

returned if a compromise is reached. (Both houses must agree to each step in the procedure.) If the bill is approved, it is sent to the Engrossing Department to be printed as it will appear as state law. The bill, now in its final form, is returned to each house for final passage, or "enactment." If no compromise is reached, or only one house passes the bill, the bill is "dead" for that session.

The enacted bill must be signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The bill is then sent to the Governor who may:

Sign it into law;

Allow it to become law by not signing it within the required 10 days;

Veto it.

If the Legislature adjourns before he acts, the Governor may sign or return the bill to the next session of the same Legislature or the bill dies. A 2/3 majority vote of members present in each house may override a veto.

All bills and resolves (legislation concerning a temporary matter) become effective 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature, unless another date is specified.

To become effective sooner than 90 days after adjournment, legislation must be enacted as emergency legislation by a vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House. Emergency legislation becomes effective when approved by the governor or on another specified date.

Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 of vote members present in each house and must be submitted to referendum for approval or rejection by the voters. Such amendments do not require gubernatorial approval.

From the introduction of a bill to its enactment or defeat, a Legislator is exposed to pressures from paid lobbyists, public and private interest groups and individual citizens.

Brochures are available on request:

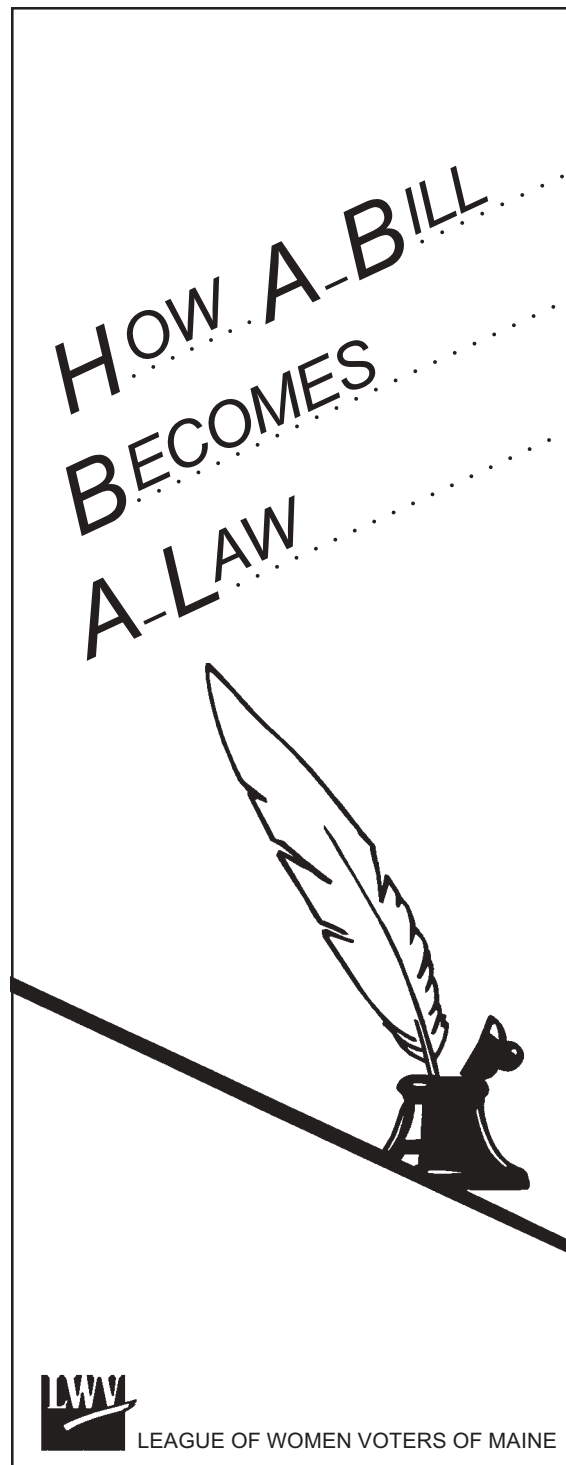
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW—

Departments of government, citizens groups, etc. may suggest legislation, but only a Legislator, a committee charged with a specific study, or a specified number of petitioners may introduce a bill. Bills may be introduced on behalf of the Governor or the Chief Justice by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House or another Legislator.

Any bill introduced by a Legislator has one prime sponsor and may have cosponsors from either house. A Legislator also may introduce a bill "by request," indicating he/she does not necessarily support it.

A bill that relates to public matters and concerns the public at large or segments of it, will become "public law," if passed. A bill that relates to one or more specified persons, corporations, institutions, municipalities, etc. will become a "private or special law," if passed.

A Legislator, with the assistance of the staff of the office of Revisor of Statutes, drafts the bill so it will accomplish its intended purpose. The bill also must be written to conform to certain "legal language" requirements.

The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House receive each bill and recommend referral to a specific Joint Standing Committee. There are 17 Joint Standing Committees. They are organized on the basis of subject matter, (see "This is Your Legislature") and usually consist of three Senators and ten Representatives each. Some committees also have a tribal representative as a non-voting member.

The bill is then recorded on the "Advance Journal and Calendar" which is placed on the desks of members of both houses before the day's session begins.

Each house votes on the bill's referral recommendation, and may refer the bill to a committee other than the one recommended.

The appropriate committee receives the bill, then sets a date for and publishes the notice for a public hearing in newspapers under Legislative Notices in the classified sections. People supporting and opposing the bill may attend the hearing and comment on the bill. Paid lobbyists also may speak as long as they are registered with the Secretary of State.

Following the hearing, the committee considers the bill in work sessions. Work sessions, which the public also may attend, do not generally occur on the same day as the hearing. After discussing and perhaps rewriting the bill, the committee files a "unanimous" or "divided" report on the bill to the Legislature. The committee may recommend the bill:

- Ought to pass;
- Ought to pass as amended;
- Ought to pass in new draft;
- Ought not to pass;
- Refer to another Committee.

In a "unanimous" report, all members agree on the recommendation to the Legislature. A "divided" report occurs when all members of a committee do not agree and consists of a majority report and a minority report. Sometimes there is more than one minority report, and they would be designated "Report A," "Report B," etc. Any member or members of the committee may make a minority report.

The bill is read first in the house in which it originated. Two readings are required in each legislative body. First and second readings are held on successive legislative days. Each body votes on the bill after its final reading.

Most bills receiving unanimous "ought to pass" or "ought to pass with amendment" reports are placed on the House Consent Calendar for two legislative days and considered passed to be engrossed (printed in final form) unless a member of the House wishes to take a bill from the calendar on one of those days for further consideration.

If the Senate and the House disagree, a Conference Committee may be set up to compromise differences. An amended version of the bill is