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.