

Cheat Sheet

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Missouri

The process for a bill to become law is long and complex. Here's a helpful guide to navigate the process and the best times to take action.

BILL FILING

Pre-filing starts Dec 1. The bill is assigned a number and title.

First & Second Reading



Advocacy Action!

Testify in support, against or for information purposes on a bill.

ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

Public Hearings

Committee Vote

If in the House, the bill will be sent to one of the Select Committees for another vote before heading to the floor for debate.

Sent to Floor

FLOOR DEBATE

When a bill gets to the floor of the chamber, it is placed on the consent calendar or perfection calendar. During the perfection process, legislators discuss the bill in a public forum and can present amendments.

Perfection (Amendments)

Third Reading & Vote



Advocacy Action!

Call and discuss the impact of the bill.

SENT TO SECOND CHAMBER

ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE



Advocacy Action!

Testify in support, against or for information purposes on a bill.

Public Hearings

Committee Vote

If in the House, the bill will be sent to one of the Select Committees for another vote before heading to the floor for debate.

FLOOR DEBATE

Sent to Floor

Third Reading, Amendments & Vote



Advocacy Action!

Call and discuss the impact of the bill.

Conference Committees work out differences in bills providing substitute bills

One Chamber Concedes

First Chamber Votes

Second Chamber Votes

Truly Agreed and Finally Passed Bill

GOVERNOR SIGNS

Governor Vetos

The House and Senate can override a governor's veto with a 2/3 vote.

Governor Takes No Action

BILL BECOMES LAW



Missouri General Assembly

163 House of Representatives
34 Senators

Session begins: January 4, 2023

Committee

A select group of members with a defined scope of responsibility. This includes the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee (2023).

Conference Committee

A committee made up of five members of each chamber, appointed to resolve differences between the two chambers on a bill or joint resolution passed by both but in a different form.



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