



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

## IDEA

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

## LEGAL FORM

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

## AUTHORS

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.

## INTRODUCTION

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

## COMMITTEE

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

## FLOOR

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

## CONFERENCE

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

## FLOOR

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

## GOVERNOR

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