



# Alaska State Legislature

## Representative Sharon M. Cissna District 21

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### Thumbnail sketch

## How a bill goes through the legislature

**1** A bill must first start with an idea, the idea can come from one of many sources, individuals, or a group.

The idea must make its way to a legislator, a legislative committee, or the Governor. It is then given to the Legislative Affairs Agency to be drafted into a bill.

**2** The formal introduction of a bill is at a legislative session and is called the "First Reading". First it had been given to the Clerk of the House (or Secretary of the Senate), who give it a number. At the First Reading the bill is introduced, and the number, sponsor(s), and the title of the bill are given. It is referred to a committee(s).

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**3**

While the bill is in committee it may be considered in meetings and with public hearings at the Capitol or elsewhere. The committee may add amendments or a community substitute.

**4** Then the report is returned to the Clerk or Secretary. The report is read under "Standing Committee Reports" as part of the daily order of business in the legislative session.

**5** Continued referral to other committees, or referred to Rules Committee. Rules Committee may schedule the bill on the Daily Calendar for the "Second Reading". The Rules Committee may also hold hearings on the bill and propose amendments or committee substitute.

**6** Any amendments to the bill are offered and voted on in Second Reading. Unless there is a special immediate advancement by a vote of 3/4th of the membership (30 in the House and 15 in the Senate), it will be advanced to Third Reading and placed on the calendar for the next calendar day.

**7** In the Third Reading floor debate and voting take place.

**8**

When a bill is passed by one legislative body, it then moves to the other and begins the same process it has just completed. After both houses have approved a bill it is sent to the Governor, who may sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature.

*This is a brief outline of a bill's journey through the legislature. For more information on the rules of the Legislature, call the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage, 258-8111*