



Fast Facts

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN OHIO

PART 1

Legislator becomes aware of need for legislation.

Legislator requests LSC to draft a proposed bill or submits draft for LSC review.

LSC drafts proposed bill for introduction in either house.

PART 2

Bill filed with House or Senate Clerk and numbered.

First consideration (read by title), referred to the House or Senate Rules and Reference Committee.

House or Senate Rules and Reference Committee reviews, recommends standing committee assignment.

Second consideration, bill referred to standing committee.

PART 3

Standing committee: holds public hearings; may amend or create a substitute bill; may refer bill to subcommittee or postpone, defeat, or favorably report bill. May be discharged of further consideration of bill.

PART 4

House or Senate Rules and Reference Committee: may re-refer, take no action, or schedule bill for third consideration (floor action).

Third consideration: floor debate and vote.

PART 5

If passed in first house, bill is sent to second house where process is repeated (introduction; referral to standing committee; floor vote).

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

If passed in second house with amendments, bill returns to first house for concurrence.

If first house concurs, bill goes to presiding officers for signature.

Bill signed by Speaker of House and President of Senate and becomes an act.

If both houses accept conference committee report, bill goes to presiding officers for signature.

If first house does not concur and second house insists on its amendments, conference committee may be appointed (three members from each house); committee makes changes to resolve differences in bill and reports back to both houses.

If either house does not accept report, bill dies.

PART 6

Act presented to Governor.

Vetoed by Governor; act returned to originating house.

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

Signed by Governor.

Veto overridden (vote of 3/5 of members from each house necessary to override a veto).

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

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Ohio—Overview



**Indicates where bill may die*

Order of Business

During a floor session, the House and Senate follow a specific order of business determined by House or Senate Rules. For example, bills may be introduced only at a certain point in the order of business. The order of business may be changed during floor session on a particular day by a vote of the members. The Rules governing the order of business may change from session to session.

Roll Call

Most votes taken in the House of Representatives are recorded electronically. Results are registered at the Clerk’s desk and on listings of members on the walls of the chamber. The Senate continues the tradition of calling the roll aloud.

Majority Rules

TYPE	MIN. # OF VOTES REQUIRED	
	SENATE	HOUSE
Majority/Simple Majority <i>The next whole number over 1/2 of the membership of the House or Senate</i>	17	50
3/5 Majority <i>The next whole number over 3/5 of the membership of the House or Senate</i>	20	60
2/3 Majority	22	66

EXAMPLES OF MEASURES THAT REQUIRE DIFFERENT MAJORITIES IN ORDER TO PREVAIL	
MEASURE	TYPE OF MAJORITY
Quorum	Simple Majority
Bill <i>Unless a greater majority is constitutionally required</i>	Simple Majority
Emergency clause	2/3 Majority
Overriding Governor’s veto <i>Unless original passage required a greater majority</i>	3/5 Majority
Joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Ohio Constitution	3/5 Majority

