

## Bill Process Overview

The State of New Mexico

### 1. Introduction and Committee Referral

- bill can be introduced in either Chamber (House or Senate)
- assigned a number (H = House, S = Senate, B = bill, R = resolution, M = memorial, J = joint, ####/####)
  - e.g. HB 223, SR 12, HM 3, SJR 67
- read twice by title, ordered printed and referred to the proper committee

### 2. Committee Consideration

- committee meetings usually *open to the public*
- bill may receive one of the following recommendations:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do Pass</li> <li>○ Do Pass As Amended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do Not Pass</li> <li>○ Without Recommendation</li> <li>○ Without Recommendation As Amended</li> </ul>
---	--

### 3. Adoption of Committee Report

- reports of committees are subject to adoption by the House and Senate
- favorable committee report is adopted, the bill is placed on the calendar
- list of bills scheduled for third reading and possible final passage

### 4. Third Reading and Final Passage

- fate of a bill is usually decided
- possible actions:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amend</li> <li>○ Substitute for another bill</li> <li>○ Send back to committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refer to another committee</li> <li>○ Defeat it</li> </ul>
--	---

### 5. Voting on a Bill

- after debate—final and recorded vote is taken on whether the bill will be passed
- must be a quorum (majority of members) of the committee present
- every bill requires a majority vote of the members present to pass

### 6. What happens next?

- bill sent to the other Chamber and repeats the aforementioned review and debate procedure
- both Chambers must agree on the final form of a bill
- if either Chamber fails to concur with an amendment:
  - differences must be reconciled by a conference committee representing both the House and Senate
  - compromise worked out in a conference committee is subject to approval by both Chambers

### 7. Enrolling and Engrossing

- -after passage carefully copied by the enrolling and engrossing staff of the Chamber it originated
- -signed by the presiding officers of each Chamber and sent to the Governor

### 8. Governor's Actions:

- -may sign or may choose to veto (sends a message), partially veto (if bill carries an appropriation)
- -must sign/veto bills introduced up to 3 days before end of the session

- no action, bill = LAW w/o Gov. signature
- -20 days to sign/veto bills introduced in the last 3 days of session
  - no action, bill = pocket veto (indirect veto and bill dies)
- -Legislature may override Gov. veto (not pocket veto) by 2/3rds majority vote of each Chamber
  - very hard to override active/signed veto

## **Types of Legislation**

### ➤ **Bill**

- propose and change law
- originate in either Chamber
- passed by both Chambers and signed by Gov. = LAW

### ➤ **Memorial (simple, joint)**

- express legislative desire—petition/declaration of intent
- e.g. interim committee to study a particular issue

### ➤ **Resolution (single, concurrent, joint)**

- express will of legislature
- propose amendments to state constitution
- no action required of Gov.
- voted on by citizens

## **Other Helpful Information:**

- ❖ Legislation is introduced by Legislator (sponsor)
- ❖ 1 paragraph to 400 pages
- ❖ Must be introduced in first half of the session (few exceptions)
  - 15 days into a 30 day session; 30 days into a 60 day session

○