

HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

1 EVERY LAW STARTS WITH AN IDEA



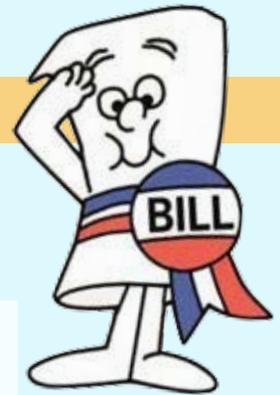
That idea can come from anyone, even you! Contact your Legislator to share your idea. If they want to try to make it a law, they will write a bill. Legislators or legislative committees can sponsor a bill.

2 THE BILL IS INTRODUCED

A bill can start in either the Senate or House. The bill is then assigned to a committee.

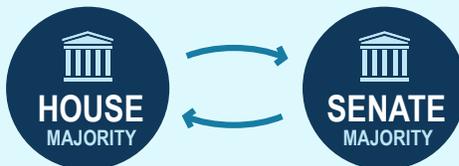
3 THE BILL GOES TO COMMITTEE

Representatives or Senators meet in a small group to talk about, and make changes to the bill. This is also the time when the public can voice their opinion, like by testifying before committee or writing their legislator. The committee votes to accept or reject the bill and its changes before sending it to: **the House or Senate floor for debate.**



4 LEGISLATORS DEBATE AND VOTE

Members of the House or Senate can now debate the bill. If the majority vote for and pass the bill, it moves to the other chamber to go through a similar process of committees, debate, and voting. Both chambers have to agree on the same version of the final bill before it goes to the Governor.



DID YOU KNOW?

The House can vote four different ways, including an electronic voting system while the Senate only votes by voice, saying "yay" or "nay."

5 GOVERNOR ACTION

When the bill reaches the Governor, he or she can:

✓ APPROVE and PASS

The Governor signs the bill. The bill is law.



THE BILL IS
LAW



The Governor can also:

Veto

When the Governor plans to veto a bill, he/she sends a letter to the Secretary of State. The legislature can override the veto with 2/3 vote of those present in both the House and the Senate and the bill will become law.

Choose no action

The Governor can decide to do nothing. The bill then automatically becomes law on January 1 of the year after the passage or the prescribed effective date on the bill.