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.
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**.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>SENATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 VOTES</td>
<td>18 VOTES</td>
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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

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.
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.