



The Nevada Legislative Process

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Regular Legislative Session

- Begins the first Monday in February in odd-numbered years (February 7, 2011)
- Lasts 120 calendar days (June 6, 2011)
- A Special Session may be called by the Governor

Legislative Process – How A Bill Becomes a Law

- ✦ Five separate approvals are required for a bill to become law
- ✦ Bills must pass through both houses and the Governor



Legislative Process

Where a legislator's bill comes from:

- ✦ Idea for a bill (constituents, legislative hearings, personal experience)
- ✦ Research on the idea (current Nevada law or other states)
- ✦ Request a bill draft (BDR)
- ✦ Legal Division prepares the bill draft and delivers to sponsor (requestor)

Limits and Deadlines on BDRs During Session

Legislators

✦ Additional BDRs in Session:

- Assembly Members – 2
- Senators – 4

✦ Deadline to Request:

- February 14
(8th day of Session)

✦ Deadlines to Introduce:

- Within 10 days of delivery
- March 21 (43rd day of Session)

Committees

✦ Additional BDRs in Session:

- 50 per house - Leadership determines number given to each committee

✦ Deadline to Request:

- February 25
(19th day of Session)

✦ Deadlines to Introduce:

- Within 10 days of delivery
- March 28 (50th day of Session)

Legislative Process

Before Introduction of Legislator BDR:

- * Bill draft delivered to sponsor

- * Co-sponsors obtained, if desired

- * Delivered to Front Desk for introduction within deadlines

Legislative Process

Action in the House of Origin Major Steps

- * Introduction and first reading in full house
- * To committee for hearings and possible action
- * Second reading in full house
- * Floor debate and vote by full house

Legislative Process

Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✦ Introduction and first reading in full house
 - Given a bill number
 - Read before full house by title
- ✦ Referral to committee for hearings and possible action

Legislative Process

Committee Hearings

* Chairman schedules bills:

- Agendas posted
- All meetings are public

* Sponsor's responsibilities include:

- Presenting the bill
- Identifying and notifying speakers

Legislative Process

Action in Committee

- ✦ When committee might act?
 - At hearing
 - At subsequent work session
- ✦ Bill dies if no action by committee passage deadline
 - First House: April 15 (68th day of Session)
 - Second House: May 20 (103rd day of Session)

Legislative Process

Possible Committee Action Includes:

- * Do Pass
- * Amend and Do Pass
- * Amend and Re-refer
- * Indefinitely Postpone
- * No Action

Legislative Process

Floor Action in House of Origin Step-by-Step

- ✦ Second reading and amendment of bills
 - Bill read a second time
 - Amendments, if any, considered and adopted
 - If adopted, bill reprinted and “Engrossed”

Legislative Process

Floor Action in the House of Origin Step-by-Step

* Third Reading and General File

- Bill read third time on General File and any additional amendments considered
- General File – Debate merits of bill and vote

* First House Passage Deadline:

- April 26 (79th day of Session)
- Exemptions may apply for certain fiscal measures or legislative business

Legislative Process

Action in the Second House

- * First reading in full house
- * To committee for hearings and possible action
 - Deadline: May 20 (103rd day of Session)
- * Second reading in full house
- * Floor debate and vote by full house
 - Deadline: May 27 (110th day of Session)

Legislative Process

Resolution of House Differences (if necessary)

- ✦ If no amendment in Second House, to Governor

- ✦ If amended by Second House:
 - Does First House “Concur”? If so, to Governor.
 - If not, does Second House “Recede”? If so, to Governor.
 - If does not recede, to Conference Committee.

Legislative Process

Conference Committee

- ✦ Three members per house appointed, two of whom voted in favor of bill

- ✦ Discuss (but not limited to resolving) differences. Options for report include:
 - “Concur in Senate Amendment No. 123 and further amend”
 - “Recede from Senate Amendment No. 973”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment No. 947”
 - “Concur in Assembly Amendment Nos. 626 and 877 and further amend”
 - No agreement

- ✦ To pass, report must be approved by both houses by voice vote

Legislative Process

Governor may:

✦ Sign the bill

- Within 5 days if Legislature in Session
- Within 10 days if Legislature has adjourned

✦ Veto the bill

✦ Not sign the bill within the period allowed (effectively allowing the bill to go into law without his signature)

Legislative Process

If Governor vetoes:

✦ Legislature still in Session:

- Return bill first to House of Origin
- 2/3 vote of both houses to override

✦ Legislature no longer in Session:

- Return bill in following Session

Effective Dates

When does a law take effect?

- On the date specified in the bill
- If no date is specified in the bill, it becomes effective on October 1 of that year

Questions?

