



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Idea

- A. Conceived by individual legislator
- B. Conceived by Study Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, Interim Committee
- C. Conceived by citizen or citizens' group
- D. Conceived by special interest group or lobby

Drafting

- A. Drafted by any of above mentioned groups or individuals utilizing private legal resources
- B. Drafted by legislative counsel on behalf of individual legislator, legislative committee, or subcommittee
- C. Copied after legislation in other states

Introduction

- A. Filed with Clerk of House of Representatives
- B. Read for first time (by title) to entire House by Clerk (assigned to committee by Speaker)
- C. Read second time automatically on next legislative day

Committee Action

- A. Chairman sets date for action on bill, notifies interested parties
- B. Interested persons testify, for and against
- C. Committee votes with several options available
 - 1. Recommend “do pass” for bill in original form
 - 2. Recommend “do pass” for bill with committee amendment
 - 3. Recommend “do pass” for bill as substituted by committee
 - 4. Recommend “do not pass” for bill either in original form or in amended or substituted form
 - 5. Pass bill with no recommendation
 - 6. Hold bill / no action

Bill (if given “do pass” recommendation) Returned To House

- A. Placed on calendar
- B. Called by Speaker for third reading and vote
- C. Bill debated on floor / Bill may be amended or substituted on floor by majority vote
- D. Bill passed or defeated by majority vote (2/3 vote required for tax measure or constitutional amendment resolution)

To The Senate

Bills that pass the House, in whatever form, are transmitted to the Senate where a similar process takes place
Return To House

- Senate amendments require House approval
- If House concurs with Senate amendment in its entirety, measure is passed and sent to the Governor
- If House disagrees with the Senate amendment or changes any other language, bill is assigned to conference committee composed of three house and three senate members
- Conference committee may rewrite entire bill or resolve differences on conflicting language
- Conference committee report read in House and Senate which accepts or rejects the report
- If accepted the bill is passed
- If either chamber rejects the conference report, the measure is assigned to new conference committee or allowed to die

Bill Goes To Governor

- A. Governor may sign the bill into law
- B. May veto the bill
- C. Bills not acted on will automatically become law (has 6 days during session and 40 days after session)

Veto Override

General Assembly may override a veto by 2/3 vote and measure becomes law.