How an Idea Becomes a Law in North Carolina

**CONCERNED CITIZEN** group, organization, state agency or legislator suggest legislation

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
- **REPRESENTATIVE** authors bill
- **BILL FILED WITH CLERK** numbered and becomes public
- **BILL READ FIRST TIME Speaker assigns to Committee**
- **COMMITTEE CONSIDERS** the bill and RECOMMENDS further action
- **SECOND READING** amendment, debate, votes on passage
- **THIRD READING** amendment, debate, votes on passage
- **RETURNED TO HOUSE** with amendments or as a committee substitute

**SENATE**
- **Deliver to SENATE**
- **BILL READ FIRST TIME Chairman of Rules assigns to Committee**
- **COMMITTEE CONSIDERS** the bill and RECOMMENDS further action
- **SECOND READING** amendment, debate, votes on passage
- **THIRD READING** amendment, debate, votes on passage
- **TO GOVERNOR**
  - **SIGNS ACT** After 10 days becomes law without signature
  - **VOTES** Three-fifths present and voting of each House overrides veto
- **TO SECRETARY OF STATE**
  - **RETURN TO HOUSE of Origin**
- **TO ENROLLING**
  - **RATIFIED** Receives Session Law Chapter Number
  - **IF SUBJECT TO VETO** bill is sent to the Governor for approval
  - **IF NOT SUBJECT TO VETO** bill becomes law

**EXAMPLES OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** include:
- **favorable**
- **favorable, as amended**
- **unfavorable as to bill, favorable as to committee substitute**
- **postponed indefinitely**

**NOTE**
- Bills may originate in either chamber. In this simple example, the bill originated in the House of Representatives.
- A bill can stall or stop at any point in the process.
- Local bills that affect fewer than 15 counties, appointments bills, redistricting bills, constitutional amendments and joint resolutions are not subject to veto. Public bills that apply to all citizens of our state are subject to veto.
- Click on underlined terms to link to more information.

Questions about the process? Call the Legislative Library at 919.733.9390
https://www.ncleg.gov/Library