	387	9
7%	14	78%	155	15%	30	199	10
1%	2	75%	219	24%	71	292	11
-	-	59%	208	41%	143	351	12
4%	18	45%	218	51%	250	486	13
7%	19	46%	133	48%	140	292	14
8%	38	41%	190	51%	241	469	15
4%	17	49%	209	47%	199	425	16
2%	7	49%	226	49%	226	459	17
1%	7	53%	316	46%	274	597	18
1%	2	57%	149	42%	112	263	19
5%	9	73%	115	21%	33	157	20

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Private Member Bills Accepted		Private Member Bills Initiated	Statistical Period	Country
%	Number			
6%	1,192	20,145	2015-1999	Israel
5%	606	12,725	2009-1999	Israel
32%	248	782	2008-1999	Austria
2.5%	4	157	2008-2000	Australia
5%	48	915	2010-2000	Britain
10%	16	155	2009-2000	Denmark
21%	25	118	2010-2000	Holland
20%	86	425	2006-2002	Hungary
23%	66	289	2010-2000	Slovenia
50%	292	595	2010-1998	Slovakia
3%	45	1,625	2009-2000	Finland
31%	181	582	2010-2002	Czech Republic

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Cap the number of private bills MKs are allowed to submit.
- ✓ Form a joint government-Knesset team to monitor the implementation of private member bills.
- ✓ Prioritize governmental bills in deliberations once a week, at the committee level.
- ✓ Establish a system to enable MKs to appeal decisions of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and request deliberations be repeated.
- ✓ Provide MKs with the point of view of relevant government ministries on private member bills that are discussed in the Ministerial Committee on Legislation.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT, CONT.

It is possible to reduce the number of private member bills not only by implementing caps or quotas, but also by providing clear instructions for drafting quality explanatory notes, which would require MKs to explain why the bill is important and would also make MKs focus on each bill's rationale.

IDI proposes that the explanatory notes be required to include:

- How much the bill will cost and how it will be funded.
- Details of the norms the bill intends to contain/change.
- The impact of the bill on key issues (environment, society, economy, etc.).

