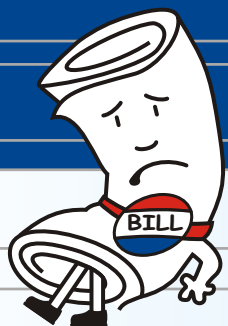


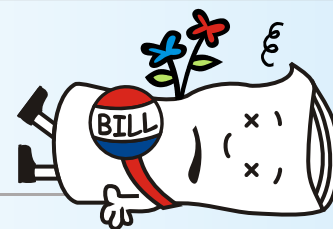
# How a Bill becomes a Law



## Step 1 - Bill is filed

Any legislator or the governor can file a bill.

Many bills die during review process.



## Step 2 - Bill goes to committee

There are 26 committees, each responsible for studying the bills which pertain to a specific area (i.e., taxation, health care, education, insurance etc.). Each committee is composed of 6 Senators and 11 Representatives. There are two chairs - one Senator and one Representative.

Either Step 6 or Step 7 can happen next. The order doesn't matter, as long as both the House and Senate pass the Bill.

## Step 3 - Committee hearing

The committee must conduct a public hearing on each bill. Usually many bills are scheduled for the same hearing. Anyone can attend the hearing, testify for or against a bill, or submit written information about their views on a bill.

## Step 6 - House considers bill

The House of Representatives can make changes to a bill, called "amendments." The House must approve a bill twice before it can advance. If the House passes the bill first, the bill moves along to the Senate. If the House does not pass the bill, it dies for that session.

## Step 4 - Committee decision

After the hearing the committee decides what to do with each bill.

## Step 7 - Senate considers bill

The Senate can also make changes to the bill. Like the House, the Senate must also approve a bill twice. If not, the bill dies.

### OPTIONS

- 1 - If the committee agrees with the bill, it gives it a "**favorable report**". The bill moves to the next step.
- 2 - If the committee disagrees with a bill, it can give it an "**unfavorable report**" which usually kills the bill.
- 3 - Sometimes a bill is sent to a "**study committee**" for further consideration. In most cases, this is a bad sign for the bill.
- 4 - The committee can also re-write the bill.

## Step 8 - Conference committee

If the House and Senate pass different versions of the bill, then three members from each body meet to work out a compromise. The compromise version must then be approved as is by both the House and the Senate. If not, the bill dies.

## Step 5 - Further Committee(s) Review

After a bill is reported favorably out of committee, it may be reviewed by other committees. For example, bills that cost money are sent to either the House or Senate **Ways and Means Committee**.

Before a bill can be considered before the full House, it must be reviewed by the **House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling**.

Before a bill can be considered by the full Senate, it must be reviewed by the **Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules**.

## Step 9 - Bill sent to the Governor

The Governor has 10 days to approve the bill and sign it into law.

If he signs it, the bill becomes law. If the Governor does not agree with the bill, he can send it back to the legislature with amendments or he can "veto" (reject) the bill. The legislature can override the veto, but only with a two-thirds majority in each branch.

If the Governor takes no action, the bill becomes law after 10 days.

