

How an Idea Becomes a Law

1. Ideas come from many sources: constituents, interest groups, government agencies, interim studies, and the Governor.
 2. Author requests bill to be researched and drafted.
 3. Bill is filed electronically with Clerk and is assigned a number.
 4. Bill is introduced and undergoes First and Second Readings. Speaker assigns it to committee(s) or direct to calendar.
 5. Committee Consideration
 - a. Bill reported “do pass” or “do pass as amended.”
 - b. Committee reports “do not pass” or does not act on the measure.* STOP
 6. Bill moves to General Order. Available to Floor Leader for possible scheduling on Floor Agenda.
 7. Floor Consideration: Bill scheduled on Floor Agenda. Bill is explained, possibly amended, debated, and voted upon. Third Reading and final passage.**
 - a. Bill passes
 - b. Bill does not pass STOP
 8. Engrossed to Senate: Bill goes through similar process in Senate.**
 - a. Bill passes
 - b. Bill does not pass STOP
 9. Returned to House
 - a. Without amendments
 - i. Enrolled to Governor
 - b. With amendments
 - i. House concurs in Senate amendments. Fourth Reading and final passage.**
 1. Enrolled to Governor
 - ii. House refuses to concur and requests conference with Senate.
 1. Conference Committee
 - a. Conference Committee Report electronically filed and available for Floor Leader to schedule on House Floor.
 1. House adopts Conference Committee Report. Fourth Reading and final passage.**
 - a. Transmitted to Senate for consideration and vote. If approved, it is enrolled to Governor.
 2. House fails to adopt Conference Committee Report. Further conference may be requested.
 - b. Conference Committee Report filed: Conferees unable to agree.
 - c. Conference Committee Report not filed. STOP
10. To Governor
 - a. Signs bill
 - i. To Secretary of State
 - b. Bill becomes law without signature***
 - i. To Secretary of State
 - c. Vetoes bill

- i. Two-thirds vote in each house to override veto, unless bill passed with an emergency, which then requires a three-fourths vote.
 - 1. To Secretary of State
 - ii. Legislature does not override veto. STOP
 - d. Line-item veto on appropriation bills is possible.
 - e. Pocket veto****
11. To Secretary of State
- a. Becomes law on date specified in bill
 - b. If no date is specified, and bill contains emergency clause, bill is effective immediately upon Governor's signature.
 - c. If no date is specified, and no emergency clause, bill becomes law 90 days after *sine die* adjournment.

*Under certain conditions, failure of a measure will prohibit another bill having same effect and subject from being considered by the House during either session of the current Legislature.

**Final passage in the House normally requires 51 votes; 68 votes to adopt emergency clause.

Vote requirement in the Senate is 25 votes; 33 votes to adopt emergency clause.

***Except during the last five days of session, the Governor has five days to take action on a bill. If no action is taken, the bill becomes law on its effective date.

****No bill may become law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless signed by the Governor within 15 days after adjournment.

*Prepared by Oklahoma House of Representatives
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Updated 11/25/2014
TD\14-1725a*