

Nevada's Legislative Process

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Origination of a Bill

- Requests for drafting may be made to the Legislature by legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, State agencies, and local governments.
- Individual citizens may not request a bill to be drafted directly.
- There is a limit on the number of bills each government entity or legislator may request.
- A staff attorney for the Legislature prepares a draft of a bill - known as “Bill Draft Requests” or “BDRs”.

Action in the House of Origin: Introduction and First Reading

- A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or committee chair.
- Only legislators and standing committees are authorized to introduce a bill.
- After submission for introduction, the bill is numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, printed, and delivered to the committee.
- If a bill is NOT introduced, it dies as a BDR.

Action in the House of Origin: Committee Action & Report

- A committee will hold hearings and may make a variety of recommendations, to:
 - pass the bill as written
 - pass it with certain amendments
 - if the bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the legislative house amend the bill and rerefer it back to the same committee or rerefer the bill to another committee.
 - vote to indefinitely postpone consideration of a bill, effectively killing it
 - take no action at all, also effectively killing it.

Action in the House of Origin: Second Reading

- Bills given a “Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time and placed on General File for debate and final vote.
- Bills that are given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time, and if the amendment is adopted, reprinted before being placed on the General File for action.

Action in the House of Origin: Floor Debate and Vote

- Bills are read a third time and debated. A roll call vote follows.
- For passage of measures that require a constitutional majority, 11 votes are needed in the Senate and 22 in the Assembly. Bills with tax or fee increases require a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 28 in the Assembly).
- A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated.
- All bills that are passed by the first legislative house are then forwarded to the second legislative house where the process begins again.

Action in the Second House: First Reading

- Bill is read for the first time and referred to committee.

Action in the Second House: Committee Action and Second Reading

- Procedures and possible actions are nearly identical to those in the first legislative house.

Action in the Second House: Floor Debate and Vote

- The procedure is identical to that in the first legislative house.
- If the second legislative house considers and passes a bill without amendment, it is returned to the first legislative house for enrollment and transmittal to the Governor.
- If the second legislative house amends a measure, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of the amendment.

Resolution of Differences – If Necessary: Concurrence

- The house of origin decides whether to accept the second legislative house's amendment.
- If it accepts the amendment, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor.
- If it rejects the amendment, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw (recede) the proposed changes.
- If the second legislative house does not recede from its amendment, a conference committee is appointed, and the bill is returned to the house of origin with a request that it appoint a like committee to meet with a committee of the second house.

Resolution of Differences – If Necessary: Conference

- If the two-house conference committee is able to resolve the differences between the houses, it sends a conference committee report with the proposed reconciliation to the two houses.
- If either house fails to adopt the report, the bill dies.
- If both legislative houses adopt the report, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor.

Role of the Governor: Sign or Veto

- The Governor must act on a bill within 5 days after it is received (Sundays excepted) if the Legislature is still in session.
- If there are fewer than 5 days remaining in session, or the bill is delivered after adjournment, the Governor has 10 days after adjournment to act.
- The Governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it.
- An override of a veto requires a two-thirds majority vote of each legislative house.
- If the Governor vetoes a bill after the session adjourns, the bill is returned to the next regular legislative session.
- Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.