



Fact Sheet

The Bremen Parliament

Research Office
Legislative Council Secretariat

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General Information	
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Bremen Parliament is the Legislative Branch of the federal state of Bremen. It is responsible for, among other things, (a) scrutinizing and passing legislation, (b) electing the members of the Senate to govern Bremen⁽¹⁾, and (c) overseeing the government.
Organizational structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Bremen Parliament is made up of 83 Members elected under the proportional representation system. Among them, 68 are returned from the city of Bremen and 15 from the city of Bremerhaven.⁽²⁾The composition of the Bremen Parliament is as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Social Democratic Party – 35 members;(b) Alliance 90/The Greens – 21 members;(c) Christian Democratic Union – 20 members;(d) The Left Party – five members; and(e) Citizens in Rage – two members.The Social Democratic Party forms a governing coalition with the Alliance 90/The Greens. The President of the Bremen Parliament is Christian Weber, a member of the Social Democratic Party.

Notes: (1) In Bremen, the Senate performs the role similar to the cabinet in other places. The President of the Senate performs the role of the state premier and bears the official title of Mayor, and other senators in Bremen perform the role of ministers. Jens Böhrnsen, a member of the Social Democratic Party, has been the Mayor and President of the Senate since November 2005.

(2) The federal state of Bremen consists of the cities of Bremen and Bremerhaven. The city of Bremen is entirely surrounded by Lower Saxony, whilst Bremerhaven is located 60 km away on the North Sea.

Roles and functions	
Board of Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the first meeting of each four-year parliamentary term, the Bremen Parliament elects six deputies to form the Board to support its conduct of business. While the President of Parliament is the ex-officio chairman of the Board, the composition of other Board members reflects the relative strengths of different parliamentary groups in Parliament. • The Board of the Bremen Parliament is entrusted with major responsibilities such as (a) preparing the agendas for plenary meetings of Parliament, and (b) providing administrative support and information services to Parliament.
Parliamentary committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major responsibilities of parliamentary committees include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) deliberating on issues relating to specific policy areas; (b) giving views on legislative and financial proposals before their formal introduction into Parliament; (c) examining important issues as referred by Parliament or as raised on the committee's own initiatives; and (d) considering the reports of the Auditors of the federal state of Bremen on the state's public accounts.

References

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4. *Senate of the state of Bremen*. (2015) Available from: <http://www.rathaus.bremen.de/detail.php?gsid=bremen54.c.2331.de> [Accessed February 2015].
5. *State of Bremen*. (2015) Available from: <http://landesportal.bremen.de/> [Accessed February 2015].

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