THE LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION
From Idea into Law

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE

Although the procedure can become complicated, this chart shows the essential steps for passage of a bill.

Typical committee actions are used to simplify charting the course of legislation.

Some bills require hearings by more than one committee, in which case a committee may re-refer the bill to another committee. For example, bills with monetary implications must be re-referred to the proper fiscal committee in each House before they are sent to the second reading file and final action.

A bill may be amended at various times as it moves through the Houses. The bill must be reprinted each time an amendment is adopted by either house. All bill actions are printed in the DAILY FILES, JOURNALS and HISTORIES.

If a bill is amended in the opposite House, it is returned to the House of Origin for concurrence in amendments. If House of Origin does not concur, a Conference Committee Report must then be adopted by each House before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEEDED LEGISLATION FROM
Agencies, Citizens, Governor, Lobbyists

LEGISLATURE HAS 60 DAYS
(not including
joint recesses)
TO OVERRIDE VETO WITH
2/3 VOTE IN EACH HOUSE

BILL IS CHAPTERED BY
SECRETARY OF STATE
Bill becomes law January 1st
of the following year unless it
contains an urgency clause (takes effect immediately) or
specifies its own effective date.

RETURN TO ASSEMBLY FLOOR
Concurrence in Senate Amendments

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Adopts Conference Report

RETURN TO SENATE FLOOR
Concurrence in Assembly Amendments

GOVERNOR

SIGN

BECOMES LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE