



Australian Government

Australian Law Reform Commission

Explanatory Note to Bills data

This note covers the following two data sets:

- **Status of Commonwealth Bills**: Each row of this data set is a Bill and the columns provide various data on the status of the Bill, including whether it was passed by the Parliament.
- **Progress of Commonwealth Bills through Parliament**: Each row of this data set is a step in a Bills' progress through the Parliamentary processes, from introduction through to Royal Assent, if the Bill is passed by the Parliament.

These data sets were created by webscraping the Australian Parliament's Bills' webpage for various data on each Bill introduced into the Australian Parliament between the 39th (10 Nov 1998) and 46th (11 Apr 2022) Parliaments. The following Table explains how to interpret each column.

Column name	Description
type	Bills are either 'Government' or 'Private', as in a Private Members' Bill.
billDate	The date on which the Bill was introduced and read a first time in the House of Parliament in which it was first introduced.
billSummary	A summary of the Bill, as published on the Parliament website. Not all Bills have a summary.
sponsor	In the case of a Government Bill, the sponsor will be the responsible Government department. In the case of a Private Members' Bill, the sponsor will be the name of the MPs or Senators who introduced the Bill.
originatingHouse	The House of Parliament in which the Bill was first introduced.
status	A Bill's status will either be 'Act' or 'Not proceeding', which applies to Bills that are not passed before prorogation of Parliament.
parliamentNo	The Parliament in which the Bill was introduced (e.g. 41 or 46).
billName	The name of the Bill.
house	The House in which the 'event' took place (see the next column)
event	A step in the process applicable to the Bill, such as 'Introduced and read a first time', 'Second reading agreed to', or 'Assent'.
eventDate	The date on which the 'event' occurred.
billLink	The URL for the Bill on the Parliament website. All the data on the Bill was obtained from this URL.