

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia

The following steps are the typical process by which bills become laws:

1

Beginning of a Bill . . .

Billy Bill began as just a little idea in someone's brain . . .

2

Introduce a Bill . . .

Nice to meet you!

But only a member of the House of Delegates or Senate can introduce a bill.

3

Send to Committee . . .

Knock! Knock!

HB 1

The bill is assigned a number, and then the bill is referred (sent) to the proper committee.

4

Committee Studies Bill . . .

Hmmm . . .

The committee studies the bill to see if it would make a good law. This is when the public may speak.

5

Bill is Reported . . .

REPORT

Whew! I made it!

HB 1

If the committee agrees the bill would make a good law, the committee reports the results to the House of Delegates or the Senate.

6

Floor Actions . . .

The bill is returned to the chamber (House or Senate) it was introduced in and read or printed in the Calendar (agenda) three times.

7

Vote on the Bill . . .

Time to Vote!!

HB 1

On the Third Reading the bill's title is read and put to a vote.

8

Refer to Senate . . .

HB 1

If a bill passes in the House of Delegates, it goes through a similar process in the Senate.

9

Governor's Action . . .

Governor or Bust!

If the bill passes both chambers, it goes to the Governor for approval. The Governor has four choices . . .

10a

. . . Signs the Bill.

Hee Hee! That tickles!

HB 1

The Governor

If the bill passes in both chambers, and the Governor approves it, the bill becomes a law!

10b

. . . Changes the Bill.

Back to the drawing board!

HB 1

CHANGES

The Governor returns the bill with changes (amendments). If the House of Delegates and Senate approve changes, the bill becomes law.

10c

. . . Vetoes the Bill.

I still have a chance!

HB 1

VEToes

The Governor vetoes (does not approve) the bill. The House of Delegates and Senate may overrule the veto by a two-thirds vote of both chambers.

10d

. . . No Action.

I'm a law!

HB 1

The Governor does not sign the bill but does not veto it. The bill still becomes a law!

