HOW LAWS ARE MADE

AT THE $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$

STATE LEVEL

A Brief Overview of the State Legislative Process*



Legislators or the Governor have an idea that they believe should become a law, often from the input of constituents, interest groups, or government agencies.

*Each legislature may establish its own rules of procedure. As a result, legislative processes vary-from state to state, from chamber to chamber, and from session to session.

If passed by the second chamber, it is sent to the Governor.

If amended by the second chamber, it returns to the original chamber.

EGISLATOR

chamber.

A legislator drafts the legislation, and introduces the bill in the member's House or Senate

The bill is read for the first time, assigned a number and referred to a standing committee.



COMMITTEE

Committee analyzes bill and may hold a hearing.

The committee can make amendments (changes) to the bill.

Debate is held, and the bill is subjected to motions and amendments.

Bills that pass the committee are scheduled for a vote in the chamber of origin and read a second time.

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The committee holds a public hearing to hear

testimony from legislators, agency staff, and members

of the public.

VOTE

PASS

Members vote on the bill.

KILL

A similar process occurs in the other chamber. If a bill receives a majority of votes it moves to the other chamber.

The bill is engrossed and debate occurs during the third reading on the floor.

If amended by the other branch, the bill returns to the original chamber for concurrence or a conference committee.

AMENDED

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If resolved and passed again by the





Veto the legislation. A veto can be overridden by a supermajority vote in each chamber.



Send the bill back to the Legislature with recommended amendments.



Allow the unsigned bill to become law after a period of time.

