

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

A bill has to successfully move through a number of steps in order to become law. It is important to know where a bill is in the legislative process to best target your advocacy and outreach.

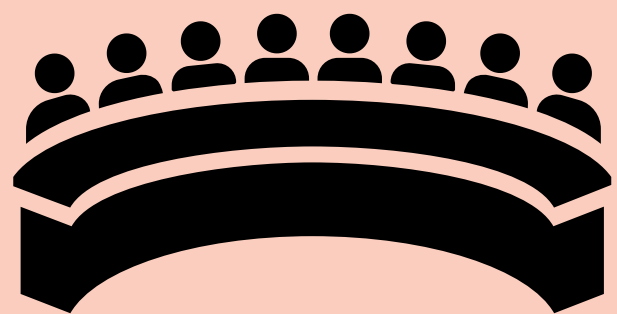
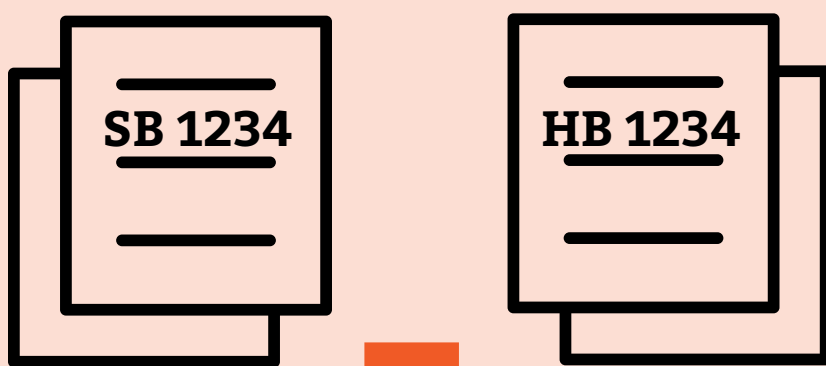
BILL DRAFTING

The language of the bill is written and put into the appropriate format.



BILL INTRODUCTION

The bill is introduced in the House or Senate and given a bill number.



REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

The bill is assigned to the appropriate legislative Committee for consideration and possible action.

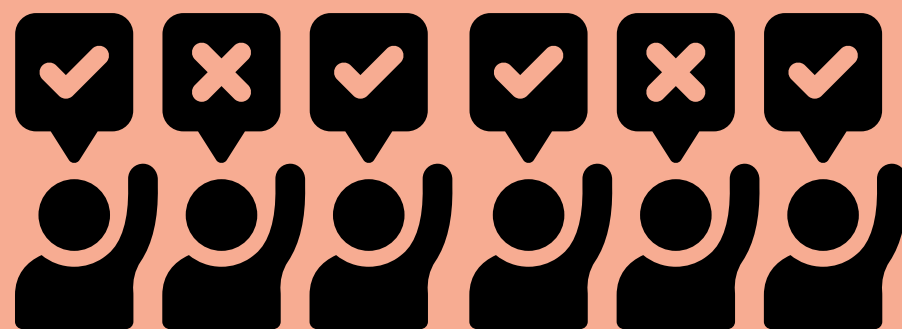
OPPOSITE CHAMBER

If the bill passes the originating chamber, it then starts the same process in the opposite chamber.



FLOOR ACTION

The bill is then put before the full Senate or House chamber for consideration, debate, amendment, and possible action.



COMMITTEE ACTION



If the Committee chooses, they can discuss, make amendments, and vote on the bill.

COMMITTEE

(OPPOSITE CHAMBER)

The bill is assigned to the appropriate Committee. If they choose, they can discuss, amend, and vote on the bill.



FLOOR ACTION

(OPPOSITE CHAMBER)

The bill is considered by the full Senate or House, who can debate, further amend, and act on the bill.



CONCURRENCE/ CONFERENCE

Agreement of both chambers to a finalized bill to be sent to the executive.



EXECUTIVE ACTION

The executive (i.e. the President or Governor) can choose to act on the bill. If they sign it, it becomes law.



BILL DRAFTING & INTRODUCTION

DEVELOPMENT OF BILL CONCEPT

A lawmaker decides they want to address an issue through legislation, and determines what they want to include in their bill.

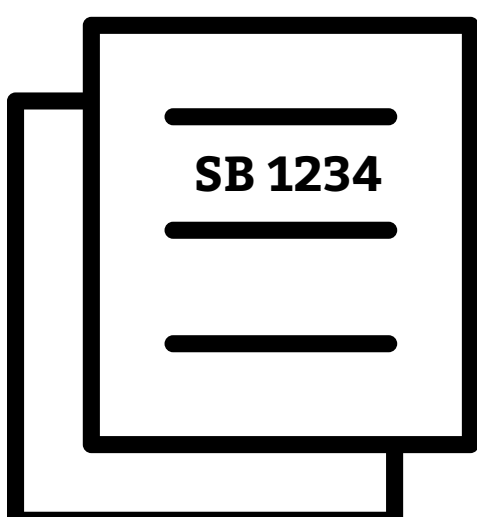
BILL SPONSORSHIP MEMO

The lawmaker(s) who plan to introduce the legislation publish a summary of the bill, and seek support from other lawmakers in their chamber.

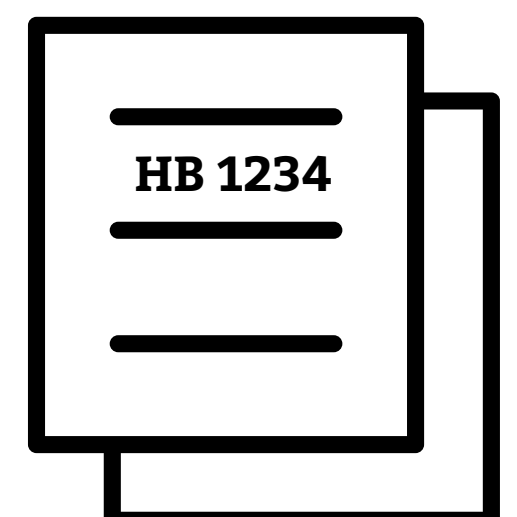
BILL DRAFTING

The language of the bill is written and put into the appropriate format.

BILL INTRODUCTION



The language of the bill is introduced and given a bill number (i.e. SB 1234 or HB 1234).



COMMITTEE REFERRAL & ACTION

COMMITTEE REFERRAL

The bill is referred to the appropriate legislative Committee for consideration and possible action.

COMMITTEE ACTION

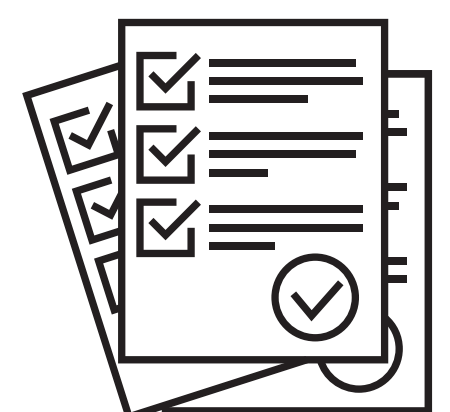
If the Committee leadership chooses, the Committee can discuss, make amendments to, and hold hearings on the bill.

COMMITTEE VOTE

If the Committee leadership chooses, the bill can be listed for a vote before the Committee members

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

If the bill successfully passes the Committee vote, it is then sent to the chamber floor for possible action



FLOOR ACTION

FLOOR CALENDAR

The bill is then put before the full Senate or House chamber, and if leadership chooses, the bill is added to the legislative calendar.

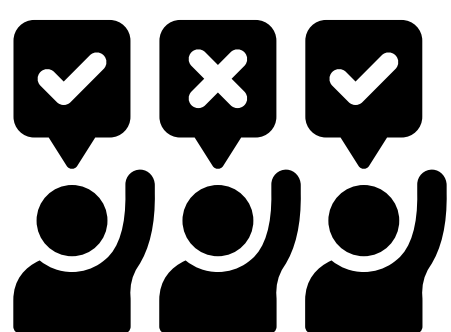
FLOOR CONSIDERATION

The bill must be considered a number of times by the full chamber to provide opportunity for amendment and debate.

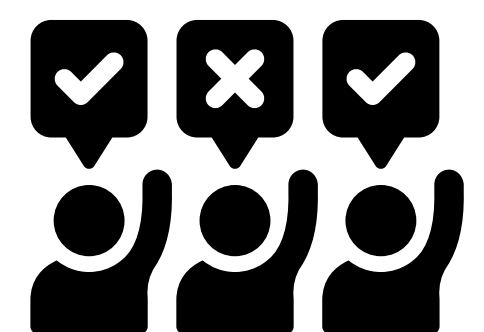
FLOOR ACTION

Lawmakers can debate and propose amendments to the bill on the floor. If leadership chooses, the bill is listed for a vote by the full chamber.

FLOOR VOTE



If the bill successfully passes the originating chamber, it then starts the same process in the opposite chamber.



EXECUTIVE ACTION

CONCURRENCE

If there is agreement of both chambers to a finalized bill, it is then sent to the executive (i.e. the President or Governor).

EXECUTIVE CONSIDERATION

The executive is given time to consider each bill before them, and to decide if they will sign, veto, or take no action on the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

If the executive signs the bill it will become law in the jurisdiction it covers (i.e. local, state, or federal). In some places, a bill can also become law if the executive takes no action.

ENACTION



Once the bill is signed into law by the executive, or in some jurisdictions if they take no action, the law becomes enacted.

