

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

This is intended to be a quick reference guide for how a bill becomes a law. A bill can fail or be amended at any point during this process.

	Bill Draft	A bill is drafted by LSO for a legislative committee or an individual legislator. Only members of the Legislature may request a bill draft.
First Chamber	Introduction & Committee Referral	The bill is read to the chamber in which it is introduced by catch title and author, and then referred to a committee by the presiding officer. A 2/3 introductory vote is required during a budget session.
	Committee Hearing	The assigned committee will hear the bill, take public comment, consider amendments to the bill, and consider the following motions: do pass; do not pass; do pass with amendments; or return without recommendation.
	Floor Debate	Members will debate and consider any amendments to the bill for the first-time during Committee of the Whole (COW). If the bill passes COW, the bill will be further debated, potentially amended, and voted on during second and third readings.
Second Chamber	Introduction & Committee Referral	If passed by the first chamber, the bill moves to the second chamber for consideration, and the process used in the first chamber is repeated. A second 2/3 introductory vote is not needed during a budget session.
	Committee Hearing	The assigned committee will hear the bill, take public comment, consider amendments to the bill, and consider the following motions: do pass; do not pass; do pass with amendments; or return without recommendation.
	Floor Debate	Members of the second chamber will debate and consider amendments to the bill for the first-time during Committee of the Whole (COW). If the bill passes COW, the bill is further debated, potentially amended, and voted on during second and third readings.
	Concurrence / Joint Conference Committee	If amended in the second chamber, the bill returns to the first chamber for concurrence. If the first chamber does not approve the changes, a JCC may be appointed to reconcile the differences in the two versions of the bill. Any agreement by a JCC must be approved by both chambers before the bill passes.
	Governor	The Governor can sign or veto the bill. The bill can also become law without signature. The Legislature may override a veto with a 2/3 vote by both chambers, starting with the original chamber. During session, the Governor has three days to act, and 15 days to act once the Legislature has adjourned.
	Law	A bill includes an effective date, which is when the bill begins to have the effect of law. Bills usually go into effect at the start of the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, but may be effective immediately or other date established in the bill.

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