Legislative Process for Public Bills

**Prior to introduction:**
The Assembly must have two sitting days’ notice of the bill.

**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.

**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.

**Committee Stage**

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

**Committee of the Whole on Bills**
- considers the bill clause by clause
- may make amendments
- reports its work to the Assembly

**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.

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

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

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

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

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