



The California Legislative Process

FROM IDEA INTO STATE LAW

Senators and Assembly Members consider potential legislation proposed by California residents, Governor, state agencies, and other stakeholders.

Senators and Assembly Members introduce bills in their own house — if and when a bill is approved by that house— it then advances to the second house for consideration. The bill becomes law if and when the Governor signs the measure.

Bill becomes law if and when Governor signs the measure.

If bill author is a Senator,
bill is introduced in the Senate



California State Senate
Bill assigned to committee(s)

If bill author is an Assembly Member,
bill is introduced in the Assembly



California State Assembly
Bill assigned to committee(s)

Senate Committee Votes



PASS **FAIL**

Senate Floor Vote



PASS **FAIL**

Bill advances from
Senate to Assembly



Assembly Committee Votes



PASS **FAIL**

Assembly Floor Vote



PASS **FAIL**

The bill is considered in public hearings in relevant policy committee(s). The bill author, constituents, policy experts, and supporters and opponents of the bill are heard.

Upon discussion with committee members, amendments to the bill can be made during the committee hearings.

If the bill passes policy committee(s), it then moves to the Appropriations Committee if the bill has a fiscal impact. If no fiscal impact, the bill moves directly to the Senate or Assembly floor.

The Senate or Assembly—depending on which is the first house considering the bill—reviews the merits and need for the bill in a publicly noticed floor session.

Following an initial statement introducing the bill, other Members can make statements or ask questions of the author.

If the bill passes from the house of origin following a vote of all Members, it then advances to the second house for consideration.

Assembly Committee Votes



PASS **FAIL**

Assembly Floor Vote



PASS **FAIL**

Bill advances from
Assembly to Senate



Senate Committee Votes



PASS **FAIL**

Senate Floor Vote



PASS **FAIL**

Similar to the legislative process in the first house, the bill is again considered in public hearings in relevant policy committee(s). The bill author, constituents, policy experts, and supporters and opponents of the bill are heard.

Upon discussion with committee members, amendments to the bill can be made during the committee hearings.

If the bill passes policy committee(s), it then moves to the Appropriations Committee if the bill has a fiscal impact.

The second house takes up the bill for consideration.

If the bill passes, it then advances to the Governor's desk.

If the bill was amended in the second house, it returns to the house of origin for a concurrence vote prior to heading to the Governor.

Bill Passes Both Houses



Governor

Bills reach the Governor's desk awaiting review.

Does Not Sign/Veto Bill

Bill becomes law without
Governor's signature

Signs



Vetoes

Governor provides a brief
statement explaining the
reasoning for the veto.

Bill Becomes A Law!



Bill becomes law on January 1st of the following year, unless it contains an urgency clause (taking effect immediately) or a different effective date.

After being approved by the Senate, Assembly, and Governor, the bill is signed, dated, and transmitted to the California Secretary of State to officially become a law of the state.