

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN CONNECTICUT



1 PROPOSED BILL*

Anyone from lawmakers to constituents can propose an idea for a bill!

2 BILL NUMBERING

The bill is sent to the clerk's office of the sponsoring legislator to be numbered. All House bills begin at number 5,000. Numbers 1 to 4,999 are reserved for Senate bills. Bill title, number, and sponsors are printed in the House and Senate Journals.

3 SENT TO COMMITTEE*

Then, the bill is sent to the appropriate joint standing committee of the General Assembly depending on its subject matter. The committee holds public hearings for the public, state agency representatives, and legislators on all bills it wishes to consider. **In approving any bill, the committee may 1) have the bill drafted in legal language; 2) combine it with other bills and have it drafted as a committee bill; then 3) refer the bill to another committee.** They may take no action, so the bill fails. The committee may also write a new "raised" committee bill, based on the original.

4 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

The bill is sent to the Legislative Commissioners' Office to be checked for constitutionality and consistency with other laws.

5 FISCAL ANALYSIS & LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

The Office of Fiscal Analysis adds an estimate of the bill's cost. The Office of Legislative Research adds a "plain English" explanation of the bill. For more information go to cga.ct.gov/ofa and cga.ct.gov/olr.

6 ASSIGNED TO CALENDAR

The clerk of the originating house assigns the bill a calendar number, where it waits to be called for debate and vote.

7 ON THE FLOOR*

Lawmakers debate and draft amendments in the house of origin. The house may send the bill to another committee before voting. A "yes" vote sends the bill to the other house for placement on the voting calendar. If the second house amends and approves the bill, it is returned to the first house for concurrence.

8 TO THE GOVERNOR*

A bill approved by both chambers (House and Senate) is sent to the governor to be signed into law. **The governor can: 1) sign the bill; 2) veto the bill, or; 3) take no action.** If the governor vetoes, the bill is returned to the house in which it originated. Vetoes can be reconsidered by both houses. **The bill becomes law if: 1) the governor signs it; 2) the governor fails to sign it within 5 days during legislative session or 15 days after adjournment from the day it was presented to him; 3) the vetoed bill is repassed in each house by a 2/3 vote of the elected membership.**

