

# How a bill becomes a law

1. A legislator proposes a bill.
2. The clerk of the sponsoring legislator's chamber assigns the bill a number that is preceded by "HB" if a House bill or "SB" if a Senate bill.
3. The bill is listed in the House or Senate journal.
4. The bill is sent to the appropriate committee, based on its subject matter.
5. The committee either drafts the bill into statutory language; combines it with other bills into one committee bill; refers it to another committee; or does nothing, allowing the bill to die.
6. The committee holds public hearings on the bill.
7. The committee either approves the bill, recommending passage by the legislature; defeats it; or does nothing, allowing the bill to fail.
8. A bill passed by one committee may be sent to other committees for approval before being sent to the House or Senate.
9. A bill approved by the appropriate committees is checked by the legislative commissioner's office for constitutionality.
10. The legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates the bill's cost.
11. The bill is listed on the calendar of the originating chamber for two days prior to being voted on.
12. Legislators in the originating chamber vote on the bill. If they approve it, it goes to the other chamber for a vote. If they defeat it, it dies.
13. The other chamber votes on the bill. If the bill is amended, it goes back to the originating chamber for another vote.
14. If the House and Senate can't agree on the amended bill, the bill goes to a conference committee. This committee sends a compromise bill back to the House and Senate for approval by both chambers.
15. If either chamber rejects the compromise bill, the bill dies.
16. If the bill is approved by both chambers, it goes to the governor. The governor signs or vetoes the bill, or allows it to become law without her signature. It becomes law without her signature if she doesn't sign it within five days during the legislative session or within 15 days after the legislature's adjournment.
17. A vetoed bill goes back to the legislature, which may override the veto by a two-thirds vote in both chambers.

