How a Bill Becomes Law

(A simplified example of the path a bill takes through the California Legislature)

12 Major Legislative Enactment Stages

Introduction and Consideration in the House of Origin
1. Proposal development and formal introduction
2. Policy committee consideration
3. Fiscal committee consideration
4. Floor debate

Consideration by the Second House
5. Policy committee consideration
6. Fiscal committee consideration
7. Floor debate

Return to the House of Origin
8. Concurrence on amendments adopted in the 2nd house
9. Joint house conference committee

Enrolled (Governor) consideration
10. Governor action: approval by signing or inaction, or veto

Veto Override
11. A veto can result in a 2/3’s override by the legislature

Bill Becomes Law
12. Effective date subject to Government Code § 9600

NOTE: This chart depicts the flow of a bill originating in the Senate; except for minor differences the process is similar if originating in the Assembly.

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