How an Idea Becomes a Law

1. Ideas come from many sources: constituents, interest groups, government agencies, interim studies, and the Governor.
2. Author requests bill to be researched and drafted.
3. Bill is filed electronically with Clerk and is assigned a number.
4. Bill is introduced and undergoes First and Second Readings. Speaker assigns it to committee(s) or direct to calendar.
5. Committee Consideration
   - Bill reported “do pass” or “do pass as amended.”
   - Committee reports “do not pass” or does not act on the measure.* STOP
6. Bill moves to General Order. Available to Floor Leader for possible scheduling on Floor Agenda.
7. Floor Consideration: Bill scheduled on Floor Agenda. Bill is explained, possibly amended, debated, and voted upon. Third Reading and final passage.*
   - Bill passes
   - Bill does not pass STOP
8. Engrossed to Senate: Bill goes through similar process in Senate.**
   - Bill passes
   - Bill does not pass STOP
9. Returned to House
   - Without amendments
     - Enrolled to Governor
   - With amendments
     - House concurs in Senate amendments. Fourth Reading and final passage.**
       - Enrolled to Governor
     - House refuses to concur and requests conference with Senate.
       - Conference Committee
         - Conference Committee Report electronically filed and available for Floor Leader to schedule on House Floor.
         - House adopts Conference Committee Report.
         - Fourth Reading and final passage.**
           - Transmitted to Senate for consideration and vote. If approved, it is enrolled to Governor.
           - House fails to adopt Conference Committee Report. Further conference may be requested.
           - Conference Committee Report filed: Conferees unable to agree.
           - Conference Committee Report not filed. STOP
10. To Governor
    - Signs bill
      - To Secretary of State
    - Bill becomes law without signature***
      - To Secretary of State
    - Vetoes bill
      - Two-thirds vote in each house to override veto, unless bill passed with an emergency, which then requires a three-fourths vote.
        - To Secretary of State
      - Legislature does not override veto. STOP
    - Line-item veto on appropriation bills is possible.
Pocket veto****

11. To Secretary of State
   o Becomes law on date specified in bill
   o If no date is specified, and bill contains emergency clause, bill is effective immediately upon Governor’s signature.
   o If no date is specified, and no emergency clause, bill becomes law 90 days after sine die adjournment.

*Under certain conditions, failure of a measure will prohibit another bill having same effect and subject from being considered by the House during either session of the current Legislature.

**Final passage in the House normally requires 51 votes; 68 votes to adopt emergency clause. Vote requirement in the Senate is 25 votes; 33 votes to adopt emergency clause.

***Except during the last five days of session, the Governor has five days to take action on a bill. If no action is taken, the bill becomes law on its effective date.

****No bill may become law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless signed by the Governor within 15 days after adjournment.

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