

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 & TURN IT INTO A **BILL** FOR PASSAGE.

BILL DRAFTING



- 1.) EACH LEGISLATOR CONTACTS STAFF FROM THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH (BLR) FOR OPTIONS & 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



EACH BILL MUST BE READ ALOUD FOR THE FIRST & SECOND TIME IN EACH CHAMBER (HOUSE & SENATE).



ONCE THE BILL IS READ, THE BILL IS ASSIGNED TO A COMMITTEE.

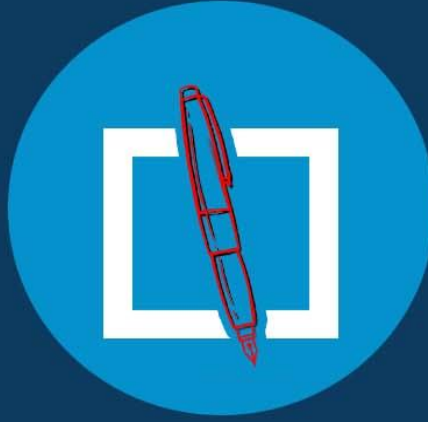
BILLS IN COMMITTEE

ONCE IN COMMITTEE, BILLS
ARE PRESENTED & 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 PASS THE BILL.

BILL PASSAGE



1. READ BILL FOR THE THIRD TIME.

2. DEBATE THE BILL ON THE 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 & SENATE, BUT SOME BILLS REQUIRE A 2/3^{RDS} OR 3/4^{THS} 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

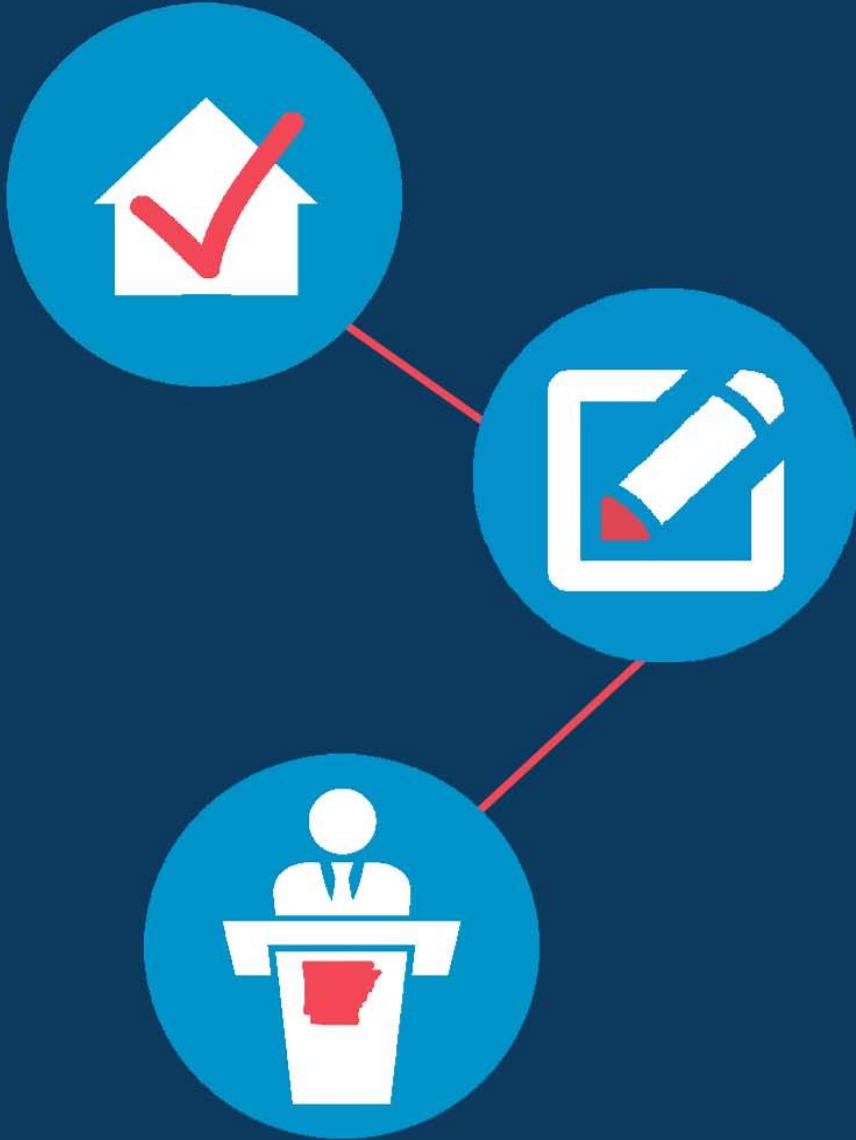


**SAME PROCESS BEGINS
IN OTHER CHAMBER :**

- 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 THE 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.

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