

# quick things to know

ABOUT

## HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN MICHIGAN

### SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bills become state laws once they manage to go through both the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Governor. Along the way, they must pass through committees, floor votes, and complete three readings in each chamber.

### CHAMBERS OF GOVERNMENT

There are 2 chambers of state government:  
**The Senate & House of Representatives.**



- **The originating chamber** is where the bill is first introduced; depending on the bill, either the house or the senate could be the originating chamber.
- **The second chamber** is the other chamber that the bill also has to go through.

*For example, if a senator introduces a bill (i.e. it is a senate bill), the originating chamber is the Senate and the second chamber is the House.*

### MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS

#### MI STATE SENATORS

**how many:** 38

**term:** 4 years (i.e. once elected, they serve for 4 years)

**term limit:** 2 terms (i.e. they can serve maximum 2 terms, or 8 years total, if they win 2 elections)

**find yours** [here](#)

#### MI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**how many:** 110

**term:** 2 years (i.e. once elected, they serve for 2 years)

**term limit:** 3 terms (i.e. they can serve maximum 3 terms, or 6 years total, if they win 2 elections)

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### COMMITTEE VS. FLOOR



**A committee is a small group of select legislators** who debate, possibly amend, and vote on a bill before it reaches the chamber floor. Each chamber has multiple committees focused on specific issues. Examples include committees on education, health policy, and families, children, and seniors.

>> Click to see a full list of [House committees](#) & [Senate committees](#).

**A chamber floor refers to all the legislators** of that chamber who debate and vote on a bill after it has successfully passed the corresponding chamber committee. In other words, the MI House Floor consists of all MI House Reps, and the MI Senate Floor consists of all MI Senators.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee chairs are heads of committees that decide the schedule and agenda for committee meetings (i.e. if and when a bill gets debated and voted on in committee)

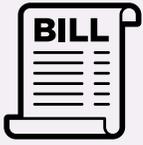
#### FLOOR LEADERS

Floor leaders are heads of the chamber floor that decide the schedule and agenda for floor meetings (i.e. if and when a bill gets debated on the floor)

>> Click to see the floor leaders for the [House](#) & [Senate](#).

# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN MICHIGAN

THE STEPS as broken down by **M O S H**



1.

MI state legislator **INTRODUCES** a bill and the bill is assigned to a relevant committee

→ 1st Reading

→ If legislator is a senator, the Senate is the originating chamber.

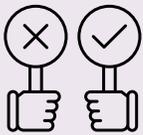
If legislator is a house rep, the House is the originating chamber.



2.

Select legislators in the **ORIGINATING CHAMBER COMMITTEE** debate, possibly amend, and vote on the bill\*

only if **51% or more legislators** in committee vote yes



**\*ONLY if the committee chair puts it on the schedule;** each amendment is voted on separately



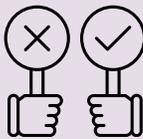
3.

All legislators on **ORIGINATING CHAMBER FLOOR** debate, possibly amend, & vote on bill\*

→ 2nd Reading

→ 3rd Reading

only if **51% or more legislators** on the floor vote yes

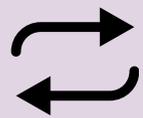


**\*ONLY if the floor leader puts it on the schedule;** each amendment is voted on separately

4.

Repeat steps 2 & 3 in the **SECOND CHAMBER\***

only if **51% or more legislators** in each the committee & floor vote yes



**\*if the other chamber proposes amendment(s), the bill must go back to originating chamber to be resolved**

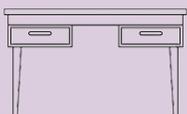
5.

Bill reaches **GOVERNOR'S DESK** to be signed into law or vetoed

if Governor votes **NO**



only if Governor **signs the bill** OR if at least **2/3rds of the legislature votes** to override the Governor's veto



6.

If not vetoed, **BILL BECOMES LAW**

