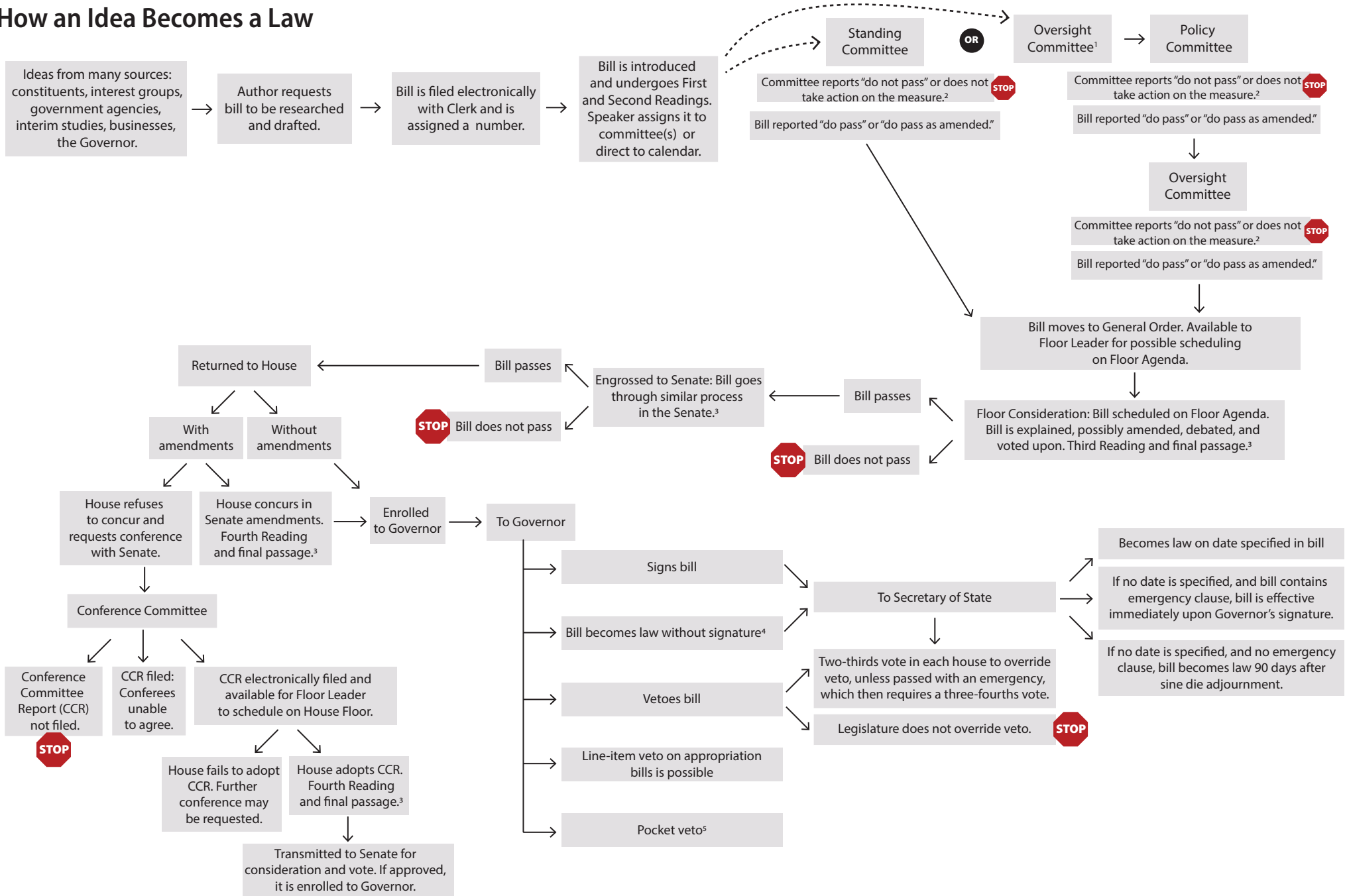


# How an Idea Becomes a Law



<sup>1</sup>The Speaker assigns bills to a standing committee or an oversight committee. The oversight committee then assigns bills to the policy committee for initial hearings.  
<sup>2</sup>Under certain conditions, failure of a measure will prohibit another bill having same effect and subject from being considered by the House during either session of the current Legislature.  
<sup>3</sup>Final passage in the House normally requires 51 votes; 68 votes to adopt emergency clause. Vote requirement in the Senate is 25 votes; 33 votes to adopt emergency clause.  
<sup>4</sup>Except during the last five days of session, the Governor has five days to take action on a bill. If no action is taken, the bill becomes law on its effective date.  
<sup>5</sup>No bill may become law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless signed by the Governor within 15 days after adjournment.

## How an Idea Becomes a Law

1. Ideas come from many sources: constituents, interest groups, government agencies, interim studies, and the Governor.
  2. Author requests bill to be researched and drafted.
  3. Bill is filed electronically with Clerk and is assigned a number.
  4. Bill is introduced and undergoes First and Second Readings. Speaker assigns it to committee(s) or direct to calendar.
  5. Policy Committee Consideration
    - a. Bill is presented in Policy Committee.
    - b. Bill reported "do pass" or "do pass as amended."
    - c. Committee reports "do not pass" or does not act on the measure.\* STOP
  6. Oversight Committee Consideration
    - a. Bill is presented in Oversight Committee.
    - b. Bill reported "do pass" or "do pass as amended";
    - c. Committee reports "do not pass" or does not act on the measure. \* STOP
  7. Bill moves to General Order. Available to Floor Leader for possible scheduling on Floor Agenda.
  8. Floor Consideration: Bill scheduled on Floor Agenda. Bill is explained, possibly amended, debated, and voted upon. Third Reading and final passage.\*\*
    - a. Bill passes
    - b. Bill does not pass STOP
  9. Engrossed to Senate: Bill goes through similar process in Senate.\*\*
    - a. Bill passes
    - b. Bill does not pass STOP
  10. Returned to House
    - a. Without amendments
      - i. Enrolled to Governor
    - b. With amendments
      - i. House concurs in Senate amendments. Fourth Reading and final passage.\*\*
        1. Enrolled to Governor
      - ii. House refuses to concur and requests conference with Senate.
        1. Conference Committee
          - a. Conference Committee Report electronically filed and available for Floor Leader to schedule on House Floor.
            1. House adopts Conference Committee Report. Fourth Reading and final passage.\*\*
              - a. Transmitted to Senate for consideration and vote. If approved, it is enrolled to Governor.
            2. House fails to adopt Conference Committee Report. Further conference may be requested.
        - b. Conference Committee Report filed: Conferees unable to agree.
        - c. Conference Committee Report not filed. STOP
11. To Governor

- a. Signs bill
  - i. To Secretary of State
- b. Bill becomes law without signature\*\*\*
  - i. To Secretary of State
- c. Vetoes bill
  - i. Two-thirds vote in each house to override veto, unless bill passed with an emergency, which then requires a three-fourths vote.
    - 1. To Secretary of State
  - ii. Legislature does not override veto. STOP
- d. Line-item veto on appropriation bills is possible.
- e. Pocket veto\*\*\*\*

12. To Secretary of State

- a. Becomes law on date specified in bill
- b. If no date is specified, and bill contains emergency clause, bill is effective immediately upon Governor's signature.
- c. If no date is specified, and no emergency clause, bill becomes law 90 days after *sinedie* adjournment.

\*Under certain conditions, failure of a measure will prohibit another bill having same effect and subject from being considered by the House during either session of the current Legislature.

\*\*Final passage in the House normally requires 51 votes; 68 votes to adopt emergency clause. Vote requirement in the Senate is 25 votes; 33 votes to adopt emergency clause.

\*\*\*Except during the last five days of session, the Governor has five days to take action on a bill. If no action is taken, the bill becomes law on its effective date.

\*\*\*\*No bill may become law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless signed by the Governor within 15 days after adjournment.

*Prepared by Oklahoma House of Representatives*

*Research Division*

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