



*Nevada Association of Counties
~ NACO Committee of the Emeritus ~
Legislative Workshop*

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Research Division – What We Do

- * Policy Analysis, Research, and Committee Staff Services

 - * Legislative Session

 - * Interim Period

- * Constituent Services Unit

- * Research Library

- * Publications Unit

Training – Pre-session Orientation, Committee Chairs, and Staff Training

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/>

Legislative Process

Where a bill comes from:

- ✦ Legislators, Legislative Committees, Executive Branch, Supreme Court, Cities & Counties, and Others
- ✦ After the idea is formulated, researched, and refined, the sponsor submits a bill draft request (BDR) with the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). The Legal Division prepares the BDR and delivers it to the sponsor (requester).

Legislative Process

Action in the House of Origin

MAJOR STEPS

- * Introduction and “first reading” in full house
- * Referred to committee for hearings and possible action
- * After committee hearings, the bill is reported back to the full house for “second reading” and amendment adoption (if any)
- * Floor debate and vote by full house

Legislative Process

Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✦ Introduction and first reading in full house
 - Given a bill number
 - Read before full house by title
- ✦ Referral to committee for hearings and possible action on a recommendation to the full house.

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings

* Committee chair schedules bills:

- Agendas are posted
- All meetings are public
- Nearly all meetings are videoconferenced from Carson City to Las Vegas and the public is encouraged to participate

* Sponsor's responsibilities include:

- Presenting the bill (sometimes with the help of interested constituents or bill proponents)
- Identifying and notifying speakers
- Keeping the committee chair informed

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings – Action in Committee

- ✦ When the committee might act?
 - At the committee hearing (same day the bill is heard)
 - At a subsequent work session
- ✦ Bill dies if no action is taken by the committee passage deadline (unless the bill is exempt from the deadlines)
 - First house: 68th day of Session – mid-April
 - Second house: 103rd day of Session – mid-May

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings – Typical Committee Action Includes:

- * Do Pass
- * Amend and Do Pass
- * Do Adopt (for certain resolutions)
- * Rerefer (with or without recommendation)
- * Indefinitely Postpone (IP)
- * No Action

Legislative Process

Floor Action in House of Origin Step-by-Step

- * Bill reported out of committee with a recommended action
- * Second reading and amendment of bills
 - Bill read a second time
 - Amendments, if any, are considered and adopted
 - If adopted, bill reprinted and “engrossed”

Legislative Process

Floor Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step (continued)

- ✦ Third reading and general file:
 - Bill read third time on general file and any additional amendments considered
 - General file – Debate merits of bill and final vote

- ✦ First House Passage Deadline:
 - 79th day of Session – Usually the last Tuesday or Wednesday in April
 - Exemptions may apply for certain fiscal measures or bills relating to legislative business

Legislative Process

Action in the Second House

The process repeats itself in the second house:

- * First reading in full house
- * To committee for hearings and possible recommended action to the full house
 - Deadline: 103rd day of Session – mid-May
- * Second reading in full house (to include the adoption of any amendments)
- * Floor debate and vote by full house (third reading/general file)
 - Deadline: 110th day of Session – late May

Legislative Process

Resolution of House Differences (if necessary)

- ✦ If the bill has no amendments in the second house, it goes to the Governor.
- ✦ If the bill is amended by second house:
 - Does the first house “Concur” with the second house’s amendment? If so, the bill goes to the Governor.
 - If the first house does not concur (does not agree with) the second house amendment, does the second house “Recede” in its amendment? If so, the bill goes to the Governor.
 - If the second house does not recede, the bill is assigned to a conference committee.

Legislative Process

Conference Committees

- ✦ Three members per house appointed, two of whom must have voted in favor of the bill.
- ✦ The conference committee discusses differences (but is not limited to resolving them). Options for a conference committee report include:
 - “Concur in Senate Amendment No. 123 and further amend”
 - “Recede from Senate Amendment No. 123”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment No. 456”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment Nos. 123 and 456 and further amend”
 - No agreement
- ✦ To pass, the conference committee report must be approved in both houses by voice vote.

Legislative Process

Governor may:

* Sign the bill

- Within 5 days if Legislature in session (excluding the day of receipt and Sundays)
- Within 10 days if Legislature has adjourned (excluding the day of receipt and Sundays)

* Veto the bill

* Not sign the bill within the period allowed (effectively allowing the bill to go into law without his signature)

Legislative Process

If Governor vetoes the bill when the Legislature is still in session:

- Return the bill to the House of Origin
- 2/3 vote of both houses to override

If Governor vetoes the bill when the Legislature is no longer in session:

- Return the bill to the following Session

NOTE: The Legislature can choose whether or not it considers a vetoed bill to override or sustain the veto.

Effective Dates

When does a law take effect?

- * On the date specified in the bill; or
- * If no date is specified in the bill, it becomes effective on October 1 of that year.

Ways to Stay Informed and Involved

- ✦ Attend hearings or floor sessions
- ✦ Sign up as a presenter at a hearing
- ✦ Submit comments in writing
- ✦ Get to know and talk to legislators and legislative staff
- ✦ If your organization has one, confer with your lobbyist or legislative liaison

Research Documents Available Online

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/library/>
(Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library)

- Legislative Histories
- Background Papers
- Policy Briefs
- Interim Study Bulletins

Legislative Documents
Available Online
***PLEASE VISIT THE
LEGISLATURE'S WEBSITE***
www.leg.state.nv.us

- Bills and Resolutions (full text and status)
- Senate and Assembly Histories and Journals
- Committee Agendas and Minutes
- *Nevada Revised Statutes and Administrative Code*
- Much More!