

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



A BILL STARTS WITH AN IDEA



An idea can come from **ANYONE**, but only a member of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** can take the idea and turn it into a bill for passage.

BILL DRAFTING



- 1.) Each Legislator contacts staff from the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) for options and background information on the bill topic.
- 2.) Staff researches the bill topic.
- 3.) Staff drafts bill.
- 4.) Legislator approves the bill
- 5.) The Bill is prepared for introduction.

INTRODUCTION

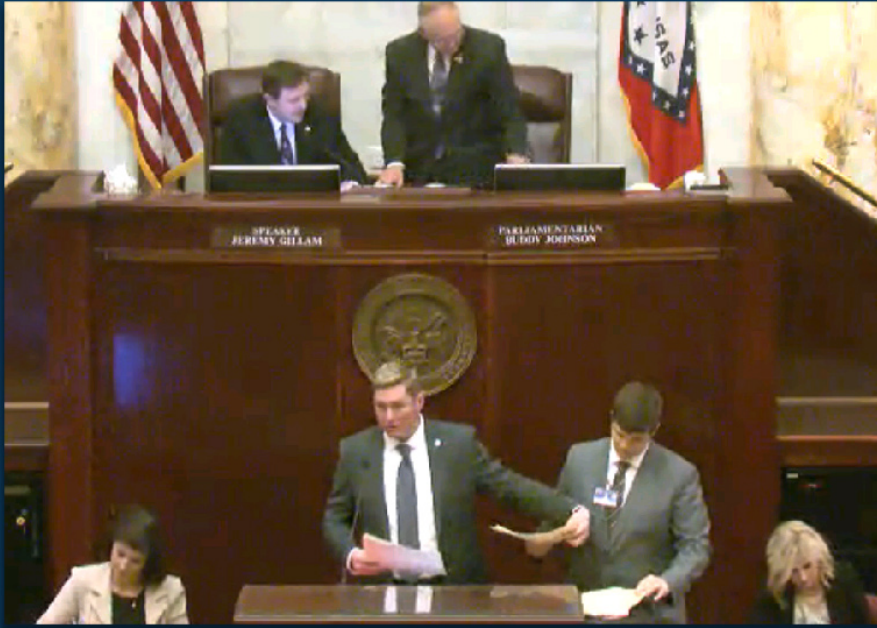


A bill must be introduced by a **LEGISLATOR**.

More than one legislator may sponsor a bill.

The bill is given to the **CHIEF CLERK** of **THE HOUSE** or the **SECRETARY** of **THE SENATE**.

BILL READINGS



Bill Readings, 91st General Assembly

Each bill must be read **ALOUD** for the **FIRST** and **SECOND** time in **EACH CHAMBER** (House & Senate).

Once the bill is read, the bill is **ASSIGNED** to a **COMMITTEE**.

BILLS IN COMMITTEE



Once in committee, bills are **PRESENTED** and **DEBATED**.

Then, the committee **RECOMMENDS ACTION**.



COMMITTEE ACTIONS



DO PASS

Do Pass

Recommendation:

- The committee recommends passage of bill with no changes.



DO PASS AS AMENDED

Amendments:

- Change wording of bill
- Add or take away parts of bill
- Change amount or funding source

Approval:

- Engrossed into bill

Not Approved:

- Returned to committee



DO NOT PASS

Do Not Pass

Recommendation:

- The committee recommends that the full membership do not pass the bill.

BILL PASSAGE



- 1.) Read bill for the **THIRD** time
- 2.) **DEBATE** the **BILL** on chamber floor
- 3.) **VOTE**



VOTES FOR PASSAGE

MAJORITY VOTE

HOUSE

SENATE

51
VOTES

18
VOTES

Most bills require only a simple majority vote of both House and Senate, but some bills require a two-thirds or three-fourths vote for passage.



3/4 VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR:

- Most Appropriation Bills
- Some Tax Increases

2/3 VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR:

- Changing Initiated Acts
- Modifying Certain Constitutional Amendments
- Amending Existing House Rules

BILL SENT TO OTHER CHAMBER



SAME PROCESS BEGINS IN OTHER CHAMBER

- Readings
- Committee
- Committee Recommendation
- Vote



BILL RETURNS TO ORIGINAL CHAMBER



- 1.) Once the Bill passes in other chamber, the bill is then returned to the originating chamber.
- 2.) Any amendments from the other chamber are considered by the originating chamber.
- 3.) Prepared for transmittal to Governor's Office

GOVERNOR'S ACTION



SIGN THE BILL

- 1.) Governor signs the bill
- 2.) Bill is sent to the Secretary of State for an Act Number
- 3.) Message is sent to the originating chamber that bill became law



NO ACTION

- 1.) Governor does not sign or veto the bill
- 2.) Bill becomes law without the Governor's signature



VETO

- 1.) Bill is returned to originating chamber with explanation for veto
- 2.) Reconsideration
- 3.) Possible vote to override veto.