How a Bill Becomes a Law

Part 1: January - March

Bill Introduced

A bill is introduced by the House. (The Senate also introduces its bills).

1st Reading

The bill goes through a procedural motion during Floor session.

Committee Referral

The bill is assigned to 1
-3 (jointly) committees
dealing with specific
issues (e.g. Education,
Finance, Human Services).

Committee Hearings

The bill is heard by its assigned committees.

Members listen to public testimony on the bill.

The bill is passed, deferred, or held.

2nd Reading

The whole House votes on whether the bill should progress further.

Committee Hearings

A bill is heard by its remaining committees. Members listen to public testimony on the bill. The bill is passed, deferred, or held.

3rd Reading

The House votes on the bill a third time.

First Crossover

Bills that pass 3rd Reading will be sent to the Senate to go through the same process again. Bills passed in the Senate will be sent to the House.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES (January - March 2016)

JANUARY 27	Bill Introduction —Final day for bills to be introduced in each chamber (House and Senate).
FEBRUARY 11	Triple Referral Filing —all bills referred to three or more committees must pass through their first committee so they can be in their second-to-last committee by the following day.
FEBRUARY 19	First Lateral —all bills referred to more than one committee must move to their final committee.
MARCH 4	First Decking —all bills under consideration for Crossover to other chamber must be in their final form 48 hours prior to Third Reading. Decking ensures adequate time for final review by legislators before voting.
MARCH 8	Members in both chambers will vote on Third Reading bills before First Crossover.
MARCH 10	First Crossover —Bills that pass Third Reading cross over to the other chamber (House bills go to Senate; Senate bills go to House).