

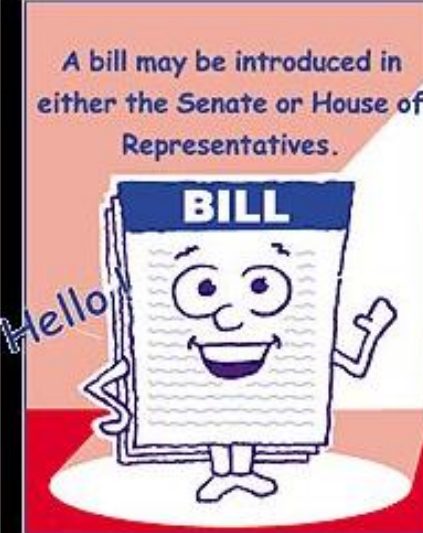
The Dance of Legislation *

2021, a different year in Olympia:
How we had an impact on legislation

*With apologies to Eric Redman

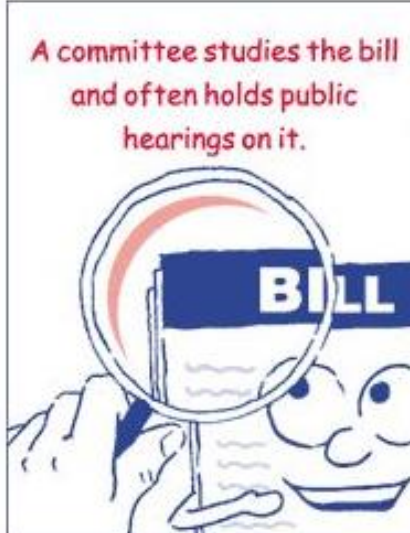
I. From Bill to Law

A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives.



HELLO

A committee studies the bill and often holds public hearings on it.



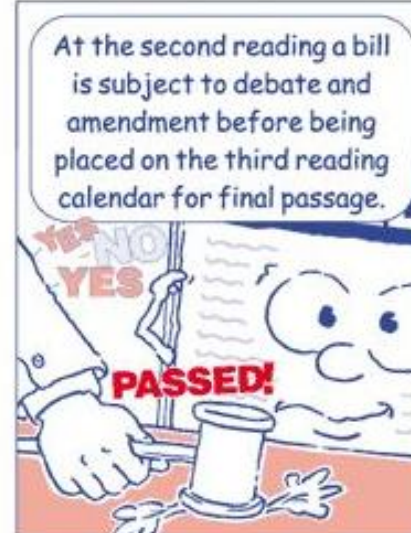
A committee report is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee.



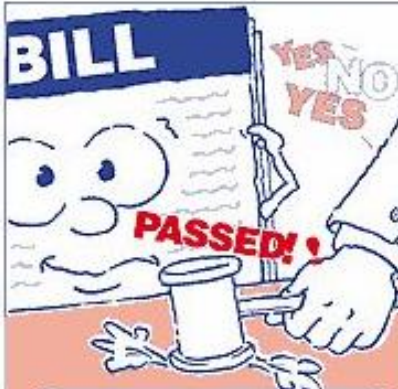
HELLO

The Rules Committee can either place the bill on the second reading of the calendar for debate before the entire body, or take no action.

At the second reading a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.

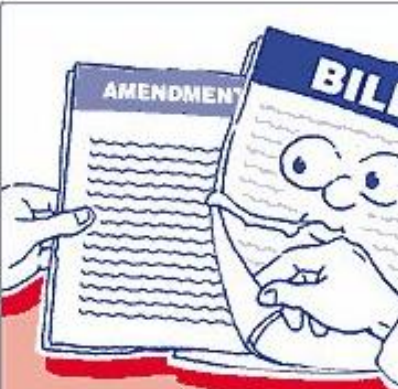


YES NO
YES
PASSED!



YES NO
YES
PASSED!


After passing one house, the bill goes through the same procedure in the other house.



AMENDMENT BILL

If amendments are made in one house, the other house must concur.

When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the Governor.



BILL

The Governor signs the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. If the Governor fails to act on the bill, it may become law without a signature.



LAW

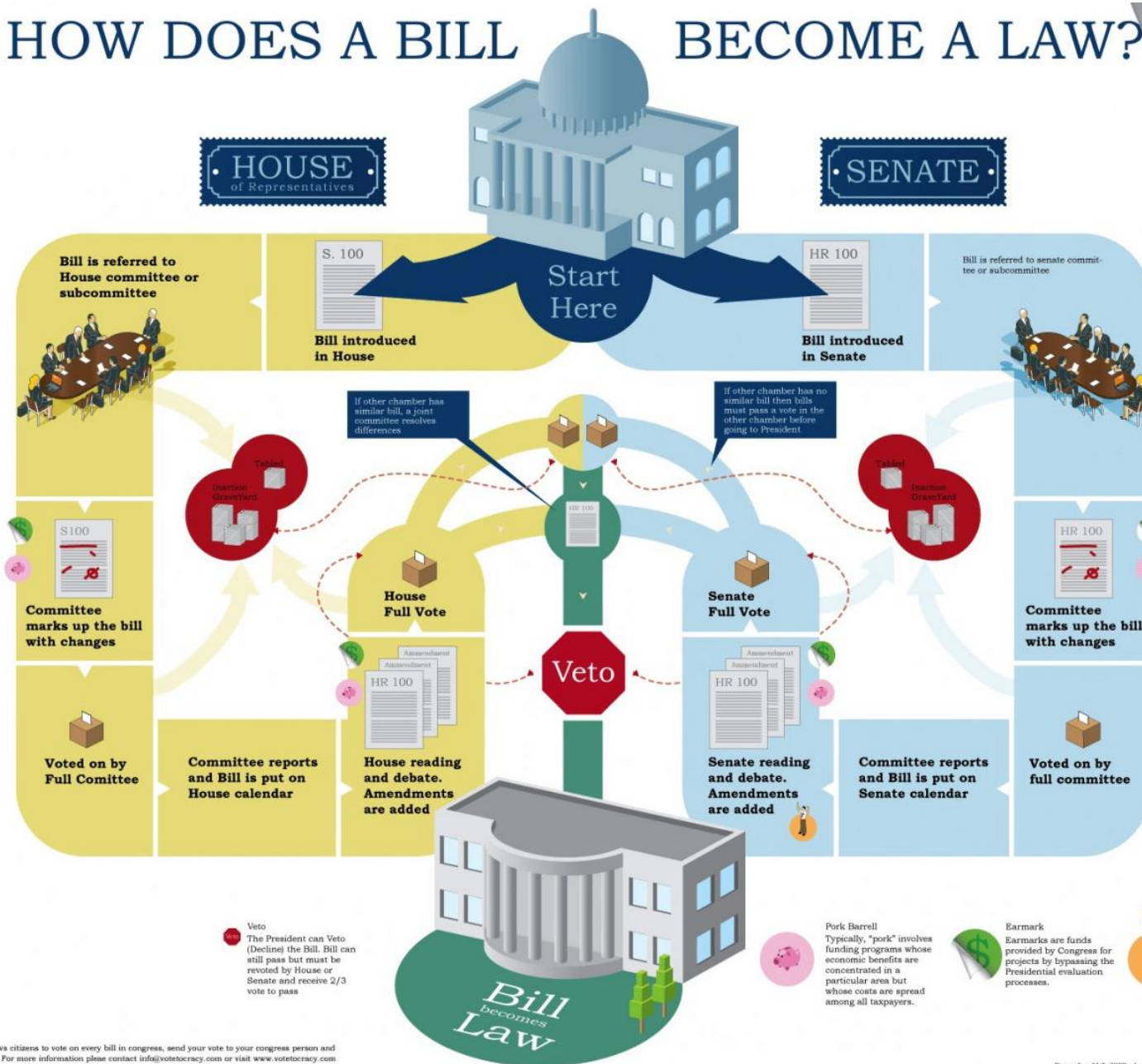
HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

435
Representatives

Each state receives representation in the House in proportion to its population but is entitled to at least one Representative. Each representative serves for a two-year term. The House was granted its own exclusive powers: the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach officials, and elect the president in electoral college deadlocks.

100
Senators

Each U.S. state is represented by two senators, regardless of population. This ensures equal representation of each state in the Senate. Senators serve staggered six-year terms.



Votetocracy.com is a website that allows citizens to vote on every bill in congress, send your vote to your congress person and see if citizens agree with the outcome. For more information please contact info@votetocracy.com or visit www.votetocracy.com

Veto
The President can Veto (Decline) the Bill. Bill can still pass but must be revoked by House or Senate and receive 2/3 vote to pass

Pork Barrel
Typically, "pork" involves funding programs whose economic benefits are concentrated in a particular area but whose costs are spread among all taxpayers.

Earmark
Earmarks are funds provided by Congress for projects by bypassing the Presidential evaluation processes.

Filibuster
AKA - "Talking a bill to death." An informal term for extended debate or other procedures used to prevent a vote on a bill in the Senate.

II. The Players

- Senators Shelly Short, Phil Fortunato, and Lynda Wilson
- Sen. Patty Kuderer, Chair, Housing and Local Government Committee
- Sen. Christine Rolfes, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
- Rep. Gerry Pollet, Chair, Local Government Committee
- Carl Schroeder, AWC and Paul Jewell, WSAC
- The WSABRB Legislative Committee!

III. Senate Bill 5368 History (1)

- Beginning of session: looking for any bill affecting BRBs
- Focus on SB 5368
- Genesis of the bill
- Intent: Rural economic development and modifying the GMA
- One section of bill: an apparent new method of annexation
- Senate hearings focused attention on economic development
- Sudden reduction of bill scope

III. Senate Bill 5368 History (2)

- Our 3-pronged strategy to address issues with SB 5368
 - Conversations with AWC and WSAC
 - Contacting legislative aides
 - Letters and testimony to committees
- Substitute SB 5368 with our language added
- ESSB 5368 in the House
- 2SSB 5368 additions – and subtractions
- Enacted law – with recognition of RCW 36.93 and public input

IV: Lessons from Legislative Committee Tracking

- Begin meeting and tracking bills when legislature starts
- Use app “search” function to look for key words such as “annex”, “boundary”
- Find bills that look relevant and diligently track them
- Research bill history, draft-bill language, staff reports, and recorded meetings
- Talk with people you know: legislators, legislative aides, lobbyists
- Friendships and acquaintances are golden
- Engage in real dialogue and listen
- Consider seeking to amend a bad bill rather than attacking it
- Remember, a “dead” or dormant bill may suddenly return to life!

Thank you!

Washington State Association of Boundary Review Boards

Legislative Committee

October 2021

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