

How a Bill becomes a law

This charts the normal procedures of non-controversial Bills.
Bill may originate in either Branch, except for Budget and Money bills, which originates in the House



Informational Announcement



**MASSACHUSETTS
FEDERATION OF
BUILDING OFFICIALS**

1. Petition filled in office of Clerk by member
2. Petition processed by Clerk, printed and referred to Joint Committee
3. Public hearing is held by Committees
4.
 - a. If bill relates to State finances, it is read and referred to Ways and Means Committee.
 - b. If the bill relates to county finances, it is read and referred to the Committee on the Counties on the part of the House
5. Subsequently reported by the standing committee (if so referred) and placed on the House Calendar for the second reading
6. At next session, Clerk reads title for the second time and bill is before House, subject to debate and amendment. At this point the member carrying the bill, usually offers explanation and answers any questions relating to the bill. The bill is then ordered to a third reading.
7. The bill is again open for debate and amendment and must be approved by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading. The bill is then passed to be engrossed.
8. The Bill is then sent to the Senate where it goes virtually through the same process as the House with the exception of the addition of the Senate Committee of Steering and Policy, where all bills are referred to before being placed on the Senate Calendar, Followed by three reading and passed to be engrossed
9. After the bill has been passed to be engrossed by both branches, it is sent to the Legislative Engrossing Division to be placed on parchment in accordance with Mass general law
10. The bill is delivered by the Legislative Engrossing Division to the House of Representative where it is enacted. The bill continues on to the Senate for enactment. The bill is always enacted in the House first and the Senate last, where it is then delivered to the Governor
11. The Governor has ten days to sign, return with amendments, veto or let the bill become law without signature (if bill remains on desk without action)