

# the Legislative Process

## AND WHAT YOU CAN DO!

**Step 2. First reading:** The bill title is read in either the House of Representatives or the Senate and assigned to its first committee.

Follow the bill's progress here:  
<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills>.

**Step 1: Bill concept:** Legislators work on bill concepts with other policymakers, constituents, and partner organizations.

Reach out to your representative with any bill ideas or to offer to be a resource on your area of expertise.

**Step 3. Committee hearing:** During a committee hearing, the bill sponsor will present their bill and any testimony they have arranged. It can either pass on to be considered by the whole chamber, can be passed on to the appropriations committee, or can be "postponed indefinitely".

Attend the committee hearing and testify if you're comfortable. This is a great time to make your voice heard!

**Step 4. Second reading:** Once a bill passes out of committee, it is heard for second reading by the whole chamber. This is where legislators debate the bill at length and propose additional amendments. A voice vote is taken to determine if it passes.

Reach out to your representative and other policymakers encouraging them to vote for or against the bill.

**Step 5. Third reading:** A formal vote on the bill is recorded. Amendments can be added at this time, but it is not common.

Keep reaching out! Encourage legislators to vote for the bill via social media.

**Step 6. Second chamber:** Once a bill is passed out of its first chamber, it goes to the other chamber and goes through Steps 2– 5.

**Step 7. Conference committee:** If the two chambers pass different versions of the bill due to amendments, a small committee of several members will meet to decide upon a final version.

### Step 8. Bill signing:

Unless the governor decides to veto a bill, a formal bill signing will occur.

Attend (or offer to host at your site!) the bill signing to show your support and to congratulate the sponsors.