



The Legislative Process

Legislative Steps

- Bill Draft
- Introduction (Bill # Assigned)
- First Reading
- Referred to Committee(s)
- Second Reading
- Standing Committee(s)
- Rules Committee
- Caucus
- Committee of the Whole
- Third Reading
- Opposite Chamber
- Conference Committee
- Final Read
- Governor



Bill Draft

- Genesis
 - Stakeholders' concerns
 - County issues/concerns
 - Sponsor
 - Legislative Council
- Intro set
- Dropped
 - "Hopper"
 - Assigned Bill number
 - SB 1000
 - HB 2000
 - LOLA & ALIS
 - Public Knowledge



Referral Process

- First Reading
 - Historically bill was read in its entirety
 - Modern approach is to read by bill number & short title only
- Second Reading
- Assigned to Committee
 - Bills may be double or triple (or more) assigned
 - In the House, hearings must go in order of assignment



Committee Hearings

- Only bills placed on agendas get hearings
 - Agenda setting is the prerogative of the Chair
 - Agenda is posted five days before meeting

- Hearing
 - Testimony
 - Debate
 - All at the discretion of the Chair

- Amendments



Rules Committee

- Legislative Attorneys

- Germaneness
 - *Bills must deal with single subject*
 - *Amendments must be relevant to bill*

- Constitutionality

- Proper form



Caucus and COW

Caucus

- Public, relatively informal, partisan meetings
- Concurrent – Democrats and Republicans meet at the same time
- Presided over by their respective leadership
- Presentations by staff
- Excellent opportunity to discover potential pitfalls to bills

Committee Of the Whole

- All members eligible to participate
- Amendments offered
- Floor debate by members only
- Voice vote unless otherwise requested



Third Read

- Read by Number and Title
- Formal electronic roll call vote
- No Debates
 - *Members may explain their vote one time*
- No amendments
- Requires 16/31 votes to pass



Opposite Chambers

- House of Origin
- Second Chamber
 - Same process
 - Amendments
- Conference Committee
 - Both chambers represented
 - Usually little to no testimony
- Back to second chamber for vote
- Back to house of origin for vote
- Governor for signature & chapter