



# The Nevada Legislative Process

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# Regular Legislative Session

- Begins the first Monday in February in odd-numbered years (February 7, 2011)
- Lasts 120 calendar days (June 6, 2011)
- A Special Session may be called by the Governor

# Legislative Process – How A Bill Becomes a Law

- ✳ Five separate approvals are required for a bill to become law
- ✳ Bills must pass through both houses and the Governor



# Legislative Process

Where a legislator's bill comes from:

- ✱ Idea for a bill (constituents, legislative hearings, personal experience)
- ✱ Research on the idea (current Nevada law or other states)
- ✱ Request a bill draft (BDR)
- ✱ Legal Division prepares the bill draft and delivers to sponsor (requestor)

# Limits and Deadlines on BDRs During Session

## Legislators

### ✧ Additional BDRs in Session:

- Assembly Members – 2
- Senators – 4

### ✧ Deadline to Request:

- February 14  
(8th day of Session)

### ✧ Deadlines to Introduce:

- Within 10 days of delivery
- March 21 (43rd day of Session)

## Committees

### ✧ Additional BDRs in Session:

- 50 per house - Leadership determines number given to each committee

### ✧ Deadline to Request:

- February 25  
(19th day of Session)

### ✧ Deadlines to Introduce:

- Within 10 days of delivery
- March 28 (50th day of Session)



# Legislative Process

## Before Introduction of Legislator BDR:

- ✧ Bill draft delivered to sponsor
- ✧ Co-sponsors obtained, if desired
- ✧ Delivered to Front Desk for introduction within deadlines

# Legislative Process

## Action in the House of Origin Major Steps

- \* Introduction and first reading in full house
- \* To committee for hearings and possible action
- \* Second reading in full house
- \* Floor debate and vote by full house

# Legislative Process

## Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✳ Introduction and first reading in full house
  - Given a bill number
  - Read before full house by title
- ✳ Referral to committee for hearings and possible action



# Legislative Process

## Committee Hearings

✳ Chairman schedules bills:

- Agendas posted
- All meetings are public

✳ Sponsor's responsibilities include:

- Presenting the bill
- Identifying and notifying speakers

# Legislative Process

## Action in Committee

- ✱ When committee might act?
  - At hearing
  - At subsequent work session
- ✱ Bill dies if no action by committee passage deadline
  - First House: April 15 (68th day of Session)
  - Second House: May 20 (103rd day of Session)

# Legislative Process

Possible Committee Action Includes:

- ✧ Do Pass
- ✧ Amend and Do Pass
- ✧ Amend and Re-refer
- ✧ Indefinitely Postpone
- ✧ No Action

# Legislative Process

## Floor Action in House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✳️ Second reading and amendment of bills
  - Bill read a second time
  - Amendments, if any, considered and adopted
  - If adopted, bill reprinted and “Engrossed”

# Legislative Process

## Floor Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step

### ✧ Third Reading and General File

- Bill read third time on General File and any additional amendments considered
- General File – Debate merits of bill and vote

### ✧ First House Passage Deadline:

- April 26 (79th day of Session)
- Exemptions may apply for certain fiscal measures or legislative business



# Legislative Process

## Action in the Second House

- \* First reading in full house
- \* To committee for hearings and possible action
  - Deadline: May 20 (103rd day of Session)
- \* Second reading in full house
- \* Floor debate and vote by full house
  - Deadline: May 27 (110th day of Session)

# Legislative Process

## Resolution of House Differences (if necessary)

- ✳ If no amendment in Second House, to Governor
- ✳ If amended by Second House:
  - Does First House “Concur”? If so, to Governor.
  - If not, does Second House “Recede”? If so, to Governor.
  - If does not recede, to Conference Committee.

# Legislative Process

## Conference Committee

- ✱ Three members per house appointed, two of whom voted in favor of bill
- ✱ Discuss (but not limited to resolving) differences. Options for report include:
  - “Concur in Senate Amendment No. 123 and further amend”
  - “Recede from Senate Amendment No. 973”
  - “Concur in Assembly Amendment No. 947”
  - “Concur in Assembly Amendment Nos. 626 and 877 and further amend”
  - No agreement
- ✱ To pass, report must be approved by both houses by voice vote

# Legislative Process

Governor may:

✳ Sign the bill

- Within 5 days if Legislature in Session
- Within 10 days if Legislature has adjourned

✳ Veto the bill

✳ Not sign the bill within the period allowed (effectively allowing the bill to go into law without his signature)

# Legislative Process

If Governor vetoes:

✱ Legislature still in Session:

- Return bill first to House of Origin
- 2/3 vote of both houses to override

✱ Legislature no longer in Session:

- Return bill in following Session



# Effective Dates

When does a law take effect?

- On the date specified in the bill
- If no date is specified in the bill, it becomes effective on October 1 of that year

# Questions?

