

How a Bill Becomes a Law

The Missouri Experience

LINK PROJECT

MFIH
Missouri Foundation for Health



HINTS:

- Get the language right. Changes will happen throughout the legislative process — know your limits and be open to compromise.
- Allow time for legislative research to draft concepts to bill.

First and Second Reading



HINTS:

- Consider requesting a favorable committee assignment from the chamber's Presiding Officer
- The chair is critical. Always review your issues with him/her.
- Engage members of the committee before the hearing.
- Provide concise and thoughtful information on the bill — try to make a connection.
- Ask if the bill might be wrapped into a larger committee substitute.

Hearing

Vote

Sent to Floor



HINTS:

- The key person is the Majority Floor Leader.
- Work out problems, if possible, before going to the floor.
- Make sure you count votes — ground work will increase your chances of getting floor time.
- Make sure your sponsor is prepared for floor debate.

Floor Debate

Perfection (Amendment Process)

Third Reading and Vote

Sent to Floor

Vote

Hearing



Assigned to Committee

Second Chamber



Floor Debate

Third Reading and Vote

Truly Agreed and Finally Passed (T.A.F.P.)

HINTS:

- Chambers must pass identical forms of the bill for it to be T.A.F.P.
- There is a staff person in the Governor's Office who reviews bills on each subject. Find out who this individual is and communicate.

Governor Sign or Veto



Governor Signs

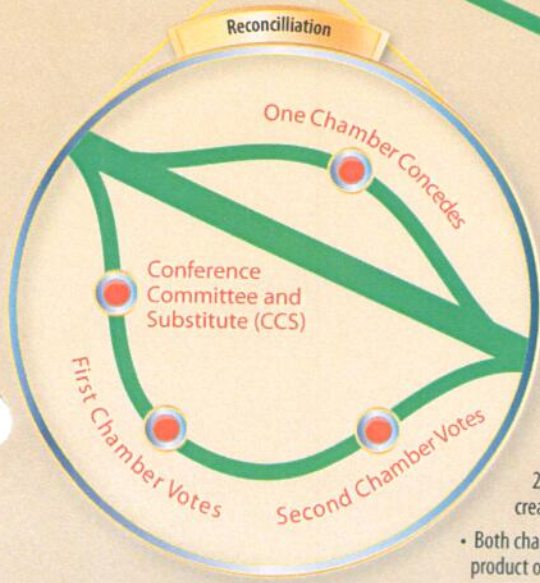
Governor Vetoes

First Chamber Override Vote (2/3 majority vote)

Second Chamber Override Vote (2/3 majority vote)



Bill becomes law



HINTS:

- Bills must pass the House and Senate in the exact same form.
- Differences can be reconciled in two ways:
 1. One chamber concedes to the other; or
 2. A conference committee creates a compromise bill.
- Both chambers must vote on the product of a conference committee.