



SENATE | SÉNAT
CANADA

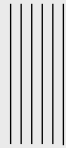
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



THIS IS HOW A SENATE BILL GOES THROUGH PARLIAMENT:

FIRST READING

- ▶ The bill is received in the Senate Chamber and copies are given to senators.
- ▶ This provides senators with the chance to see what issues are being addressed, although the merits of the bill are not yet debated.

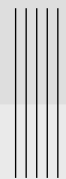


SECOND READING

- ▶ Senators debate the scope of the bill.
- ▶ Generally, it cannot be amended at this stage.
- ▶ If it passes a vote, it is sent to a Senate committee for further review.

COMMITTEE STAGE

- ▶ Senators call experts and people who may be affected by the bill to provide analysis and insight.
- ▶ Committee members study the bill in detail, clause by clause.
- ▶ Committee members may make amendments to the bill at this stage.
- ▶ The committee adopts a report on the bill, with or without amendments.
- ▶ The report is sent to the full Senate for consideration.





COMMITTEE REPORT STAGE

- ▶ The committee report, if it recommends amendments, is considered by the whole Senate (i.e. by all 105 senators).
- ▶ Senators can propose further amendments.
- ▶ Debate focuses on these amendments.



THIRD READING

- ▶ Senators can propose amendments.
- ▶ Senators vote on the bill and its amendments.
- ▶ If it passes, the bill is sent to the House of Commons, where it goes through a similar process.



SENT TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

If the Senate amends a bill from the House of Commons, or vice versa, both chambers exchange messages until they agree on the final text of the bill.

