

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

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The Texas Constitution and the Rules of the House and Senate set the procedure that a bill must follow in order to be passed into law. Here are the basic steps in the legislative process:

- Bill filing/introduction
- First reading and referral to committee
- Committee consideration
- Floor consideration on second and third reading
- Engrossment
- Consideration in opposite chamber
- Concurrence in opposite chamber's amendments, or conference committee report
- Sent to Governor
- Governor signs bill or takes no action
- Bill becomes law on effective date

Bills that do not pass or are vetoed by the Governor must be reintroduced the next session; the bill number does not carry over.

Several key publications describing the Texas legislative process are available on the Legislative Reference Library website under [General Information | Texas legislative agencies & process](#), including:

Bill process flowcharts for the House and Senate. Online versions are available through the [Texas Legislative Council](#).



*The Legislative Process in Texas*, by the Texas Legislative Council (November 2018), details each step in the legislative process, from how a bill originates to the filing and publication of laws.

*Citizen Handbook: How the Texas Legislature Works*, published by the Secretary of the Senate (February 2019), includes a short history of the Texas Capitol, an overview of the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, legislative advocacy tips, and basic steps in the legislative process.

The *Legislative Lexicon*, by the Senate Research Center (January 2019), explains the vocabulary of the legislature from A-Z, such as the difference between an

engrossed and enrolled bill.

*How a Bill Becomes Law: 86th Legislature*, by the House Research Organization (February 28, 2019), provides an overview of the legislative process with a focus on House rules.