

The State Legislative Process



The state legislative process is very similar to the federal process, but perhaps with a few less steps. It is important to remember that the process does vary from state to state and just because a bill is sponsored, supported, and signed in one state does not mean that it will be put into effect in other states.

A two-part system

- Even at the state level there are two sides to the house
 - The Senate and the House of Representatives
- A bill can start in either side of the house
- If or when a bill is voted on and approved in one house it will go on to the other side for review and voting
- If a bill is rejected on either side it dies

Committees and readings

- After being introduced, bills are assigned to a committee that deals with the topic of the bill
 - For instance, a bill to do with insurance tier caps will be sent to a health or policy committee
- During committee meetings the bill is debated, amended, and voted on
- A bill can fail during any of its six readings (there are three on one side and then three on the other)
- If the bill is amended during any of the last three readings, it is sent back to the original house
 - There the house can either vote and agree on the amendments or it will go to a conference committee to try and reach a compromise
 - If they reach a compromise the bill goes back to both houses to be voted on
 - If no compromise can be reached, the bill dies

The final stamp

- The last place a bill will go is to the governor
- Here the governor can sign the bill, veto it, or allow it to become a law without a signature

For consideration

- During each reading, letters for and against the bills are read
 - These letters should be sent to the sponsor of the bill so they can be heard
- If the bill is voted on and doesn't pass, the author of the bill may ask for a reexamination and another vote
- Most bills go into effect January 1 of the following year