

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Number

Date

How a Bill Becomes a Law in New Hampshire

An idea to improve or change the laws in New Hampshire must first be drafted into the correct form and language bill. Draft bills are presented by elected representatives of the General Court and Senate members. If other people are interested in proposing legislation, they must submit the proposal through the legislative body ("How a Bill Becomes a Law | New Hampshire Almanac | NH. Gov"). Drafted bills are approved and signed by the sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislators. The drafted bill is presented to either the clerk of the house or senate, depending on which body the sponsor belongs. The bill is read twice in the house, and then the speaker of the house or president of the senate assigns it to a standing committee; the standing committee is chosen based on the subject matter. All the bills proposing new ways of raising money must come from the house and not the senate.

All the bills introduced and assigned to committees must have public hearings; this rule is suspended only when two-thirds of the members present agree to suspend it. During the hearings, people can testify before the committee, those in favor and those against the bill. The public hearings are meant for testimonies and gathering of information, not arguing. An executive session is held, where the committee deliberates and decides; the public is welcome to watch. The bill is then taken to the floor of the senate or house, where a second reading is held, and a debate conducted if necessary. The

bill can be killed if the house or senate votes for inexpedient to legislate or indefinitely postpone.

Bills that appropriate money are sent to the appropriations committee or Senate Finance Committee as an initial step or after a favorable outcome at the floor. The committees then go through public hearings and committee reporting. After passing both houses, the bill is sent to the Enrolled Bills Committee and corrected for any errors. If there are clerical or formal errors, the bill is sent back to the houses for correction. After the enrolling reports are read in the houses, it is signed by the speaker of the house or president of the senate. After that, it is passed on to the state secretary, who transmits it to the Governor. The Governor has five days to sign the bill, veto it, or pass it without signature ("New Hampshire General Court"). If signed, it becomes law; if not, it becomes law without signature. When vetoed, the law is taken back to where it originated, and if the veto is overturned by a two-thirds roll call of each body, it becomes law without the Governor's signature.

Works Cited

"How A Bill Becomes A Law | New Hampshire Almanac | NH. Gov". *Nh. Gov*, 2021,

<https://www.nh.gov/almanac/bills.htm>

"New Hampshire General Court". *Gencourt.State.Nh.Us*, 2021,

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/legprocess.html>