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?