**NEVADA’S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

**INITIAL STEPS BY THE AUTHOR**

**IDEA & DRAFTING**
Sources of ideas for legislation include: State and local governments, elected officials, businesses, organizations, and citizens. Requests for drafting may be made by legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, State agencies, and local governments. A staff attorney for the Legislature prepares a formal draft of a bill.

**INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING**
A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or committee chair. It is then numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, printed, and delivered to the committee.

**ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN**

**COMMITTEE ACTION & REPORT**
A committee may make a variety of recommendations to the entire legislative body. It may recommend that the legislative house pass a bill as is, or pass it with certain amendments. If a committee decides that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the legislative house amend the bill and refer it back to the same committee or that it refer the bill to another committee. Finally, a committee may vote to indefinitely postpone consideration of a bill, effectively killing it, or may take no action at all. After committee reports are read, bills are placed on second reading for the next legislative day unless the committee recommends the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. This action is limited to certain noncontroversial bills reported out of committee without amendment.

**SECOND READING**
Bills given a “Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time and placed on General File for debate and final vote. Bills that are given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation are read a second time, and if the amendment is adopted, it is reprinted before being placed on the General File for action.

**RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES, IF NECESSARY**
If the two-house conference committee is able to resolve the differences between the houses, it sends a conference committee report with the proposed reconciliation to the two houses. The house of origin must adopt the report first. If either house fails to adopt the report, the bill dies. However, if both legislative houses adopt the report, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor.

**ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE**

**FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE**

The Governor must act on a bill within 5 days after it is received (Sundays excepted) if the Legislature is still in session. However, if there are fewer than 3 days remaining in session, or if the bill is delivered after the adjournment sine die, the Governor has 10 days after adjournment to act. The Governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it. A vetoed bill is returned to the house of origin to consider overriding the veto. An override of the veto requires a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 28 in the Assembly). A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated. In the Senate, any member who casts a vote may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. In the Assembly, a member must have voted on the prevailing side of the measure to make a motion to reconsider. All bills that are passed by the first legislative house are then forwarded to the second legislative house where the process begins again.

**SIGN OR VETO?**

The Governor vetoes a bill after the session adjourns sine die, the bill is returned to the next regular legislative session. Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.