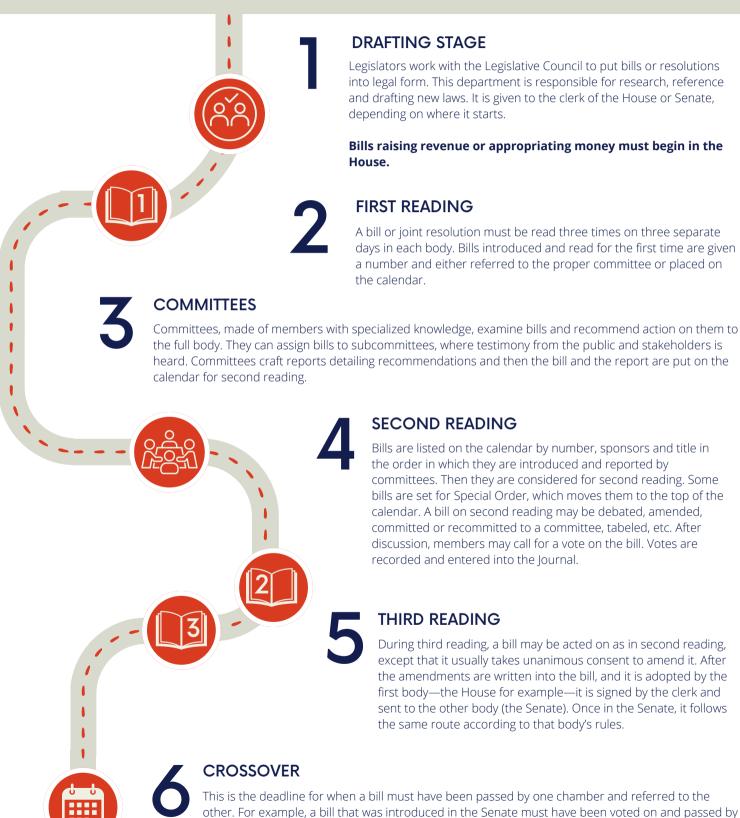


HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

IN SOUTH CAROLINA



the Senate and referred to the House for consideration by this date.*



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7

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SECOND CHAMBER

The second chamber may make amendments to the bill, in which case it is returned to the first chamber for consideration. The first chamber may agree or disagree with the amendment or make changes to the amendment and send it back to the second chamber. If the first chamber disagrees with the second's amendment, a message is sent to the second chamber which will then either insist upon the amendment or agree to drop it.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

If the Senate insists on their amendment a note is sent to the House including the names of the senators appointed to a conference committee. Then the House also appoints three members to the conference committee. The six committee members meet and try to reach an agreement. If they are able to reach an agreement, a report is sent to both bodies for adoption. When a report is adopted by both bodies, the bill is ordered enrolled for ratification.



FREE CONFERENCE POWERS

If the conference committee cannot agree, they return to their respective bodies and ask for free conference powers, which require a two-thirds vote of each body. The free conference committee may rewrite the bill. The committee cannot alter or delete anything agreed to by both bodies. If the bodies agree, the bill is ordered enrolled for ratification and the title is changed to an act. Then the bill is enrolled (rewritten into act form by legislative council), placed in folders, attached to the original version of the bill and returned to the body in which it originated to await ratification.



10

RATIFICATION

During ratification, the Great Seal of the State is affixed to the act, the presiding officers and clerks of the two bodies sign it, and the clerk of Senate sends it to the Governor's Office for signing or veto.



*Critical dates

Session begins: Second Tuesday in January Sine die: The day the legislature adjourns for the year. Only legislation identified in the Sine Die Resolution can be considered or acted upon beyond this date.



THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

The governor has five days, Sundays excluded, to approve or disapprove an act. When the governor signs the act or allows it to become law without signing, it is sent to the Secretary of State's Office to be filed permanently. If the governor vetoes the act it is returned with the veto message to the clerk of the originating body by midnight of the fifth day.

12

OVERRIDING A VETO

The bill's originating body considers the veto. The body must pass the bill by two-thirds majority in order to override the governor's veto. If the body overrides the veto it is then sent to the other body for its consideration. Should either the House or the Senate not override the governor's veto, the act is dead. If the two bodies override the veto the act is sent to the Secretary of State's Office and it becomes law.