How a Bill Becomes Law

Have fun learning the basic steps a bill must go through in order to become law. For more detailed information about the process, contact the Public Access Room.

START with an idea

A bill is proposed by a legislator in the House or Senate.

The bill crosses over to the non-originating chamber.

The bill passes First Reading in the non-originating chamber, and is referred to committees in the non-originating chamber.

The committees schedule the bill for hearings and the public is given the opportunity to testify.

The bill passes three Readings in the non-originating chamber.

The bill is referred to committees in the non-originating chamber.

Both the House and Senate agree on the same version of the bill.

All committees to which the bill was referred in the non-originating chamber take up the measure and pass the bill.

The bill passes First Reading (a vote by all members of the chamber) and is referred to committees.

The bill passes through all the committees it was referred to, as well as three Readings on the floor of the originating chamber.

The Governor signs the bill to make it law, or lets the bill become law without signing it.

The Governor may instead veto the bill. Then it does not become law unless 2/3 of each chamber of the Legislature votes to override the veto.

Bills proposing constitutional amendments do not go to the Governor; instead, they are put on a ballot to be voted on by the public.

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END with an Act of law