

Navigating the Legislative Process

How a Bill Becomes a Law & Engaging with the Legislature

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What impact will you make today?

Navigating the Legislative Process

How a bill becomes a law

Step by step – the odyssey each bill must successfully navigate to pass.

Engaging with the Legislature

From policy to politics – the art of getting it done.

What impact will you make today?

How a bill becomes a bill...and then a law.

You need 3 basic things.

1. A problem or opportunity
2. A proposal
3. A sponsor

You also need to know this:
It is hard to pass a bill!



What impact will you make today?

The Bill Process

11 Basic Steps

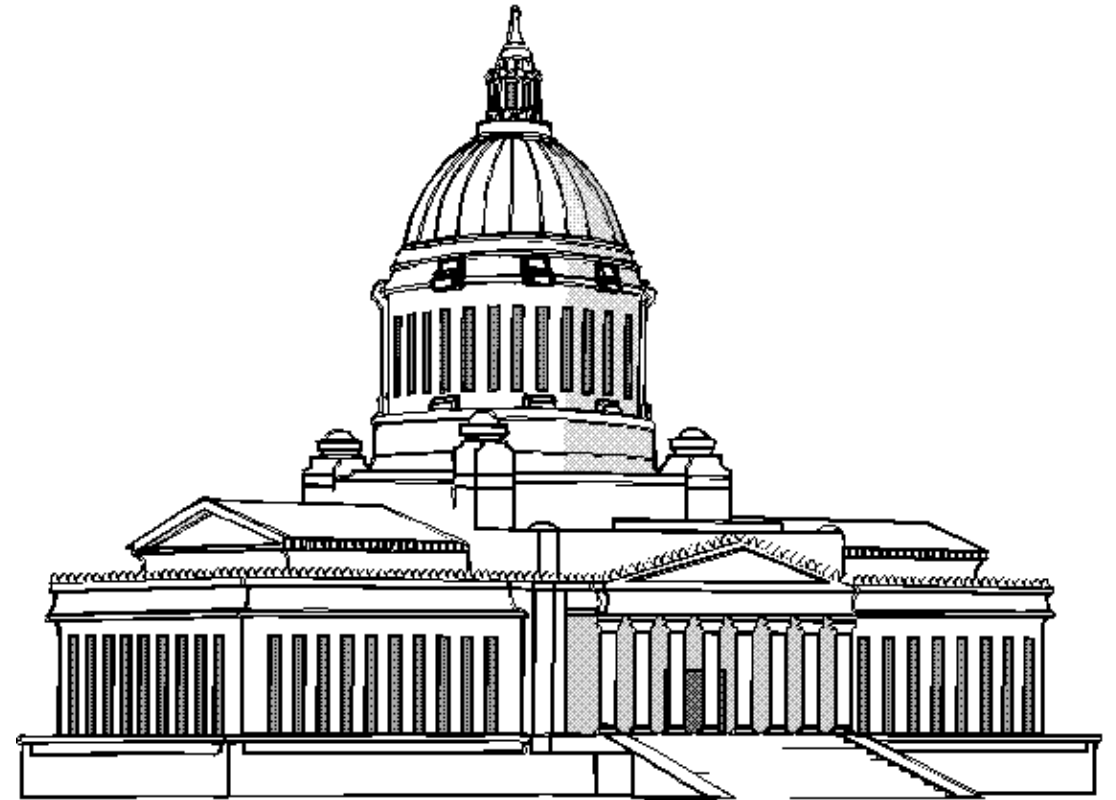
1. Bill introduction
2. Referred to a policy committee
3. Policy committee passage (with amendments?)
4. Referred to a fiscal committee
5. Fiscal committee passage (with amendments?)
6. Referred to the Rules Committee

The Bill Process

11 Basic Steps

7. Passed (pulled) by Rules and Sent to the Floor
8. Passed on the Floor
9. Go to the opposite House and do it again (1-8)
10. Concurrence
11. Governor approval

Or, better luck next year!



What impact will you make today?

Bill Introduction & Referral

- Code reviser
- Numbered
- Introduced
- Referred to committee



What impact will you make today?

Policy Committee

- Public hearing
- Executive session
- Anything can happen in committee (well, almost).



What impact will you make today?

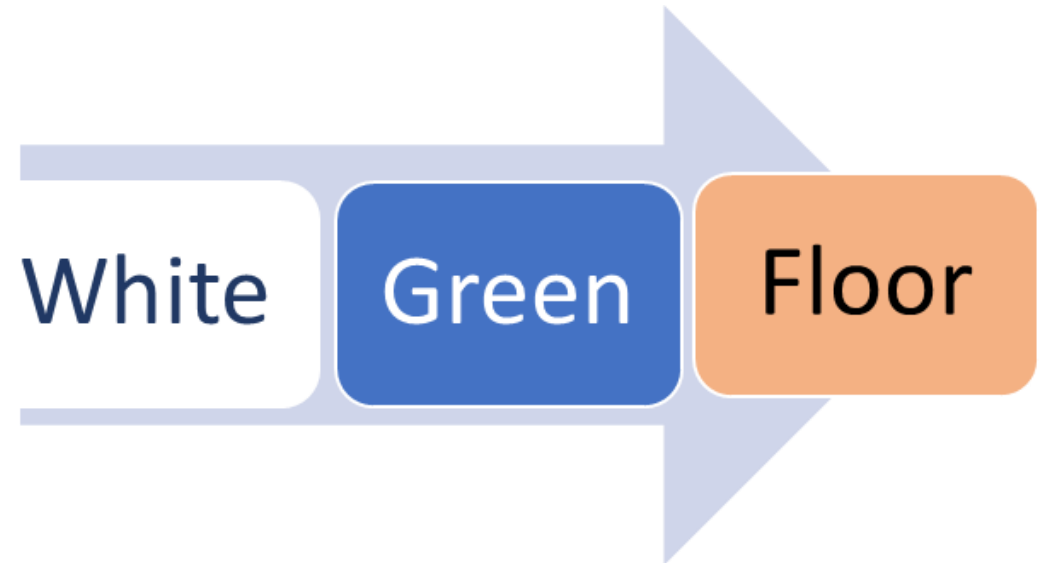
Fiscal Committee

- Bills with a “substantial fiscal impact” affecting state revenues or expenditures (see the *fiscal note*).
- Hearing
- Executive Session
- Anything can happen in committee (not again!).



Rules Committee

- Bill must be “pulled” by a member, twice.
 - White sheet to Green sheet, Green sheet to Floor.
 - Green to Floor requires a committee vote.
- No Hearing



On the Floor

- Final version of the bill is passed to the other chamber.
- Anything can happen on the Floor (yes, again!).
- When a bill comes up for a vote:
 - First Reading
 - Second Reading
 - Third Reading



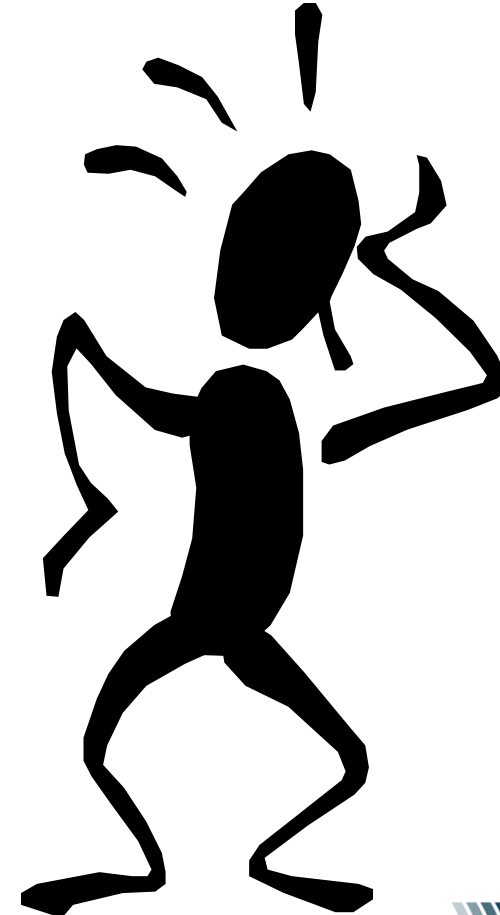
What impact will you make today?

Go to the other Chamber

- House bills to the Senate, Senate bills to the House
- Start again at the Policy Committee
- And remember – anything can still happen!

Concurrence

- Bills from each chamber must be identical to be passed during the session.
- Concur, do not concur, request conference.
- What can happen in the conference committee (you must be kidding me - nope!)?



What impact will you make today?

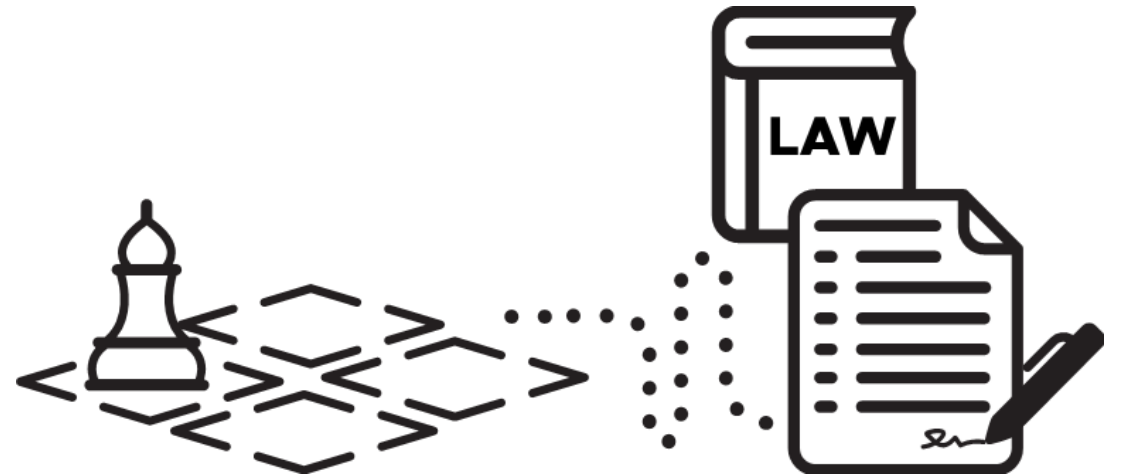
Governor Approval

- Sign it, veto it (or part), or take no action
 - Legislature can override a veto with a 2/3 vote of those present.
- The bill is a law:
 - Immediately if it has an emergency clause;
 - On the date specified in the bill; or
 - 90 days after the legislative session ends (sine die).



Engaging with the Legislature.

- Biennial Legislative Session (2-year)
 - Start: 2nd Monday in January
 - 1st year (odd numbered) – 105 days (long session)
 - 2nd year (even numbered) – 60 days (short session)
-
- Special sessions – 30 days



What impact will you make today?

Long Session vs. Short Session

- Long session = new state budgets, more time for process.
 - Short session = supplemental budgets, less time for process.
-
- Bills introduced in a long session can be carried over to a short session, but not vice versa.

Session Timelines

- Know your deadlines!
 - Policy committee cutoff
 - Fiscal committee cutoff
 - Floor cutoff
- Some bills are immune to the cutoff dates – NTIB

Bill Drafting

- Things to consider:
 - Text
 - Title
 - Sponsor(s)
 - Fiscal impact
 - Committee assignment



What impact will you make today?

Know the Players

- Who is key to the process?
- Identify who can help!
- Identify who can hinder!



What impact will you make today?

Tracking the Bill

- Know where the bill is at all times is crucial!
- Be proactive!



What impact will you make today?

Advocacy

- Who should you talk to? Besides everyone, of course!
 - Legislators
 - Stakeholders (including the opposers)
 - Key Staff Members
 - Lobbyists
- Get to the Point!
- Never Lie.

Good Luck!

What impact will you make today?