HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

1. Bills are filed by representatives or senators and introduced in their respective chambers: House of Representatives or the Senate.

2. Once introduced, a bill is referred to one or more committees for study, and sometimes public input and revision.

3. If a bill is approved by committee, it is scheduled for consideration or debate in the chamber of its origin. Some bills “die” in committee when not approved.

4. The bill will be discussed, with potential changes and amendments. It may go through a second hearing before passing or failing.

5. If passed, the bill goes from its chamber of origin to the other chamber for the same process.

6. If amendments are made in the other chamber, it must go back to the chamber of origin for approval.

7. Once the bill’s final revisions are approved by both chambers, the bill is sent to the governor to sign or veto.

8. The governor can sign the bill into law or veto it. If the governor takes no action, the bill will become law after 7 to 15 days.

WHEN CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- When filed: you can contact the congressperson who filed the bill.
- In committee: you can contact any or all committee members who are assigned to a bill.
- During public hearings: some bills will have public hearings scheduled around the state for public feedback.
- During chamber discussion: you can contact any congressperson about a bill while it’s being considered in either chamber.
- When it gets to the governor: you can contact the governor to voice your opinion on the bill.