How a Bill Becomes a Law in Ohio

Legislator becomes aware of need for legislation

HOUSE
Bill filed with House Clerk, numbered, first consideration (read by title), referred to House Rules and Reference Committee

House Rules and Reference Committee reviews, recommends standing committee assignment

Second consideration, bill referred to standing committee

*Standing committee: holds public hearings; amends, combines, substitutes bill; refers to subcommittee; postpones; defeats or favorably reports bill. May be discharged of further consideration

SENATE
Bill filed with Senate Clerk, numbered, first consideration (read by title), referred to Senate Reference Committee

*Senate Reference Committee reviews, recommends standing committee assignment

Second consideration, bill referred to standing committee

*House Rules and Reference Committee or Senate Rules Committee: refers; takes no action; schedules bill for third consideration (floor action)

If passed in second house with no changes, bill goes to presiding officers for signature

*Third consideration, debate on floor, and vote

If passed in first house, bill sent to second house where process is repeated

If first house concurs, goes to presiding officers for signature

Signed by Speaker of House and President of Senate

Act presented to Governor

If Governor does not sign or veto within ten days after presentation (excluding Sundays), act becomes law without Governor's signature

Filed with Secretary of State for final enrollment; effective 91 days after filing. Emergency, current appropriation, and tax legislation effective immediately

Signed by Governor

*Vetoed by Governor, returned to originating house with veto message

Vote of 3/5 of members from each house necessary to override

*Indicates where bill may die