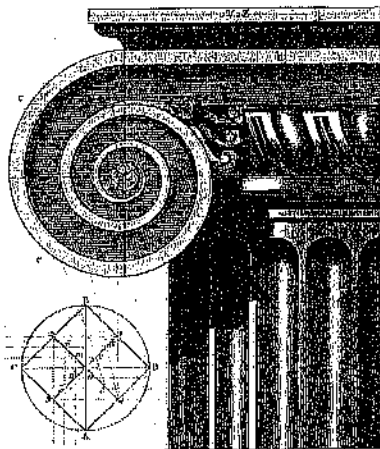


# **Legislative Orientation Programs**

In the

## **Southern States**



Compiled for the

**Legislative Service Agency Directors (LSA)**  
of the  
**Southern Legislative Conference**

Jerry Bassett, Alabama  
LSA Chair

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Southern Legislative Conference



The Council of State Governments  
Sharing capitol ideas

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The Council of State Governments  
P.O. Box 98129  
Atlanta, Georgia 30359  
404.633.1866 / 404.633.4896 fax  
[www.slcatlanta.org](http://www.slcatlanta.org)

## 2008 SURVEY OF SOUTHERN STATE LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATIONS

Beginning in early 2008, the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments surveyed the 16 states comprising the Southern region regarding their new member orientation programs. After receiving responses from all 16 states, the SLC organized a compilation of new member orientation agendas and their summaries. This booklet is a reflection of the information gathered, and is organized alphabetically on a state-by-state basis with a brief summary preceding each section.

The information herein includes data on the location, faculty, duration, topics of discussion, and other pertinent information regarding orientation programs for freshman legislators.

In regard to location, a review of the submitted agendas indicated that most of the legislative orientation programs are held at the state's capitol or legislative office buildings. However, several of the programs are co-facilitated by a state university or other educational institution within the state; therefore a portion, if not all, of the orientation program is sometimes held on site at the educational facility(s).

Regarding participation, several states have separate orientations for each chamber. Only a few states conduct their orientations jointly. Additionally, some states go to even greater instructive lengths by providing orientation for legislative staff and/or the spouses of legislators, in an effort to ensure an even smoother transition from their previous role to that of a state lawmaker.

In terms of duration, three days is the average length of legislative orientation programs. A notable exception is Missouri, where legislative orientation involves a six-day program that spans three weeks with several trips to various state facilities.

Topics discussed at these state orientation sessions range from basic human resources information to bill drafting.

For all interested meeting participants, a list of sources is included at the end of the booklet to facilitate further research.

1	ALABAMA
2	ARKANSAS
3	FLORIDA
4	GEORGIA
5	KENTUCKY
6	LOUISIANA
7	MARYLAND
8	MISSISSIPPI
9	MISSOURI
10	NORTH CAROLINA
11	OKLAHOMA
12	SOUTH CAROLINA
13	TENNESSEE
14	TEXAS
15	VIRGINIA
16	WEST VIRGINIA
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