

# SPECIAL REPORT

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

*The Largest Elective Organization in the State*

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## THE COURSE OF A BILL

The mechanics of the State legislative process are primarily governed by the rules of procedure adopted by the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the joint rules promulgated by both Houses of the Legislature.

The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Reed's Parliamentary Rules govern in both Houses.

## PASSING A BILL IN THE HOUSE

Bills are introduced by filing them with the Chief Clerk. Every bill is required to be read on three separate days. The first reading is by title only. After the first reading, the Speaker refers the bill to an appropriate committee, unless it has originated in a committee, in which event it goes directly to the Rules and Order Committee to be placed on the calendar for the second reading.

Upon completion of the second reading, at which time the bill can be amended, the bill is passed to third reading, which places it once more in the hands of the Rules and Order Committee.

After the third reading, a vote is taken. Final passage requires a constitutional majority; that is, a favorable vote of a majority of all members elected to the House.

## PASSING A BILL IN THE SENATE

In 1951 the Senate changed its rules for passing a bill to conform essentially to the procedure followed in the House.

## APPROVAL OF BOTH HOUSES

If a bill is amended in the House in which it originated before it is passed in that House, it is retyped under the direction of the Engrossing Clerk to reflect all amendments made in the House of its origin. Such a bill is called an "engrossed bill." A bill which passes one House must then go through essentially the same procedures in the second House.

## ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNOR ON BILLS

If a bill is approved by the Governor without objection, it becomes law. The Governor may, however, return a bill with his objections, and without signing it, for reconsideration by the House in which it originated.

The Governor may veto a bill either in whole or in part. If, after reconsideration in both Houses, two-thirds of the members present in both Houses pass the bill again, the entire bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.

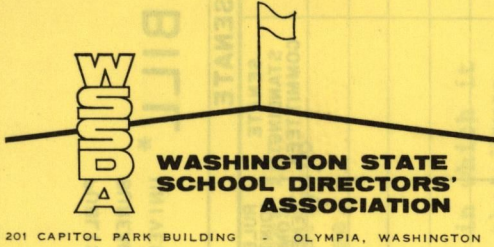
Any bill which has been vetoed by the Governor and not voted upon again by the Legislature at the same session may become law in a succeeding session provided two-thirds of the members present in both Houses pass the bill over the Governor's veto.



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# THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



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