Anyone can propose an idea to create or change a law but only legislators can guide it through the process to becoming a law.

The proposed law is put into proper legal form (bill) by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, legislators, and staff.

Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor it as chief author. The House allows up to 34 co-authors and the Senate up to four.

The chief author introduces the bill in the House or Senate where it is then referred to an appropriate committee.

One or more committees discuss the bill and recommend action – approval or disapproval – to the full House or Senate.

Once passed by all its committees the bill returns to the full House/Senate where it debated, amended, and voted on.

If the bills that pass the House & Senate differ, they must be reconciled into a single version by a conference committee.

The compromise bill is sent back to both the House & Senate for a vote.

Once passed by both the House & Senate, the bill is sent to the Governor where he/she:

1. Signs it = it becomes law.
2. Vetoes it = returned to Legislature
3. Takes No Action = automatically becomes law after a certain time period without signature