How a bill becomes a law in New York State

- **Idea**: The concept can come from anyone – a concerned citizen, a legislator. Often a good idea from one can be a good law for many.

- **Bill Drafting**: Once a concept has been settled, it must be put into bill form before being considered. Interest groups may assist in drafting legislation.

- **Introduction**: Bills must be introduced by legislators to be considered. It is given a number (e.g. A4611). It is then referred to the appropriate committee.

- **Committee**: Committees specialize just as we do (e.g. Higher Education). Much of the action happens here. Bill may be amended, rejected, reported out.

- **Amendments**: If the bill makes it to the floor of the chamber it can be amended. Amended versions are denoted by a letter suffix (e.g. A4611B, C, D)

- **Passing a Bill**: If a majority votes in favor, the bill passes the chamber. It must pass both chambers to proceed. Differences are reconciled in Conference.

- **The Governor**: Governor can sign or veto; a veto can be overridden with 2/3 vote. Governors in recent years have vetoed ~10% of ~1000 bills passed/yr.

- **State Agencies**: Agencies (e.g. NYSED) create regulation to implement the legislation. They often do this in concert with affected professions.