

If a bill makes it here, it's a law!

## 1. Bill Introduction

The first step in creating the laws we live by is for a legislator to write the bill. After the bill is drafted, it is then introduced by the author in either the House or the Senate. The author of the bill tries to get as many other legislators as possible to support the bill in hopes of making it a law.



## 2. First Reading

The bill is presented to the House or the Senate and assigned to a committee.



## 3. Committee Reading

After a bill has been assigned to a committee, the committee will talk about the good and bad aspects of the bill. The public can attend the committee meetings and offer input on the proposal. After this is done, the committee will decide if the bill is one that should become a law. At this time, they can make changes to the bill. From there, the committee votes to pass the bill on to the full House or Senate for more study.



## 4. Second Reading

The author or any legislator can try to amend, or change, the bill. A majority is required to approve an amendment.



## 5. Third Reading

At this stage, the full House or Senate will vote to approve or defeat the bill. Again, a majority (51 votes in the House and 26 in the Senate) is needed to approve the bill.



## 8. The Governor

The governor has several options when he receives a bill. He can sign the bill into law, veto (reject) it, or do nothing. If he does nothing, the bill will become law without his signature in 7 days. Legislators can override vetoes with a majority vote.



## 7. Conference Committees

After the bill has been considered by the other chamber, three things can happen:

(A) If no changes have been made, it is sent to the governor.

(B) If the bill is amended in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, it must return to the house it began in so the changes can be approved or turned down. If the changes are agreed upon, the bill goes to the governor.

However, if the majority of the original house disagrees, the bill is sent to a conference committee for more discussion. A conference committee is made up of two representatives and two senators. These four legislators study the bill and come up with an agreement, which is then voted on by both houses. If both houses approve the amended bill, it is sent to the governor.

(C) The bill can be killed.



## 6. The Other Chamber

If the bill is approved in the house of origin, it moves to the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, or chamber, where it goes through the same process again. All approved House bills move to the Senate and all approved Senate bills move to the House. At this time, the bill may be approved, amended, or defeated.