

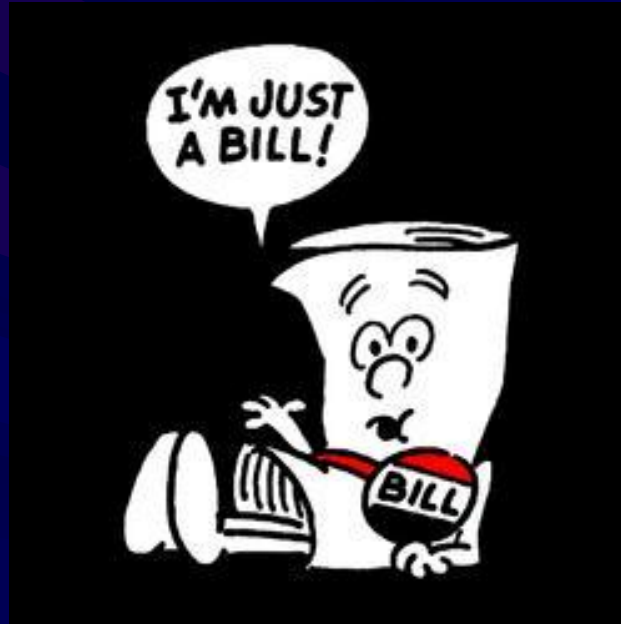


The Paper Chase: How a Bill Becomes a Law -The Legislative Process-

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Legislative Process: Beyond School House Rock



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: How A Bill Becomes a Law

Where a legislator's bill comes from:

- ✧ Idea for a bill (constituents, legislative hearings, personal experience)
- ✧ Policy analysis and research on the idea (current Nevada law, national organizations, model legislation from other states, etc.)
- ✧ Request a bill draft (BDR)
- ✧ Legal Division prepares the bill draft and delivers to sponsor (requester)

Limits and Deadlines on BDRs During Session

Legislators

- ✳ Additional BDRs in Session:
 - Assembly Members – 2
 - Senators – 4
- ✳ Deadline to Request Legislator BDR:
 - February 11
(8th day of Session)
- ✳ BDR details due to Legal Division:
 - February 18
(15th day of Session)
- ✳ Deadlines to Introduce:
 - Within 10 days of delivery
 - March 18 (43rd day of Session)

Committees

- ✳ Additional BDRs in Session:
 - 50 per house - Leadership determines number given to each committee
- ✳ Deadline to Request Committee BDR:
 - February 18
(15th day of Session)
- ✳ BDR details due to Legal Division:
 - February 25
(22nd day of Session)
- ✳ Deadlines to Introduce:
 - Within 10 days of delivery
 - March 25 (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 are posted
- All meetings are public

✴ Sponsor's responsibilities include:

- Presenting the bill
(Note: Contact the Research Division if you need help with bill remarks)
- Identifying and notifying speakers
- Keeping the Committee Chair informed

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings – Action in Committee

- ✳ When committee might act?
 - At hearing
 - At subsequent work session
- ✳ Bill dies if no action is taken by the committee passage deadline
 - First House: April 12 (68th day of Session)
 - Second House: May 17 (103rd day of Session)

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings – Possible Committee Action Includes:

- * Do Pass
- * Amend and Do Pass
- * Amend and Rerefer
- * Indefinitely Postpone
- * No Action

Legislative Process

Floor Action in House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✳ Bill reported out of committee with recommended action

- ✳ 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 23 (79th day of Session)
- Exemptions may apply for certain fiscal measures or bills relating to legislative business

Legislative Process

Action in the Second House

The process repeats itself in the second house:

- ✧ First reading in full house
- ✧ To committee for hearings and possible action
 - Deadline: May 17 (103rd day of Session)
- ✧ Second reading in full house
- ✧ Floor debate and vote by full house (Third Reading/General File)
 - Deadline: May 24 (110th day of Session)

Legislative Process

Resolution of House Differences (if necessary)

- ✴ If the bill has no amendments in the Second House, it goes to the Governor.

- ✴ If the bill is amended by Second House:
 - Does the First House “Concur” with the Second House’s amendment? If so, the bill goes to the Governor.
 - If the First House does not concur, does the Second House “Recede” in its amendment? If so, the bill goes to the Governor.
 - If the Second House does not recede, the bill is assigned to a conference committee.

Legislative Process

Conference Committee

- ✴ Three members per house appointed, two of whom must have voted in favor of bill.
- ✴ The conference committee discusses (but is not limited to resolving) differences. Options for a conference committee report include:
 - “Concur in Senate Amendment No. 123 and further amend”
 - “Recede from Senate Amendment No. 123”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment No. 456”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment Nos. 123 and 456 and further amend”
 - No agreement
- ✴ To pass, the conference committee report must be approved by both houses by voice vote.

Legislative Process

Governor may:

✧ Sign the bill

- Within 5 days if Legislature in Session (excluding the day of receipt and Sundays)
- Within 10 days if Legislature has adjourned (excluding the day of receipt and Sundays)

✧ 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; or
- ✧ If no date is specified in the bill, it becomes effective on October 1 of that year.

Questions?

