

# How a Bill Becomes Law

## The Kansas Legislature: Some Basics

- The Kansas Legislature consists of two chambers – the House of Representatives, which has 125 members, and the Senate, which has 40 members.
- A bill may be introduced in either house. Sometimes, the same measure is introduced in both chambers simultaneously and then the two bills are eventually melded into one.

## How a Bill Becomes Law

1. Bill is introduced in the house of origin.
2. Bill is referred to a committee, where it undergoes hearings, deliberation, and approval/disapproval (may be amended).
3. Bill goes back to the house of origin.
4. Bill is heard by the Committee of the Whole (full chamber) in the house of origin – it undergoes deliberation, possible amendments, and approval/disapproval.
5. The house of origin votes on final passage of the bill.
6. Bill is sent to the second chamber.
7. Bill is introduced in the second chamber and it is referred to a committee, where it undergoes hearings, deliberation, possible amendments, and approval/disapproval.
8. Bill passes out of committee to the Committee of the Whole in that chamber, where it is subject to deliberation, possible amendments, and approval/disapproval.
9. Second chamber votes for final passage.

10. If bill is still in the same form as it was when it left the house of origin, the measure then goes to the Governor for signature.
11. If the bill underwent changes, it is sent back to the house of origin for concurrence in the second-house amendments.
12. If the house of origin doesn't concur with those amendments, the bill is then sent to a conference committee, which is made up of three members of each house, to hammer out a compromise.
13. Both houses adopt the conference committee report (which may include amendments) and the bill goes to the Governor for signature.
14. The Governor signs the bill into law or it becomes law without signature – or the Governor vetoes the bill.
15. If the bill becomes law, it is filed with the Secretary of State and becomes part of Kansas Statute.
16. If the bill is vetoed, the Legislature may override the veto by a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

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*“Cautious, careful people always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing can never bring about change.”*

**Susan B. Anthony**