

CONFERENCE PROCESS

What Happens?

At Second Crossover, most surviving bills have been changed by the non-originating chamber. The originating chamber can either **agree** or **disagree** with the amendments made--and almost always, the originating chamber disagrees... Which means the bill will go to **Conference**.

Conference Committees:

Both the House and Senate have passed different versions of the bill, however, only one version can be sent to the Governor for consideration. House and Senate leadership each appoint members to a conference committee on the bill. Each chamber names their own conferees :



Chairs (usually subject matter chairs of referral committees)

and



"Managers"

Joint conference rules are published & posted on the website. They usually designate the chairs as the only ones to speak.

Two Committees:

For each bill in conference, it actually looks like there are **two committees**: a House Conference Committee on the bill and a Senate Conference Committee on the bill. They meet together – to discuss, confer, and make decisions – but the **votes are taken separately**, and each must meet its chamber's quorum requirements. If a new version of the bill is adopted, a joint committee report is issued.



The meetings are public and will be livestreamed on YouTube, but no public testimony is permitted. Instead, this is when legislators meet with one another to consider the fate of all bills that have made it to this point.

Advocates may contact the members (especially the chairs) of the committees as well as other legislators who may be able to influence the discussion.

Fate of the Bill:

Conference Draft (CD):

Conferees may come to an agreement on a new version of the bill by the decking deadline.

Agree:

Originating chamber's conferees agree to the non-originating chamber's version of the bill by the decking deadline.

Disagree:

Conferees fail to come to an agreement prior to the decking deadline.

Final Reading

Final vote on the floor of House and/or Senate before the end of session deadline.

Governor

If Governor signs the bill, it becomes law.

If Governor doesn't sign or veto by a certain date, the bill becomes law.

If Governor vetoes the bill, the bill doesn't become law (a 2/3 vote from both the House and the Senate can override the Governor's veto).

For More Information, Contact the Public Access Room (PAR)

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