

How a Bill Becomes Law in Virginia

Flip Cards

1. Print the cards on 8.5” x 11” paper. Cardstock is recommended.
2. Fold each card on the dotted line as indicated by “Fold Here”.

STEP 1

Fold Here

Senators and Delegates meet with
their constituents to develop
proposals to be introduced as bills.

STEP 2

Fold Here

Senators and Delegates draft and introduce legislation. In the Senate, bills are then referred to committee by the Clerk of the Senate. In the House of Delegates, this is done by the Speaker of the House.

STEP 3

Fold Here

In committee...
Legislators and the public present
their opinions on the bill.
After listening to the testimony, the
committee will vote to report or
defeat the bill.

STEP 4

Fold Here

If the motion is to report, House bills go to the House Chamber. Senate bills go to the Senate Chamber. The State Constitution requires the bill title be read three times.

STEP 5

Fold Here

This is a reminder that the bill was reported out of committee and will be considered by all members of the body.

First Reading

STEP 6

Fold Here

Second Reading

In the Senate, the bill may be amended once it has been read a second time. In the House of Delegates, a bill may be amended and debate occurs on the entire bill.

STEP 7

Fold Here

In the Senate, the pros and cons of the bill may be debated on third reading. In the House of Delegates, the bill advances to final passage.

Third Reading

STEP 8

Fold Here

Legislators vote one of three ways.
YEA: I'm voting in favor of the bill.
NAY: I'm voting against the bill.
R36(Senate) or R69(House) : Not
voting yes or no. I have a conflict of
interest.

STEP 9

Fold Here

If the bill fails to pass, no further action is taken.

If a Senate bill passes the Senate, it is sent to the House of Delegates.

If a House bill passes the House of Delegates, it is sent to the Senate.

STEP 10

Fold Here

Bills that pass the first body follow a similar process in the second body. The Clerk of the Senate assigns House bills to Senate committees. The Speaker of the House assigns Senate bills to House committees.

STEP 11

Fold Here

In committee...
Legislators and the public present
their opinions on the bill.
After listening to the testimony, the
committee will vote to report or
defeat the bill.

STEP 12

Fold Here

Senate bills arrive in the House
Chamber. House bills arrive in the
Senate Chamber.

STEP 13

Fold Here

Just like in the body of origin, this is a reminder that the bill was reported out of committee and will be considered by members of the body.

First Reading

STEP 14

Fold Here

The bill title is read for the second time. In the Senate, House bills may be amended. In the House, Senate bills may be amended and the full bill is debated.

Second Reading

STEP 15

Fold Here

Third Reading

In the Senate, the pros and cons of the bill may be debated on third reading. In the House of Delegates, the bill advances to final passage.

STEP 16

Fold Here

Legislators vote one of three ways.
YEA: I'm voting in favor of the bill.
NAY: I'm voting against the bill.
R36(Senate) or R69(House) : Not
voting yes or no. I have a conflict of
interest.

STEP 17

Fold Here

Governor.

If the bill passes, it is sent to the

action is taken.

If the bill fails to pass, no further

GOVERNOR

Fold Here

The Governor can do one of three things:
Sign the bill into law.
Amend the bill. Amend means change.
Veto the bill. Veto means stop.