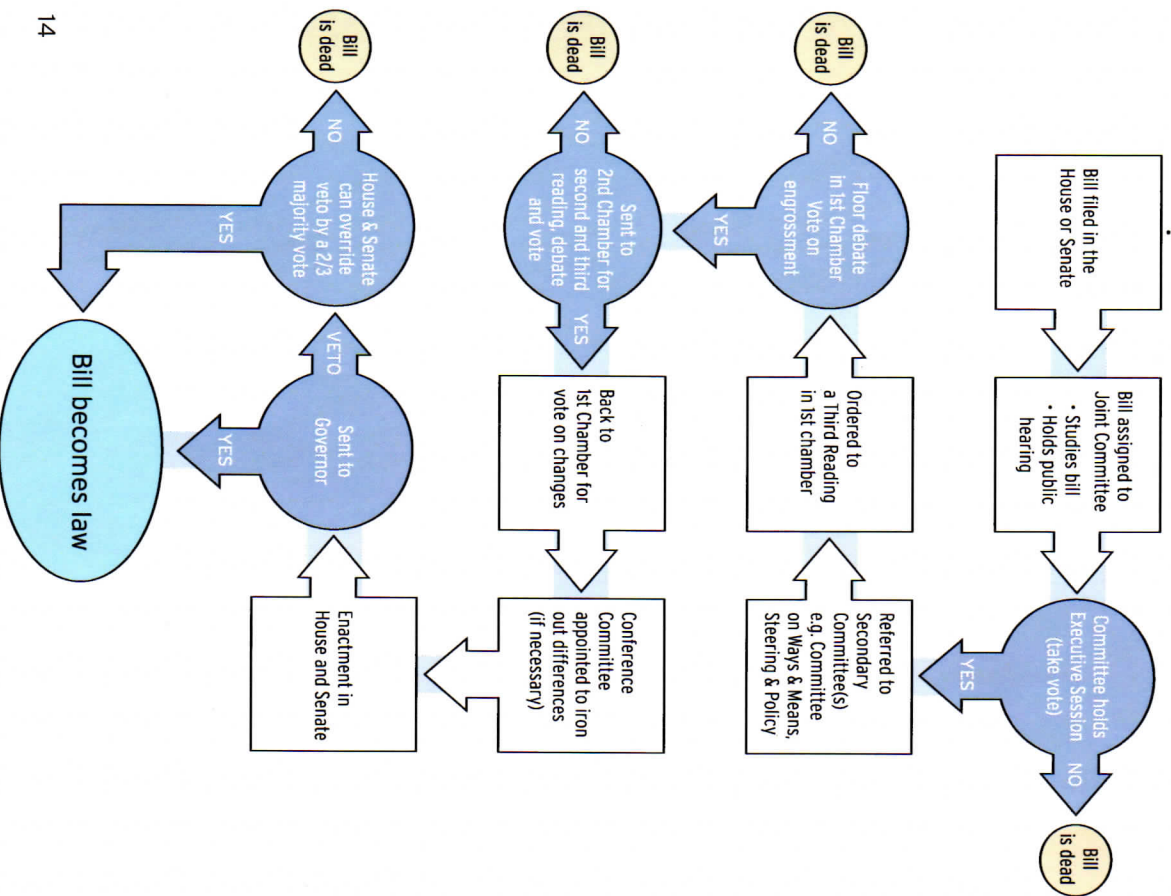


How a Bill Becomes Law in Massachusetts

For a more detailed explanation of how a bill becomes law, please refer to page 41.

Concerned citizen, group or legislator suggests idea.



How You Can Influence a Bill at Every Stage in the Law Making Process

If the Bill is:	Then You Can:
In Joint Committee, awaiting public hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your Senator or Representative to inform them of the bill and ask for their support Testify on the bill on the day of the hearing Submit written testimony to the members of the Joint Committee
In Joint Committee, awaiting executive session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your Senator or Representative to ask them to convey your concerns to the Committee Chairs Follow up with committee staff to provide any additional information Attend the Executive Session to show your support (you cannot speak at the executive session)
In a second or third committee for further review (i.e. Health Care Financing, Ways and Means, or Steering and Policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your Senator or Representative asking them to urge the co-chairs of the committee to release the bill Organize with other stakeholders to meet with committee members and staff Contact the committee to express your opinion Ask the committee members to write, call, or visit the leadership
Awaiting a vote in either the House or Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your Senator or Representative asking them to vote the way you want when the bill comes to the floor for a vote Urge bill sponsors to ask leadership for support
Enacted and on the Governor's desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the Governor to express your view
Encourage your family, friends, and other stakeholders to join you in every step along the way!	