

# NEVADA'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

## INITIAL STEPS BY THE AUTHOR

**IDEA & DRAFTING**

Sources of ideas for legislation include state and local governments, elected officials, businesses, organizations, and citizens. Requests for drafting may be made by legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, state agencies, and local governments. A staff attorney for the Legislature prepares a formal draft of a bill.

## ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN

**INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING**

A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or a committee chairman. It is then numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, and printed.

**COMMITTEE ACTION & REPORT**

A committee may recommend that the legislative house pass a bill as it is written or pass it with amendments. If a committee feels that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the legislative house amend the bill and re-refer it to the same committee or that it refer the bill to another committee. Finally, a committee may vote to indefinitely postpone consideration of a bill, effectively killing it, or may take no action at all. After committee reports are read, bills are placed on second reading for the next legislative day unless the committee recommends the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. This action is limited to certain, non-controversial bills reported out of committee with no amendments.

**SECOND READING**

Bills given "Do Pass" recommendations are read a second time and placed on General File for debate and vote. Bills that are given an "Amend and Do Pass" recommendation are read a second time, amended, and reprinted before being placed on the General File for action.

**FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE**

Bills are read a third time and debated. A roll-call vote follows. For passage of measures that require a constitutional majority, 11 votes are needed in the Senate and 22 in the Assembly. Bills with tax or fee increases require a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 28 in the Assembly). A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated. Any member who votes against a measure that is defeated may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. All bills that are passed by the first legislative house are then forwarded to the second legislative house where the process begins again.

## ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE

**FIRST READING**

Bill is read for the first time and referred to committee.

**COMMITTEE ACTION & SECOND READING**

Procedures and possible actions are identical to those in the first legislative house.

**FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE**

The procedure is identical to that in the first legislative house. If the second legislative house considers and passes a bill without amendment, it is returned to the first legislative house for enrollment and transmittal to the Governor. (Resolutions are delivered to the Secretary of State.\*) If the second legislative house amends a measure, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of amendments.

## RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES, IF NECESSARY

**CONCURRENCE**

The house of origin decides whether to accept the second legislative house's amendments. If it accepts the amendments, the bill goes to the Governor. When the amendments are rejected, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw the proposed changes. If the second legislative house does not recede, the bill is referred to a two-house conference committee.

**CONFERENCE**

After meeting, the conferees may present a recommendation for compromise (a conference report), and both legislative houses vote on the report. If both legislative houses accept the report, the bill goes to the Governor. If either legislative house rejects the report, a second (and final) conference committee may be appointed. The bill dies if the conferees fail to agree.

## ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SIGN OR VETO?**

The Governor must act on a bill within 5 days after it is received. If the Legislature is still in session, or if session has ended, within 10 days after adjournment sine die. The Governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without signature, or veto it. A vetoed bill returns to the house of origin for a possible vote on overriding the veto. An override requires a two-thirds majority of both legislative houses. If the Governor vetoes a bill after session ends, it returns to the next legislative session. Measures become effective on October 1st following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

Revised January 2003

\*This chart primarily reflects legislative steps for a bill. The process for a resolution varies slightly depending upon whether it is a simple, concurrent, or joint resolution. Deadlines for final action on bills and resolutions by committee and house are typically established by rule at the beginning of session.

