How an Idea Becomes a Law

CONCERNED CITIZEN
A citizen, group or legislator may have concerns, issues or ideas that prompt the suggestion of legislation.

REPRESENTATIVE
decides to introduce a bill

BILL DRAFTING
Representatives use the House Bill Drafting Service to write and review bills.

BILL NUMBERED
AND FILED

FIRST READING
Before a bill can be voted on, it must be read three times. Usually, a bill is first read by publication in the Journal.

BILL REFERRED BY
SPEAKER to Committee, Subcommittee, or Calendar of the House

COMMITTEE OR SUBCOMMITTEE
Bills are agendaed and noticed by Committees and/or Subcommittees, the membership of which is made up of Representatives. Committee and Subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

The Committee or Subcommittee reports one of the following actions to the Clerk:

- House Bill:
  1. favorably
  2. favorably with recommended committee or subcommittee substitute
  3. unfavorably

- Senate Bill:
  1. favorably
  2. favorably with amendment(s)
  3. unfavorably

SENATE SECRETARY
Upon passage, a bill is sent by message to the Senate. The Senate may vote to pass the bill with or without amendments.

RETURN TO THE HOUSE
If the Senate refuses to concur, it may return the bill with amendments. The bill is then returned to the House for further action.

WITH AMENDMENTS
House concurs
House further amends or returns bill with amendments
House refuses to concur

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
If the House and Senate do not agree on a bill as amended, they may decide to appoint a conference committee charged with the task of reaching a compromise. The committee is made up of both Representatives and Senators.

THIRD READING—CHAMBER
After a bill has been read a third time, it is debated and a vote is taken in the Chamber.

SECOND READING—CHAMBER
Not all bills reach the Chamber for consideration. Bills on Special Order Calendar may be read a second time and amended in the Chamber.

GOVERNOR
The Governor may either sign the bill, now referred to as an "act," into law, allow it to become a law without his signature or veto it. It takes a two-thirds vote of each house in order to override a veto.

TO ENROLLMENT

TO SECRETARY OF STATE

EFFECTIVE DATE
A law becomes effective on the 60th day after sine die or on a specified date or upon the Governor’s signature.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
November 2010
THE FLORIDA SENATE – HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

LEGISLATOR, CITIZEN, or group suggests legislation

SENATOR decides to introduce bill

BILL DRAFTING SERVICE either writes bill or reviews for style

BILL FILED with SECRETARY, numbered, printed

FIRST READING by publication in Journal; President refers to committee(s)

COMMITTEE HEARING(S)
1. favorably
2. favorably, with amendment(s)
3. favorably, with committee substitute
4. unfavorably

BILL READ FIRST TIME Speaker assigns to committee(s)

SECOND READING bill read, may be amended

THIRD READING bill read, debated, may be amended, roll call vote on passage

SENATE concurs

SENATE refuses to concur

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SENATE HOUSE members members (majority of each must agree to report)

SENATE and HOUSE adopt conference report in its entirety, pass bill

TO SENATE ENROLLING (as act)

TO GOVERNOR signs act

without signature

vetoes

TO SECRETARY OF STATE two-thirds vote in each house overrides veto

BECOMES EFFECTIVE on 60th day after adjournment sine die or on specified date or upon Governor’s signature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CALENDAR
Calendar Group sets Special Order Calendars for Chamber consideration

CHAMBER Special Order Calendar bill read second time; engrossed, if amended

CHAMBER Third Reading bill read third time; debated; roll call vote on passage; engrossed, if amended

If passed, delivered to HOUSE CLERK

RETURN TO SENATE without amendment(s)

with amendment(s)

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate

A simplified chart showing the route many bills take through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.