

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

PROPOSAL

1



A LAW BEGINS WITH AN IDEA FROM LEGISLATORS OR CITIZENS.

FIRST READING

3



THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OR SENATE AND SENT TO A COMMITTEE.

COMMITTEE ACTION

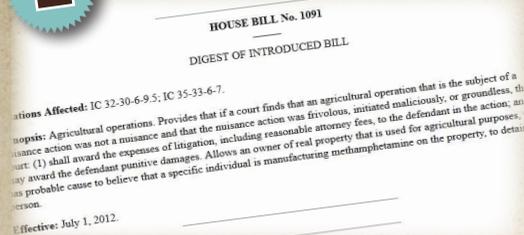
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IF THE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE BILL, IT GOES TO THE FULL CHAMBER.

BILL DRAFT

2



THE IDEA IS WRITTEN IN LEGAL FORM.

COMMITTEE REVIEW

4



THE COMMITTEE STUDIES THE BILL AND MAKES ANY CHANGES. THE PUBLIC MAY COME TO TESTIFY ON THE BILL.

SECOND READING

6



THE BILL IS GIVEN A SECOND READING, WHERE IT MAY BE AMENDED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

THIRD READING

7



THE BILL PASSES IF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTE FOR IT.

CONCURRENCE OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

9



IF THE SECOND CHAMBER AMENDS THE BILL, THE FIRST CHAMBER HAS TWO CHOICES:

- IT CAN CONCUR IN THE CHANGES BY A MAJORITY VOTE, SENDING THE BILL TO THE GOVERNOR.
- IT CAN DISSENT FROM THE CHANGES AND SEND THE BILL TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF TWO SENATORS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES. IF THE COMMITTEE'S COMPROMISE PLAN IS PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF BOTH CHAMBERS, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

SECOND HOUSE

8



THE BILL REPEATS THE PROCESS IN THE OTHER CHAMBER. IF NO CHANGES ARE MADE BY THE SECOND CHAMBER, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR'S ACTION

10



THE GOVERNOR MAY SIGN A BILL, VETO IT OR LET IT BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE.

VETOED BILLS MAY STILL BECOME LAW IF THE VETO IS OVERRIDDEN BY A MAJORITY VOTE IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.