How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia

**Senate**

- Bill introduced in the Senate by Senator
- Bill referred to a committee
- Committee holds a public meeting
- Committee action
- First reading
- Second reading
  - Bill may be amended
- Third reading
  - Bill may be debated and passage vote taken
- Sent to House for approval

**House of Delegates**

- Bill introduced in the House by Delegate
- Bill referred to a committee
- Committee holds a public meeting
- Committee action
- First reading
- Second reading
  - Bill may be amended
- Third reading
  - Bill may be debated and passage vote taken
- Sent to Senate for approval

If each house insists on its own form of a bill, a committee of conference is usually created. A compromise report from the committee is sent to each house for approval.

**Governor**

- Signs the bill into law
  - (If no action is taken within several days, the bill becomes law.)
- Amended and returned
  - (Amendments must be approved by both houses.)
- Vetoed and returned
  - (A veto may be overridden by 2/3 vote in both houses.)