

Legislative Process for Public Bills

Prior to introduction:

The Assembly must have two sitting days' notice of the bill.



Royal Recommendation

A message from the Lieutenant Governor that is required for any bill that asks for the appropriation of the public revenue or for raising a tax.

Only a cabinet minister can obtain such a recommendation.

A royal recommendation must be received before a bill is debated at second reading.

Introduction and First Reading

The bill is introduced for the first time without debate, and it becomes available members and the public.

Option: The Assembly may refer the bill to a committee that will conduct public hearings on its subject matter. The bill is then reported back and the Assembly decides if it should proceed to second reading. If it is not sent to committee, the bill proceeds directly to second reading.

If the motion for first reading is defeated, the bill does not proceed.

Second Reading

The minister begins debate by outlining the bill's purpose. Other members debate the principles of the bill. Amendments contrary to the principle may be moved.

Passing the motion for second reading means the Assembly agrees on the principles of the bill and refers it to a committee for further study.

If the motion for second reading is defeated, the bill does not proceed.

Committee Stage

Policy Field Committee

- may hold public hearings
- considers the bill clause by clause
- may make amendments
- reports its work to the Assembly

OR

Committee of the Whole on Bills

- considers the bill clause by clause
- may make amendments
- reports its work to the Assembly

The committee may recommend that the bill not proceed. If the Assembly accepts the recommendation, the bill does not proceed.

Committee of the Whole on Bills

Bills are referred to a Committee of the Whole on Bills after the policy field committee unless the Assembly unanimously agrees to waive this step.

Third Reading

Any amendments must be read a first and second time and passed. Agreement is required for an amended bill to be read the third time.

Members may debate the bill one final time before voting on it.

If the motion for Third Reading is defeated, the Bill does not proceed.



Royal Assent

The Lieutenant Governor or their representative gives royal assent to the bill.