

# Legislative Process

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# The Basics



House of Representatives has 101 members. They serve two-year terms.

Senate has 48 members. They serve four-year terms.

Legislative Sessions begin at noon on the first Monday in February and must adjourn by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday in May



# The Rules

All bills must be requested and introduced by a legislator.

The deadline to introduce a bill is January (with some exceptions).

House members may file “shell bills” without substantive language as a placeholder to be filled in later. Shell bills are prohibited in the Senate.

THE STATE OF  
IN THE SENATE  
SENATE BILL NO. 1039  
BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
AN ACT  
RELATING TO EMINENT DOMAIN; AMENDING SECTION  
THAT PROPERTY VALUE SHOULD BE ASSESSED  
CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES.  
Be It Enacted by the Legislature that  
SECTION 1  
amended to read:

measure is introduced and its title only is read for the first time. The measure is assigned a number at this time.





## **Second reading:**

title of the measure is read for the second time and  
it is referred to committee





# About Committees:

Bill assignments are determined by legislative leadership.

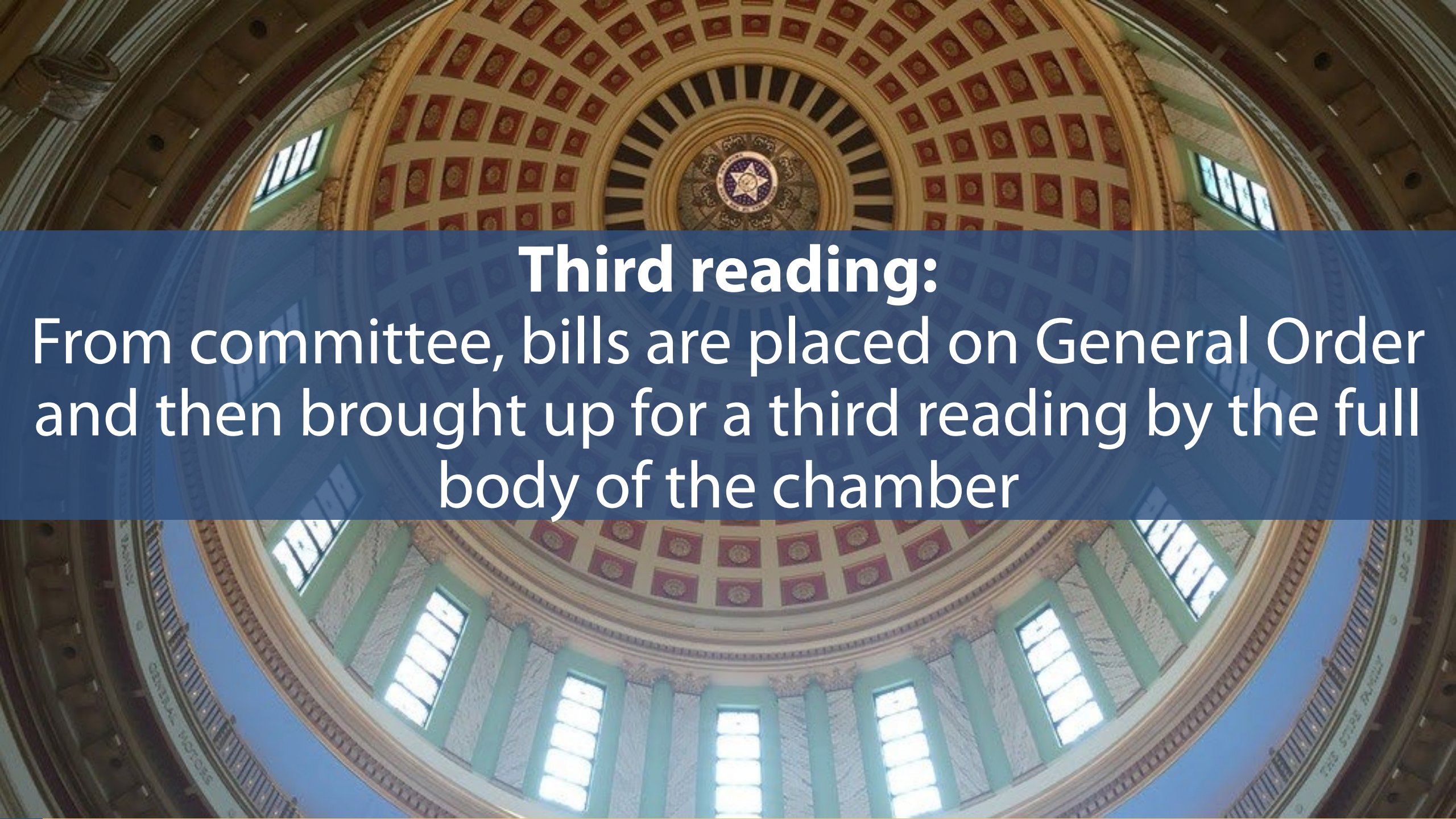
Each committee has a chair and vice-chair.

Bills are considered by committees only if put on the agenda by the chair.

# Committee Hearing







## **Third reading:**

From committee, bills are placed on General Order and then brought up for a third reading by the full body of the chamber



# Full Chamber







# Engrossment:

passed out of one chamber and then sent to the other chamber





The image shows the interior of a grand legislative chamber, likely the U.S. Capitol. The top half of the image is dominated by a large, ornate dome with a blue and gold interior. Below the dome, the floor is made of polished marble. In the center, there is a large, circular balcony with a white railing. The walls are decorated with large paintings and framed portraits. The lighting is warm and comes from several sources, including wall sconces and a large chandelier in the center. The overall atmosphere is formal and majestic.

Bills advance through the same process of First Reading, Second Reading, committee consideration, and Third Reading as in the original chamber.



## **Strike Title**

Striking the title allows the bill to move forward in the legislative process while recognizing that it needs further changes before it gets final approval. It allows some lawmakers to cast a provisional vote in favor of a bill that they have strong concerns about.



# Amendments

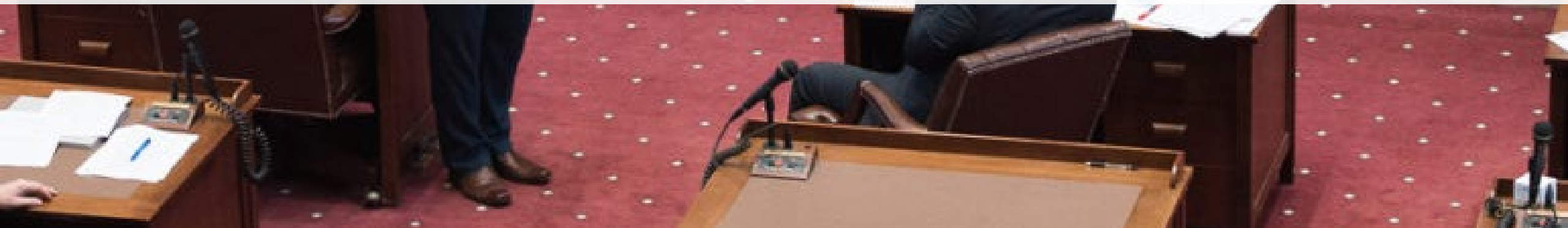
- 1) Author accepts and bill goes to 4<sup>th</sup> reading
- 2) Author rejects and bill is sent to conference committee



## **Fourth reading:**

Amendments from the opposite house or a conference committee report on a measure are read before a vote is taken.

If a measure has passed both houses in the same form, fourth reading occurs upon the signature of the presiding officer.





# Enrollment:

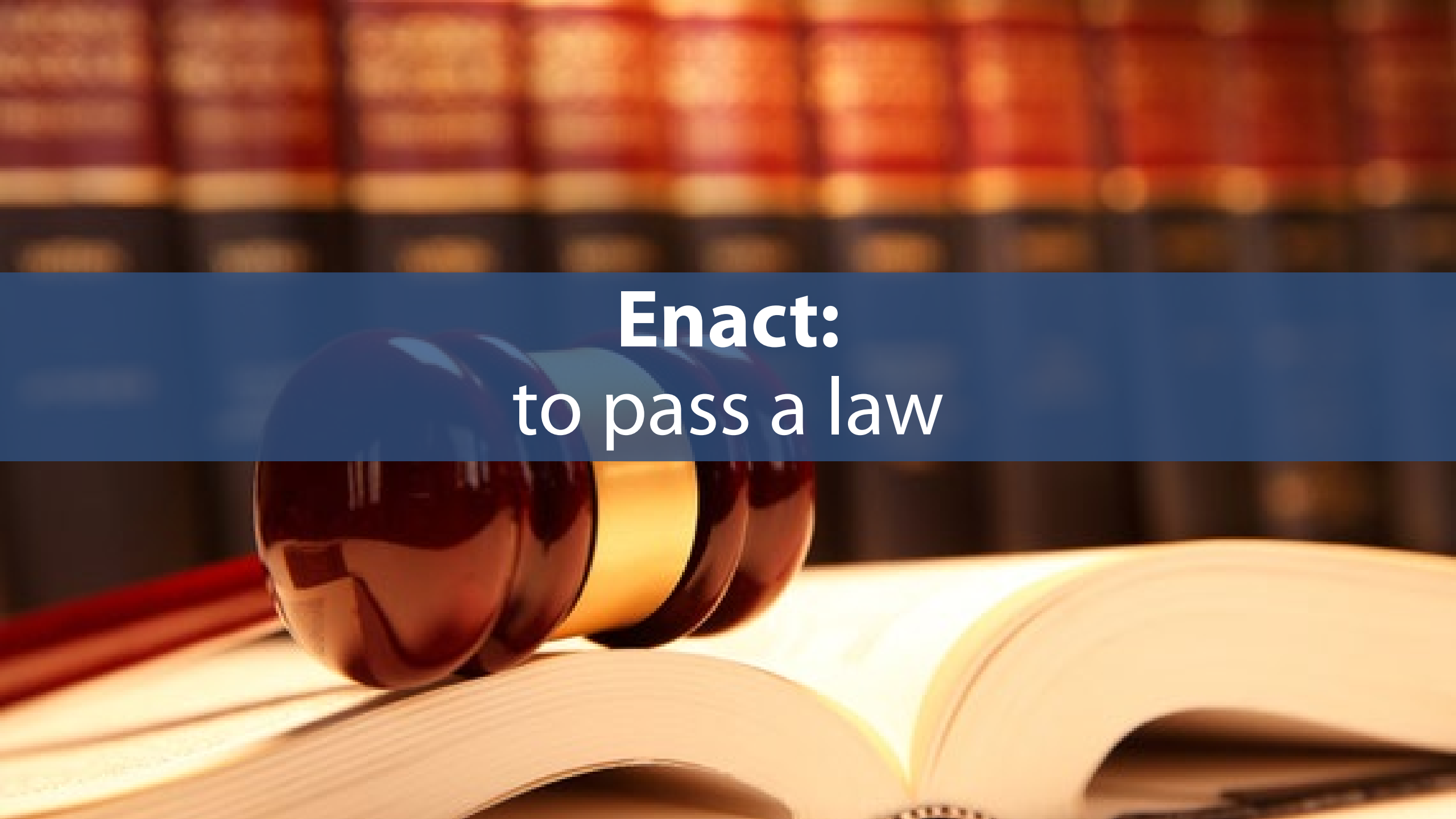
bill passes both chambers in its final form and is then sent to the Governor



# Actions by Governor

- Sign the bill into law within five days
- Allow the bill to become law by taking no action within five days when the legislature is in session
- Veto the entire bill
- Line-item veto spending items in appropriations
- Following legislative adjournment, the Governor has fifteen days to sign, veto or exercise “pocket veto” by taking no action



A wooden gavel with a dark, polished head and a lighter-colored handle lies diagonally across the pages of an open book. The book's pages are cream-colored and show some texture. In the background, a row of law books with dark spines and gold lettering is visible but out of focus. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is positioned horizontally across the middle of the image, containing white text.

**Enact:**  
to pass a law

# For more information, visit our Legislative Primer

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2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIMER

