

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bill drafted



Several nonpartisan offices of the Legislature assist in drafting the bill.

Idea



An idea for a bill is developed. Ideas come from various sources, e.g. Legislators, the Governor, state agencies.

Bill introduced



A legislator gives the bill to the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate. The bill is numbered (e.g. HP 65, LD 150).

Committee



The bill is analyzed and discussed in a committee, which recommends whether the bill should pass. The committee can also propose amendments to bills.

Second chamber



The bill goes through a similar process. Both chambers must pass the same final version of the bill for it to be enacted.

Originating chamber



The bill is debated in the chamber where it originated. If it is passed to be engrossed (i.e. printed with all passed amendments), it is sent to the other chamber.

Governor



The bill goes to the Governor who can sign it or veto it. If signed, it becomes law. If vetoed, it goes back to the House and Senate (the veto can be overridden by a 2/3 vote in both chambers).

Law



A bill becomes law 90 days after the end of the legislative session in which it was passed unless it is passed as an emergency law or it stipulates an effective date.

For a detailed version of the legislative process, see *Path of Legislation in Maine*.