



For more detailed models of how a bill becomes a law, see these examples from the [Indiana](#) and [Vermont](#) state legislatures.

# How to be an Advocate at Each Step of the Legislative Process

## **Idea/Draft**

- draft your own sample piece of legislation to give to your representative
- call, write, email, or set up a meeting with your representative to discuss a policy proposal

## **Scheduled for a Reading/Committee Referral**

- contact a member of the chamber's leadership—in many state legislatures they decide which bills get assigned for a reading and then are referred to committee

## **Committee Consideration**

- contact the chair of the committee—the chairman or woman decides whether a committee considers a bill, or if it dies
- contact other members of the committee, who can influence the chair/play a role if the chair does decide to consider a bill
- give/provide testimony to be used in a committee hearing on the bill

## **Second and Third Readings**

- contact chamber leadership—they often decide if a bill gets heard for second and third readings
- if a bill is scheduled for a second reading, any legislator in the chamber of origin can suggest amendments that must be approved by majority—call your representative if you want to propose an amendment or discuss their vote on all or parts of the bill

## **Process Repeated in Other Chamber**

- same steps for representatives of other chamber

## **Conference Committee**

- find out who sits on the conference committee for the bill of concern
- ask what changes are being made, track the work the committee is doing
- call, write, or set up appointments to assure bill does not die or lose your policy positions of interest

## **Bill Sent to Governor**

- call or write your governor's office
- send in a letter with signatures from community expressing widespread support (or disapproval) for your bill of interest
- look for statements in the media of governor's support or disapproval of the bill as an indicator of intention to sign or veto
- conduct a social media campaign to show your governor there is widespread support (or disapproval) for your bill of interest