**NEVADA’S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

**INITIAL STEPS BY THE AUTHOR**

**SOURCE & 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.

**INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING**
A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or committee chair. It is then numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, printed, and delivered to the committee.

**ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN**

**COMMITTEE ACTION & REPORT**
A committee may make a variety of recommendations to the entire legislative body. It may recommend that the legislative house pass a bill as it is written or pass it with certain amendments. If a committee decides that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the legislative house amend the bill and refer it back 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 noncontroversial bills reported out of committee without amendment.

**SECOND READING**
Bill gives a “Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time and placed on General File for debate and final vote. Bills that are given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time, and if the amendment is adopted, it is reprinted before being placed on the General File for action.

**RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES, IF NECESSARY**
Conferences are held to resolve the differences between the houses. The house of origin must adopt the report first. If either house fails to adopt the report, the bill dies. However, if both legislative houses adopt the report, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the governor.

**ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**SIGN OR VETO?**
The governor must act on a bill within five days after it is received (Sundays excepted) if the legislature is still in session. However, if there are fewer than five days remaining in session, or if the bill is delivered after the adjournment sine die, the governor has ten days after adjournment (Sundays excepted) to act. The governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it. A vetoed bill is returned to the house of origin to consider overriding the veto. An override of the veto requires a two-thirds majority vote of each legislative house. If the governor vetoes a bill after the session adjourns sine die, the bill is returned to the next regular legislative session. Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

**ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE**

**COMMITTEE ACTION & REPORT**
If the two-house conference committee is able to resolve the differences between the houses, the house of origin decides whether to accept the amendments. If it accepts the amendment, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the governor. When the amendment is rejected by the house of origin, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw (recede from) the proposed changes. If the second legislative house does not recede from its amendment, a conference committee is appointed, and the bill is returned to the house of origin with a request that it appoint a like committee to meet with a committee of the second house.

**CONCURRENCE**
The house of origin decides whether to accept the second legislative house’s amendment. If it accepts the amendment, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the governor. When the amendment is rejected by the house of origin, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw (recede from) the proposed changes. If the second legislative house does not recede from its amendment, a conference committee is appointed, and the bill is returned to the house of origin with a request that it appoint a like committee to meet with a committee of the second house.

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