

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

How a Bill becomes Law!



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Step One

Bill is introduced.

Step Two

Bill is assigned to a committee for consideration.

Step Three

The committee holds a public hearing. This gives interested parties an opportunity to do public testimony for the bill. Testimony is the oral version of your supportive letter with purpose, personal meaning, stats, and facts. It is an opportunity to put a face to the cause. It is important to be brief and succinct.

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Step Four

The full committee considers the bill, marks it up and reports it out, by majority vote of the committee members. If it receives an “out to pass”, the bill is passed favorably, and goes to the next committee. Bills with a cost must be reviewed House and Senate Ways and Means Committee, one branch at a time.

Step Five

Once a bill passes the committee process, it goes to appropriate branch floor for a vote. Members can offer amendments (changes) on the floor. A majority vote passes or rejects the amendments. Any amendments that pass become part of the bill. A final majority vote passes or fails to pass the bill.

Step Six

The bill is sent to the next branch, where it must go through steps 2 through 5 as outlined above. If the bill passes the House; it must go to the Senate or vice versa.

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Step Seven

After both chambers pass their versions of the bill, a Conference Committee is appointed (made up of members of the House and Senate Committees that considered the bill) to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. If there are no differences; the bill goes to the Governor.

Step Eight

The governor either signs or vetoes (rejects) the bill. He/she can pocket veto the bill. This means that after 10 days, if he/she does not provide a signature, the bill dies.

Step Nine

The state legislature can override (reject) the veto by a 2/3 vote of both branches. The move must begin in the house.