

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



New laws begin as documents called bills.
Bills are drafts of proposed new laws.

INTRODUCTION

The bill is introduced to Parliament. MPs have time to read and talk through this idea for a new law.

FIRST READING

Members debate and vote on the main idea of the bill. It needs to receive just over half the votes to pass to the next step.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Select committees normally examine a bill in detail and may ask to hear from the public. Anyone can have their say about a bill at this stage.

SECOND READING

Members debate a select committee's report that may suggest changes to be made.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

This debate is less formal and the Speaker doesn't sit in their chair. The MPs vote on each section of the bill, taking in any changes they want to include.

THIRD READING

This is the final chance for MPs to debate on the bill and is usually a summary of the bill in its final form.

ROYAL ASSENT

A bill is signed by the Sovereign or the Sovereign's representative in New Zealand, the Governor-General.

