



WALKTHROUGH OF THE BILL PROPOSAL PROCESS AFTER SUBMISSION

Submitting a bill proposal is a significant milestone, but it's just the beginning of a complex and dynamic process. After officially introducing your bill, you'll need to navigate several critical steps to advance your proposal through the legislative body.

Understanding the legislative process and knowing what to expect at each stage can greatly enhance your ability to effectively advocate for your bill. This guide will walk you through these essential steps, offering valuable insights and strategies to help you move your proposal forward.

Advocating for a bill requires persistence, strategic planning, and a clear understanding of the legislative landscape. From committee reviews to floor debates, each phase presents unique challenges and opportunities. By familiarizing yourself with these steps and leveraging the right resources, you can increase the likelihood of your bill gaining the necessary support.

For additional resources and tools to support you through these steps, visit our [Create a Bill](#) page.

1. BILL ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Once your bill is submitted, it will be assigned to a committee based on its subject matter. The committee is responsible for reviewing the bill, holding hearings, and making recommendations for further action.

What You Should Do:

- **Monitor the Bill's Progress:** Track your bill's status through the legislative body's official website or tracking tools.
- **Prepare Testimony:** If invited, prepare to testify at committee hearings. Focus on presenting the bill's benefits and addressing any concerns.
- **Engage with Committee Members:** Contact committee members to discuss the bill and build support.

Example Actions:

- Check the committee schedule for your bill's hearing date.
- Prepare a concise and compelling statement for your testimony.
- Reach out to committee members to share why the bill matters.



2. COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MARKUP

During the committee hearings, members will review your bill's content, discuss its merits, and propose amendments. The committee may also invite experts and stakeholders to provide testimony.

What You Should Do:

- **Attend Hearings:** Be present at the hearings to support your bill and address questions from committee members.
- **Submit Written Testimony:** If you cannot attend in person, submit written testimony that supports your bill.
- **Work with Advocates:** Collaborate with advocacy groups to ensure they provide supporting testimonies and build public support.

Example Actions:

- Prepare to respond to questions and provide additional information as needed.
- Encourage your network to attend the hearing or submit supporting statements.
- Stay informed about proposed amendments and be prepared to address them.

3. COMMITTEE VOTE

After the hearings and markup sessions, the committee will vote on whether to approve the bill and move it forward to the full legislative body.

What You Should Do:

- **Advocate for a Favorable Vote:** Continue to engage with committee members to advocate for a positive vote.
- **Review the Committee Report:** Examine the committee's report and be ready to address any concerns or objections raised.

Example Actions:

- Follow up with committee members to ensure they support the bill.
- Review the report for any amendments or changes that were made.
- Prepare a summary of the bill's progress and benefits for the full legislative body.



4. FULL LEGISLATIVE BODY CONSIDERATION

If the bill passes the committee stage, it proceeds to the floor of the legislative body for debate and a vote. The bill will be discussed in a general session where legislators will consider its merits.

What You Should Do:

- Prepare for Floor Debate: Be ready to provide testimony or answer questions about the bill.
- Mobilize Support: Work to gather additional support from legislators, advocacy groups, and the public.
- Monitor the Debate: Keep track of the floor debate and be prepared for any last-minute changes.

Example Actions:

- Develop talking points for the floor debate.
- Coordinate with supporters to attend the session or contact legislators.
- Stay updated on any proposed amendments and prepare responses.

5. VOTING PROCESS

During the floor session, legislators will debate the bill and vote on whether to pass it. If the bill is approved, it will move to the other chamber (if applicable) for consideration.

What You Should Do:

- Continue Advocacy: Ensure that you have enough votes to pass the bill.
- Prepare for the Next Chamber: If the bill passes, start preparing for the process in the other chamber.

Example Actions:

- Engage with legislators to secure the final votes needed for passage.
- Begin planning for the bill's review in the second chamber or legislative body.

6. REPEAT PROCESS IN THE OTHER CHAMBER

If the bill passes the initial chamber, it must go through a similar process in the other chamber: committee review, hearings, markup, and floor debate.

What You Should Do:

- Repeat Advocacy Efforts: Follow the same steps you used for the first chamber.
- Coordinate with the Original Chamber: Keep the original chamber informed about the bill's progress and any changes.
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Example Actions:

- Work with supporters to navigate the committee process in the second chamber.
- Maintain communication with the original chamber to address any issues or updates.



7. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (IF NEEDED)

If there are differences between the two chambers' versions of the bill, a conference committee will be formed to reconcile these differences.

What You Should Do:

- Engage with the Conference Committee: Work to address any disagreements and ensure that the final version of the bill reflects your objectives.

Example Actions:

- Be available to meet with conference committee members.
- Provide input on compromises and ensure that key provisions remain intact.

8. FINAL APPROVAL AND ENACTMENT

Once both chambers agree on the final version of the bill, it is sent to the executive branch for approval. The executive can sign the bill into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature.

What You Should Do:

- Advocate for Executive Approval: Contact the executive branch to advocate for the bill's approval.
- Prepare for Implementation: Start planning for the implementation phase if the bill becomes law.

Example Actions:

- Meet with the executive or their staff to discuss the bill's importance.
- Prepare for the implementation and communicate with stakeholders about the new law.

9. ADDRESSING A VETO (IF APPLICABLE)

If the bill is vetoed, you may need to work to override the veto or address concerns raised by the executive.

What You Should Do:

- Work on a Veto Override: Mobilize support from legislators to override the veto if possible.
- Address Concerns: If the veto is sustained, consider revising the bill and reintroducing it in the next legislative session.

Example Actions:

- Lobby legislators to support a veto override vote.
- Assess the veto's reasons and prepare a plan for future legislative efforts.



YOU GOT THIS!

Navigating the legislative process after submitting a bill proposal involves careful planning, advocacy, and collaboration. Each step from committee review to final approval requires strategic efforts and ongoing engagement with legislators, stakeholders, and the public.

For more resources, guides, and opportunities to connect with others who share your passion for advocacy, please visit our website at www.riseandrally.org and follow us on Instagram at [@riseandrally_](https://www.instagram.com/riseandrally_)