

HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW (PROCESS)

- **Introduction:** The process begins when a bill is introduced.
- **First Reading:** The bill is “read” for the first time, without debate, and printed.
- **Second Reading:** The principle of the bill is debated. It is then voted on and the bill is sent to a parliamentary committee.
- **Committee Stage:** A committee hears witnesses, examines the bill clause-by-clause and submits a report recommending the bill be accepted as is or with amendments, or that it not proceed any further.
- **Report Stage:** Additional amendments to the bill may be moved, debated and voted on.
- **Third Reading:** The bill is debated a final time and voted on.
- **Message:** Once passed, the bill is sent to the Senate, where the process starts again from first reading.
- **Royal Assent:** The Governor General or a deputy gives the bill Royal Assent and it becomes a law.