

Legislative Process

The Legislative Session is two years. After two years, a new Legislative Session begins.

1. Idea for a bill is developed. A legislator either has their own idea, has heard from a constituent, or is approached to introduce a bill. The Member then sends the idea and language for the bill to the Legislature's Legislative Counsel Office where it is drafted into a bill. The drafted bill is returned to the legislator for review. If the author is a Senator, the bill is introduced at the Senate Desk, if an Assembly Member, at the Assembly Desk, where it is assigned a number and read for the first time.

Note: On average, over 2,000 Senate Bills and over 3,000 Assembly Bills are introduced during the course of a 2-year legislative session. CSHA's legislative advocate will review each bill introduction to identify bills with an impact on SLPs and CSHA.

2. The Rules Committee determines the policy committee each bill will be assigned to. A bill must be in print for 30 days before it is eligible to be heard in the policy committee. The Advocacy Committee will schedule calls to discuss our positions in order for the submission of letters expressing the position of CSHA. When a bill is scheduled to be heard in a policy committee, anyone is available to testify in support or opposition.
3. If the legislation has a fiscal impact or state cost, it will be assigned to the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee will address only the fiscal impact of the proposed bill, not any of the policy issues. If the cost of the bill is over \$150,000, the bill will be placed into the "Suspense File" to be heard after the state budget's May Revision is introduced and the state's available resources are known. If a bill is "held under submission", the bill either becomes a 2 year bill or it is dead for the remaining legislative session. A bill that passes out of the Appropriations Committee is read for the second time on the Floor of the House it originated in. Once a bill is read for the third time it can be voted on.
4. Third Reading is the last stage that bill goes through in the House of Origin before it passes to the second House to go through the committee process all over again, (Assembly to the Senate

or the Senate to the Assembly). Most bills require a majority vote while urgency measures and tax bills require a two-thirds vote.

Note: At any time during the legislative process, the bill may be amended, either in the policy committee, fiscal committee, or on the Floor. After the amendments have been submitted to the author, the bill goes to another printing to reflect the changes that have been made. Amendments can be substantial or technical and may affect CSHA's position on the bill. When this occurs, CSHA legislative advocate may bring the bill back to CSHA's Advocacy Committee for a reassessment of the bill.

In the event a bill is amended out of its House of Origin, (Assembly bill amended in the Senate or Senate bill amended in the Assembly), the bill must return back to its House of Origin to ensure both the Assembly and Senate have a vote on the final version of the bill before it goes to the Governor.

5. If a bill moves to the Governor, he/she has 12 days to sign, approve without signing or veto the bill. If a bill moves to the Governor at the end of the last two weeks of the legislative session, the Governor has 30 days to sign, approve without signing or veto a bill. Once the bill is either signed or approved without a signature, it moves to the Secretary of State to be chaptered. If the governor vetoes the bill, a two-thirds vote in each house is needed to override the veto. The Governor's office releases veto messages which explain the veto. These messages are available from the Governor's Office and on the internet. All bills become law the following January 1st unless there is an urgency clause or the budget and trailer bills that become law immediately.

Note: A bill introduced in the first year of a 2-year legislative session can be made into a 2-year bill at any time in the legislative process. This allows for additional work or amendments to be made in order to allow for the successful passage of the bill.

In the event a bill is amended out of its House of Origin, (Assembly bill amended in the Senate or Senate bill amended in the Assembly), the bill must return back to its House of Origin to ensure both the Assembly and Senate have a vote on the final version of the bill before it goes to the Governor.