

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

1

## Idea Generation

An idea for a new law is conceived or an issue is identified with input from constituents, lobbyists, or advocates.

2

## Drafting the Bill

The proposing legislator collaborates with experts and stakeholders to draft the bill.

3

## Introducing the Bill

The bill is introduced and assigned an identifying number in the House or Senate.

4

## Referral to Committee

The bill is assigned to a legislative committee for review and consideration.

5

## Committee Action

The Committee evaluates the Bill's merits and may hold public hearings.

6

## Public Hearings

Testimony and evidence are collected from subject matter experts and the public.

7

## Committee Vote

The bill is voted on. If it does not pass, it dies. If successful, it will be reported out to the floor.

8

## Floor Debate

The bill is debated among all members of the House or Senate. Amendments may be added.

9

## Floor Vote

The legislative body votes on the bill and any added amendments.

10

## Second Legislative Chamber

The bill repeats steps 3-9 in the second legislative chamber, either the House or Senate.

11

## Conference Committee

The differences between the House and Senate bills are reconciled in a joint committee.

12

## Final Approval

Together, the House of Representatives and Senate vote on the final, unified bill.

13

## Executive Action

The bill is passed to the President or Governor (in the case of state legislatures), for their signature or veto.

14

## Veto Override, if necessary

"If vetoed, the legislature can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in both chambers."

15

## Bill Becomes Law

If the bill is signed by the necessary executive, or if the veto is overridden, the bill becomes law.