How An Idea Becomes LAW

A Simple Version of the Oregon Legislative Process

1. Concerned citizen, group, or legislator suggests an idea for legislation
2. Legislator or legislative committee sponsors bill
3. Bill is introduced and read for first time
4. Speaker assigns bill to a committee
5. Committee holds public hearings and takes action
6. Bill is passed to Senate for first reading
7. Second reading
8. House and Senate reconcile bill for concurrence
10. Conference committee sends bill back to House and Senate for concurrence
11. Conference committee appointed: legislators from House and Senate iron out differences
12. Bill is passed to Senate for second and third reading, debate, and VOTE:
   1. Pass
   2. Pass with amendments
   3. Do not pass (bill is dead)
13. Public hearing and committee action
14. Back to House for vote on changes
15. To Governor for approval (see step 17)
16. House and Senate concur, bill is sent to Governor
17. Governor:
   1. Sign
   2. Do Not Sign
   3. Veto

Bill becomes law 90 days after legislature adjourns
Bill becomes law without Governor's signature
Bill goes back to House and Senate, 2/3 majority vote in both houses will override veto

THE OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Oregon Legislative Assembly is state government's "board of directors." It is responsible for making laws dealing with Oregon's well-being, adopting the state's budget, and for setting public policy. The Legislative Assembly is made up of two bodies: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 30 members elected for four-year terms. The House consists of 60 representatives elected for two-year terms. Each member of the legislature represents a district (an area determined by population). Every Oregonian is represented by one state senator and one state representative. Over 5,500 bills are considered each session. Relatively few bills are heard in committees, the legislature enacts about one-third of the bills into Law. The Legislature convenes on the second Monday in January of every odd numbered year for approximately six months.