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 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.

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 written 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 take no action at all. After committee reports are read, bills are placed on second reading for the next legislative day unless the committee, by unanimous vote, 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 are read a second time and debated. A roll call vote follows. Passage of measures that require a constitutional majority (2/3) or nonconstitutional majority (2/3) requires a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 26 in the Assembly). A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated. Any member who casts a vote takes the prevailing side of a measure may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. All bills that pass by the first legislative house are then forwarded to the second legislative house where the process begins again.

ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE

FIRST READING
Bill is read for the first time and referred to committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION & SECOND READING
The procedure is identical to that in the first legislative house. If the second legislative house considers and passes a bill without amendment, it is returned to the first legislative house for enrollment and transmitted to the Governor. If the second legislative house amends a measure, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of the amendment.

FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE
The second legislative house enters in on the bill and passes it over the objections of the first legislative house. The bill is sent to the Governor. If the Governor signs the bill, it becomes law; if not, it dies. If the Governor vetoes the bill, it is returned to the legislature, where it may be reconsidered, but a two-thirds majority vote is required to override a veto. If the Governor vetoes a bill after the session adjourns sine die, the bill is returned to the next regular session for consideration. Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES, IF NECESSARY

CONCURRENCE
The house of origin decides whether to accept the second legislative house's amendment. If the amendment is accepted, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor. When the amendment is rejected, the bill is returned to the second legislative house for a decision whether to withdraw (move from) the proposed changes. If the second legislative house does not rescind its amendment, a conference committee is appointed, and the bill is returned to the house of origin with a request that it appoint a like committee to meet with a committee of the second house.

CONFERENCE
If the two-legislature conference committee is unable to resolve the differences between the houses, it sends a conference report to both houses. If either house fails to adopt the report, the bill dies. If both legislative houses adopt the report, the bill is enrolled and delivered to the Governor.

ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

SIGN OR VETO?
The Governor acts on a bill within 5 days after it is received (Sundays excepted). If the Governor vetoes a bill, the session adjourns 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 reconsider overriding the veto. An override of the veto requires a two-thirds majority vote of each legislative house. If 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.