

Road To Passage...



1

Bill is introduced in the Senate or House of Representatives. Revenue and tax bills must begin in the House.

2

Committee on Committees sends bill to a committee for study.



3

Bill is acted upon in committee or ignored and left to die.

4

Bill is given its first reading and placed on the calendar.

5

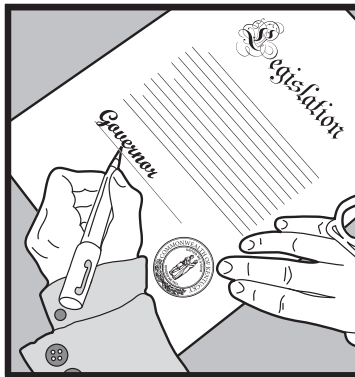
Bill is given its second reading and sent to the Rules Committee.

6

Rules Committee places on Orders of the Day, or sends bill back to committee for more study.

7

If approved, bill is sent to the other chamber, where it goes through the same process.



8

If the two chambers pass different versions of the same bill, they may appoint a conference committee to work out the differences and send a final bill back to each chamber.

9

If passed by both chambers, bill goes to the governor.

10

Bill is signed by the governor into law, becomes law without signature, or is vetoed.

11

If bill is vetoed, it goes back to each chamber. If approved by a constitutional majority in each chamber, the veto is overridden and the bill becomes law.



Glossary

Amendment - A change to an existing bill. Amendments can be as simple as changing a few words or as complex as re-writing the entire bill.

Bill - A written proposal to create or change a law. Most bills can become a law only if two-fifths of the members elected to each chamber vote for it.

Budget - A bill that determines the state's taxes and spending. Budget bills generally begin in the House.

Committee on Committees - A group of legislative leaders that assigns each bill to the appropriate committee for study.

Calendar - A list of bills that have had one reading and are ready for a second reading (to become a law, bills must have three readings).

Constitutional Majority - Half of all the members of a chamber, plus one. A constitutional majority is needed to pass certain types of bills as well as to override a governor's veto.

Floor - Where each chamber meets. The term is also used to refer to each chamber as a whole, such as, "sending a bill to the House floor."

Orders of the Day - A list of bills and resolutions that are ready in each chamber to be debated and/or adopted that day.

Rules Committee - A group of legislative leaders and other members that prepares the Orders of the Day.

Simple Majority - Half of all the votes cast, plus one.

Statute - Another word for a law.

Veto - The governor's rejection of a bill passed by the General Assembly. If each chamber then approves the bill again by a constitutional majority vote, the veto is overridden and the bill becomes law.

How can I get involved?

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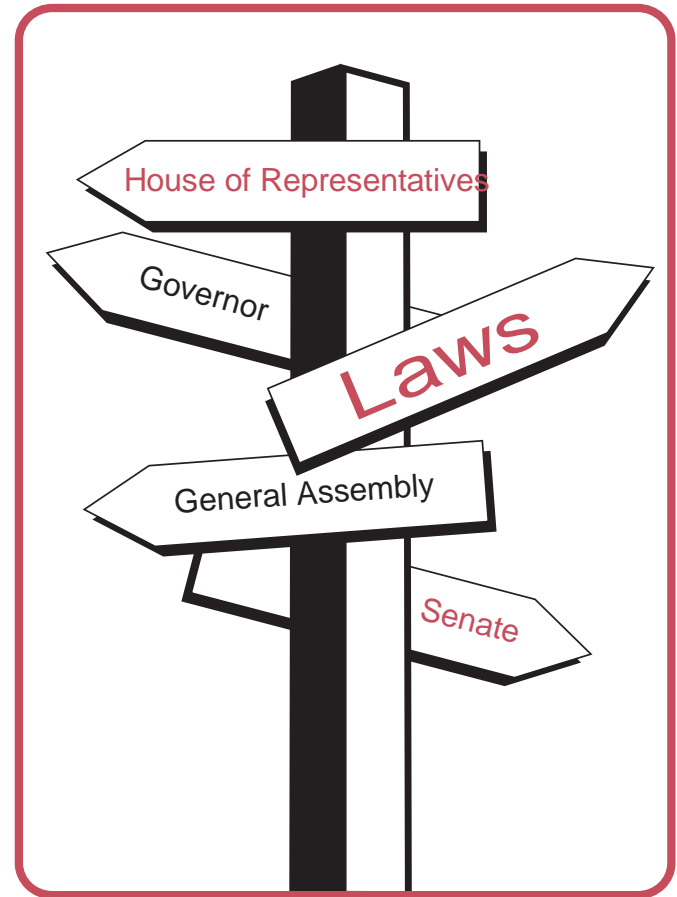
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Legislative Research Commission



The Road To Passage: How A Bill Becomes A Law

