

How a Bill Becomes Law

For Project WILD Activity "*Wild Bill's Fate*" page 328 and in the Science & Civics Guide page 77

A. Delegate introduces Bill to the General Assembly



B. Bill is printed and the Speaker of the House refers it to the appropriate committee



C. The committee reviews Bill and votes to report it to the House floor



D. Bill is reported and received by the Clerk



E. Bill receives its First Reading and is read by title



F. On Second Reading, Bill is debated and amended. Bill receives a recorded vote on Third Reading and is passed.



G. Bill is sent to Senate



H. Bill is referred to a Senate Committee and reported to the Senate floor



I. Bill receives similar Readings on the Senate floor and is passed with a recorded vote



J. Bill has now passed the House and Senate in the same form.



K. Bill is sent to the Governor for approval. The Governor may offer recommendations or veto Bill



L. Approved! The Governor signs Bill



M. Bill becomes a law and becomes part of the Code of Virginia!

Note: Bills can start of either the House or Senate side. The Senate must eventually pass those begun in the House, those bills begun in the Senate will be sent to the House. For more information about the legislative process in Virginia visit:

<http://capclass.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>



Constitution of Virginia

ARTICLE XI

Conservation



Section 1. Natural resources and historical sites of the Commonwealth.

To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters, and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings. Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Conservation and development of natural resources and historical sites.

In the furtherance of such policy, the General Assembly may undertake the conservation, development, or utilization of lands or natural resources of the Commonwealth, the acquisition and protection of historical sites and buildings, and the protection of its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, by agencies of the Commonwealth or by the creation of public authorities, or by leases or other contracts with agencies of the United States, with other states, with units of government in the Commonwealth, or with private persons or corporations. Notwithstanding the time limitations of the provisions of Article X, Section 7, of this Constitution, the Commonwealth may participate for any period of years in the cost of projects which shall be the subject of a joint undertaking between the Commonwealth and any agency of the United States or of other states.

Section 3. Natural oyster beds.

The natural oyster beds, rocks, and shoals in the waters of the Commonwealth shall not be leased, rented, or sold but shall be held in trust for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth, subject to such regulations and restriction as the General Assembly may prescribe, but the General Assembly may, from time to time, define and determine such natural beds, rocks, or shoals by surveys or otherwise.

Section 4. Right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest game.

The people have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest game, subject to such regulations and restrictions as the General Assembly may prescribe by general law.
The amendment ratified November 7, 2000 and effective January 1, 2001—Added a new section (4).

For the entire Virginia Constitution visit:
<http://constitution.legis.virginia.gov/Constitution-01-13.pdf>

Virginia General Assembly Glossary of terms

Amendment

A change made to legislation in committee or on the chamber floor that adds to, revises, or deletes language from the legislation.

Amendment, Constitutional

A joint resolution that affects the Constitution and is passed by two General Assembly sessions separated by a general election of the House of Delegates. At the second session, a bill must also be passed to place the proposal on a ballot. Final approval is given by voters at a general election.

Bill

A proposal to amend, repeal, or add sections to the *Code of Virginia* or the *Acts of Assembly*.

Bill Status

The database system for tracking legislation and the daily activities of the House of Delegates and the Senate.

By Request

A member may add "by request" to his name when introducing a bill, which indicates that the bill has been introduced at the request of a constituent, a governmental agency, or an organization.

Chapter

A bill passed and signed into law by the Governor. The term also applies to Constitutional Amendments passed by the General Assembly and to bills passed, notwithstanding the Governor's objections or amendments.

Charter Bill

Legislation relating to powers of counties, cities, and towns specifically granted by the General Assembly. Charters and changes, thereto, are not codified and are found only in the *Acts of Assembly*.

Code of Virginia

A compilation of the laws of the Commonwealth that is arranged alphabetically by subject, with each subject heading being referred to as a "Title."

Committee

A group of legislators from the House of Delegates or the Senate organized for the purpose of considering and deciding on the disposition of a bill or resolution.

Committee Actions :

Carry Over (Continue) - Action which removes the measure from consideration during an even-numbered year session and provides for its reconsideration at the next regular session of the General Assembly. No bill may be carried over in an odd-numbered year session. A carry-over bill retains its assigned bill number in the odd-numbered year session.

Fail to Report (Defeat) - The committee rejects a motion to report a bill to the full house.

Incorporate - The committee incorporates one or more bills into another bill.

No Action Taken - No motion is made on the bill and it dies at the time of the committee deadline.

Pass By Indefinitely (PBI) - This action allows the committee to reconsider legislation at a later meeting. If the committee takes no further action, the bill is "dead."

Report - The majority of the committee approves the bill and it is reported to the floor. The bill may be reported three ways: without amendment, with amendment(s), or with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. A bill may also be reported and referred to another committee.

Strike - The bill is removed from the docket. This action frequently occurs at the request of the patron.

Dillon Rule

Restricts the authority of local governments with respect to the enactment of ordinances. Local governments only have powers granted by the *Constitution of Virginia* and/or passed by the General Assembly.

Engrossed

A stage in the legislative process when a bill passes the second reading in the house of origin. If amended, the engrossed version of the legislation is printed incorporating all amendments that are agreed to. If not amended, the introduced version of the legislation becomes the engrossed bill, and if an amendment in the nature of a substitute is agreed to, the substitute becomes the engrossed bill.

Enrolled

Legislation which has passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate. It has been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and it has been sent to the Governor, but not yet signed. If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes a law and a Chapter of the *Acts of Assembly*.

Reading

The presentation of a bill before either house requiring the reading and printing of the bill number or title. This formal procedure is required by the Constitution and the Rules of each house and indicates to the legislators and the public a stage in the enactment of a measure. The Constitution requires that bills receive three readings on three different days or three printings by title on three different calendars in each house, unless the readings are waived.

Resolution

Legislation which requests a study, or expresses legislative opinion or sentiment on a particular issue. Resolutions do not have the force of law and do not require the signature of the Governor. Constitutional amendments, however, are signed by the presiding officer of each house and are assigned chapter numbers.

Session

The period of time for which the legislature meets. In even-numbered years, the session meets for 60 days; in odd-numbered years it meets for 30 days. The session may be extended for a maximum of 30 days. The odd-numbered year sessions are usually extended to 46 days.

A complete Glossary of Terms is available at the Capitol Classroom web site:
<http://capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/High/Glossary/Glossary.html>



Official Seal of the State Senate of Virginia