



How A Bill Becomes A Law In Indiana

- A bill is filed and read for the first time in the Chamber (House or Senate) of the author.
- The bill is assigned to a Committee by the Speaker of the House or the President Pro Tem.
- The Committee Chair decides to hear the bill in Committee where there is “public” testimony – The bill can be amended by any of the Committee members with the approval of the rest of the Committee.
- If the Committee votes the bill out of Committee, it is then read on the Floor of the Chamber (House or Senate) where it started on second reading, it can be amended by any of the members of that Chamber with the approval of the rest of the Chamber.
- The bill (amended or not) is then ready for third reading or a vote by the members of that Chamber.

During the long session of the General Assembly the above take place during January and February. With the following occurring in March.

- If the bill is passed, it is then sent to the other Chamber where the process starts over. The bill must have a legislator in the 2nd Chamber to be the sponsor of the proposal.
- Committee hearing, second reading, third reading.

The following will happen in April.

- If the bill has been amended in the 2nd Chamber, the author of the bill can agree with the changes and concur or disagree and dissent.
- If the author concurs, the bill goes to the Governor for his action
- If the author dissents, the bill is assigned to a Conference Committee made up of 2 Representatives and 2 Senators who then try to come to a consensus.
- After the Conference Committee acts, both Chambers get an opportunity to vote on the re-worked bill. If the bill is accepted, it goes to the Governor for action.