



The Legislative Process

1. A bill is introduced by a Senator in the Senate or a Representative in the House.
2. The bill is referred to committee on the day it is introduced.
3. The committee may – but is not required to – hold a hearing.
4. The committee may – but is not required to – either
 - a. pass the bill as-is, or
 - b. Pass the bill in an amended form.
5. If the bill spends or raises money, it is then referred to the fiscal¹ committee where step 4 is repeated. If it is policy-only, go to step 6.
6. The “committee report” is read on the floor of the House or Senate and the bill is referred to the Rules Committee.
7. The Rules Committee may – but is not required to – place the bill on the “Second Reading Calendar” for debate / action on the floor.
8. On “Second Reading,” the bill is available for debate and amendment.
9. The bill – amended or not – can then be put on the “Third Reading” calendar where it can be voted up-or-down.
10. If the constitutional majority approves the bill, it then goes to the opposite house and back through steps 1 – 9.
11. If the opposite house amends the bill, it goes back to the floor of the original chamber where members may
 - a. concur in amendments
 - b. not concur and ask the opposite house to recede from their amendments
 - c. or do nothing
12. If one chamber refuses to concur and asks the other to recede, the opposite chamber may
 - a. recede from its amendments or
 - b. Refuse to recede and ask for a conference committee.
13. If the bill goes to conference committee, a “conference report” (compromise language) may be sent back to both chambers simultaneously for an up-or-down vote.
14. When a bill is approved in exactly the same form by both chambers, it is then sent to the governor
15. The governor may
 - a. sign the bill into law
 - b. veto parts of the bill and sign the rest into law
 - c. veto the whole bill
 - d. Do nothing – in which case the bill becomes law without her / his signature.
16. If the governor vetoes all or part of a bill, both chambers have the option to override the veto with a 2/3rds affirmative vote, in which case the bill or the vetoed sections become law.

¹ Ways and Means in the Senate, Appropriations or Revenue in the House