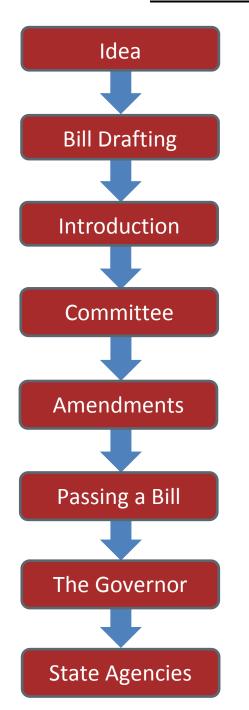


How a bill becomes a law in New York State



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

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

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.

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

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)

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

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.

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