

# HOW A SOUTH CAROLINA BILL BECOMES A LAW



**1** Bill is drafted by Legislative Council at the request of a legislator or committee. Then it's filed with the House Clerk and given a number. *(Most bills originate in the House—and ones related to finance are required to—but the process is reversed for bills originating in the Senate).*

**2** The bill is officially “read across the desk” on the House floor (first reading) and the Speaker assigns it to a committee.

**3** The committee chairman sends the bill to a subcommittee for study and potentially public hearings. The bill could fail to receive a hearing due to lack of interest, be tabled in subcommittee, or be sent to the full Committee favorably, favorably with amendments, or with no recommendation.

**4** The Committee votes on the legislation. If a majority votes in favor, it moves on to the House Floor.

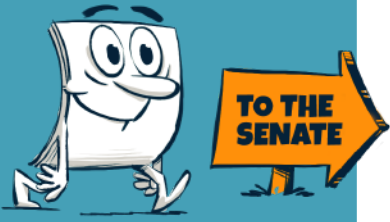


**5** The bill is placed on the calendar for floor consideration and if successful, achieves “second reading.” This is the only “reading” that allows for full debate on the Floor.

**6** The bill is read a third time. No debate is permitted. This vote is usually perfunctory.



**7** If the bill passes the House, it goes to the President of the Senate who assigns it to a committee (this is considered “first reading” in the Senate).



**8** Same process as the House: Committee chairman assigns the bill to a subcommittee. If there is sufficient interest, that subcommittee will take up the bill and hold hearings. If favorable, the bill heads to the full committee. If favorable there, on to the Floor.

**9** Bill is officially read and voted on two times in the Senate and can be debated either time. If it does not receive a majority, the bill is dead.



**10 THE BILL IS THEN EITHER**



Sent back to the House

The House either concurs with Senate Amendments or refuses to. If they concur, it goes to the Governor. If they don't...

The Speaker and Senate President appoint a conference committee to create a conference report (compromise bill).  
Each chamber must adopt the conference report. If they do, it then it goes to the Governor.

NOTE: Up until this point, there is no requirement for lawmakers to go through this process with every bill: many die of neglect. The only exception is bills placed on “Special Order” in the Senate meaning they are required to receive a floor vote in that chamber.

Sent to the Governor, if no changes were made by the Senate



**SIGNATURE**

**BILL BECOMES LAW**



**VETO**  
The bill goes back to the originating chamber where it must receive two-thirds support to override the Governor.

Then it goes to the other chamber where the same percentage of votes is required. If both chambers vote to override with two-thirds margins, the bill becomes law.



**LINE-ITEM VETO**  
(of state budget items only) The Appropriations bill goes back to the General Assembly. Both the Senate and House must override the governor's vetoes of any specific line items by a two-thirds vote or the veto of those items is sustained and the Governor's version becomes law.