

# How an Idea Becomes a Law

**CONCERNED CITIZEN**  
A citizen, group or legislator may have concerns, issues or ideas that prompt the suggestion of legislation.



**REPRESENTATIVE**  
decides to introduce a bill

**BILL DRAFTING**  
Representatives use the House Bill Drafting Service to write and review bills.



**BILL NUMBERED AND FILED**

**FIRST READING**  
Before a bill can be voted on, it must be read three times. Usually, a bill is first read by publication in the *Journal*.

**BILL REFERRED BY SPEAKER**  
to Committee, Subcommittee, or Calendar of the House



**COMMITTEE OR SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Bills are agendaed and noticed by Committees and/or Subcommittees, the membership of which is made up of Representatives. Committee and Subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

The Committee or Subcommittee reports one of the following actions to the Clerk:

House Bill:

1. favorably
2. favorably with recommended committee or subcommittee substitute
3. unfavorably

Senate Bill:

1. favorably
2. favorably with amendment(s)
3. unfavorably



**RETURN TO THE HOUSE**

**SENATE SECRETARY**  
Upon passage, a bill is sent by message to the Senate. The Senate may vote to pass the bill with or without amendments.

**THIRD READING—CHAMBER**  
After a bill has been read a third time, it is debated and a vote is taken in the Chamber.

**SECOND READING—CHAMBER**  
Not all bills reach the Chamber for consideration. Bills on Special Order Calendar may be read a second time and amended in the Chamber.

**SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR**  
The Rules & Calendar Committee may place a bill on Special Order Calendar for consideration in the Chamber.

Bill placed on House Calendar

**WITH AMENDMENTS**  
House concurs  
House further amends or  
House refuses to concur

**WITHOUT AMENDMENTS**

**TO ENROLLMENT**

**GOVERNOR**  
The Governor may either sign the bill, now referred to as an "act," into law, allow it to become a law without his signature or veto it. It takes a two-thirds vote of each house in order to override a veto.

**TO SECRETARY OF STATE**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**  
A law becomes effective on the 60<sup>th</sup> day after *sine die* or on a specified date or upon the Governor's signature.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**  
If the House and Senate do not agree on a bill as amended, they may decide to appoint a conference committee charged with the task of reaching a compromise. The committee is made up of both Representatives and Senators.

**HOUSE and SENATE**  
adopt conference report in its entirety and pass the bill

