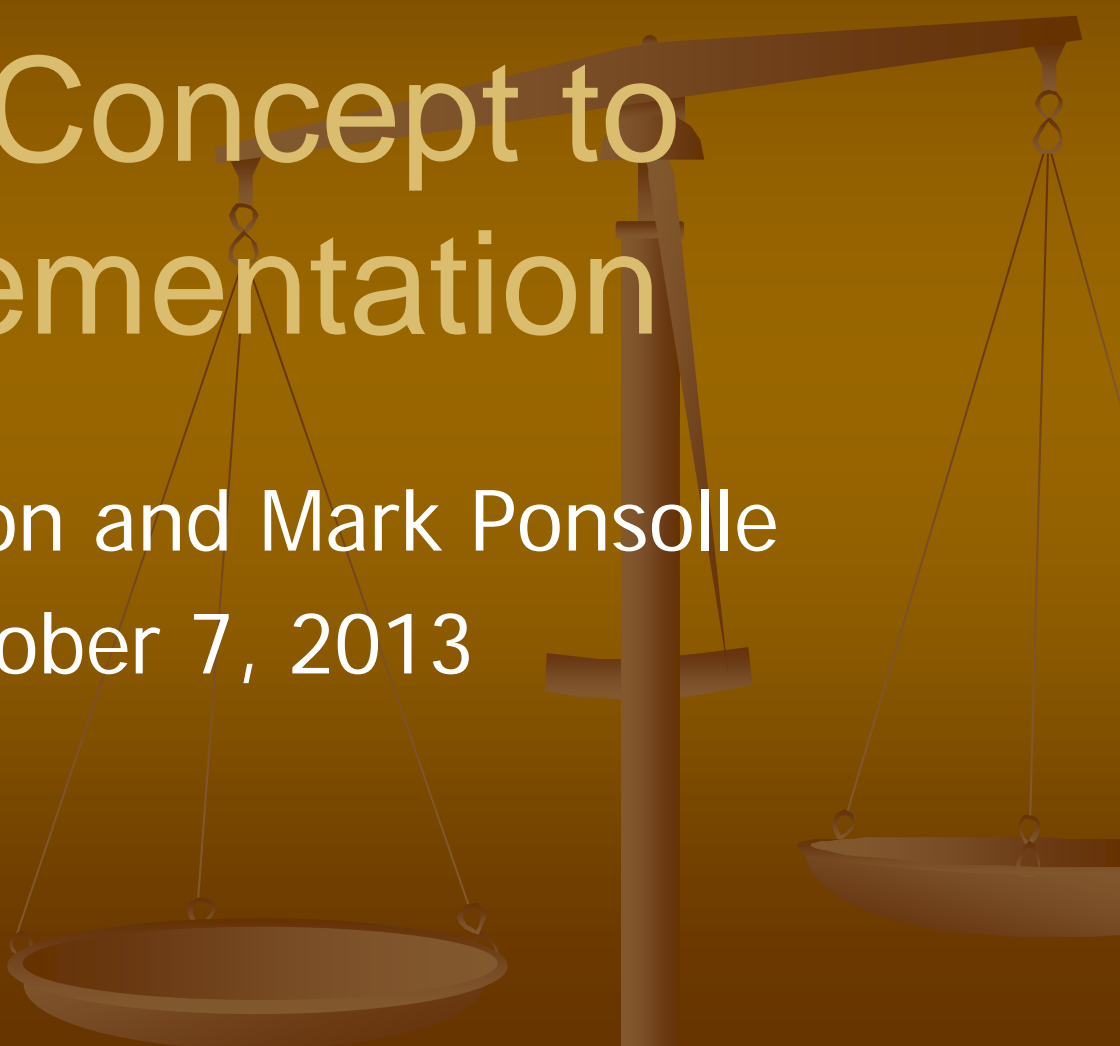


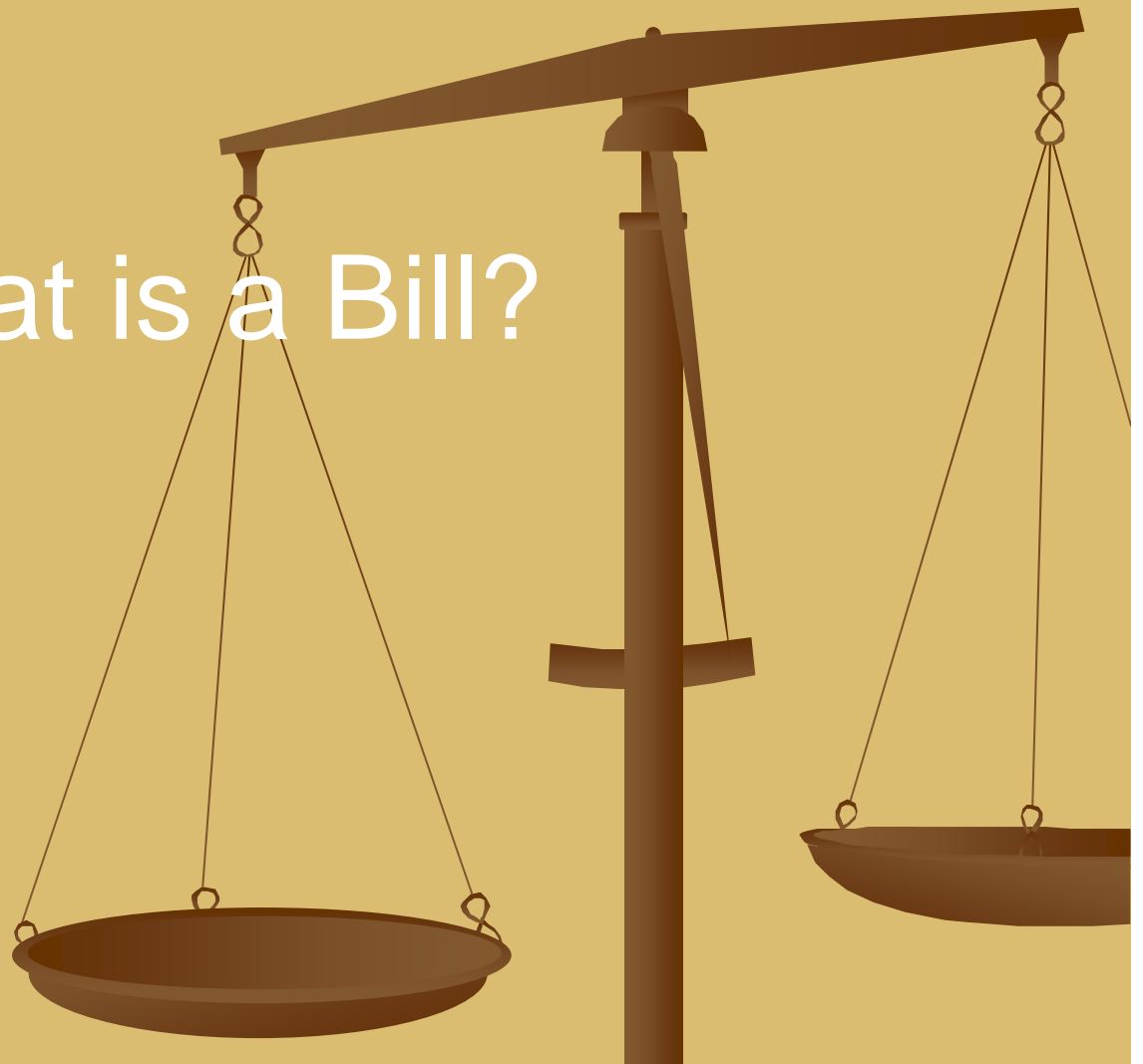
# The Legislative Process from Concept to Implementation



Julie Erickson and Mark Ponsolle

October 7, 2013

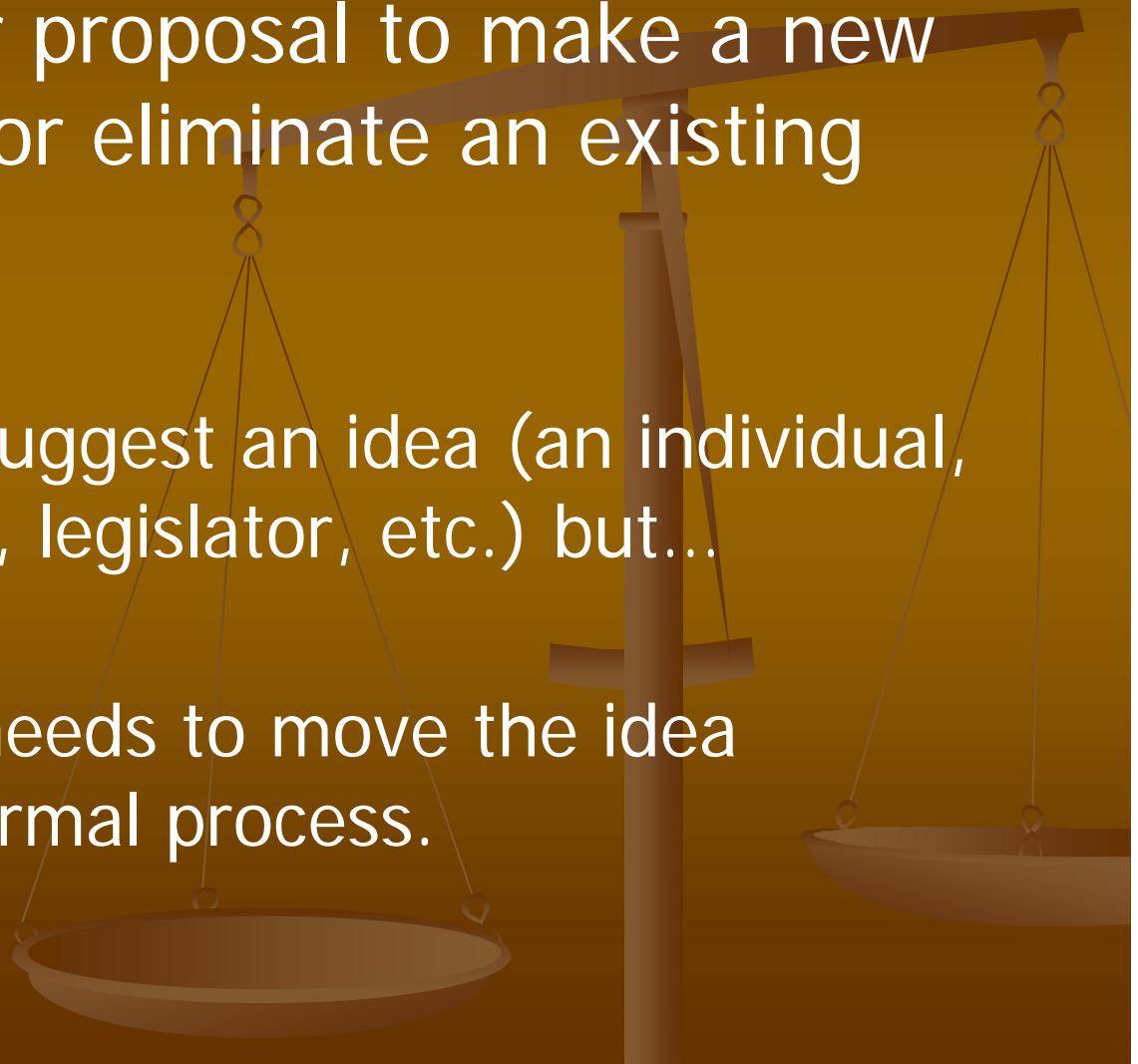
What is a Bill?



# Idea

A bill is an idea or proposal to make a new law or to change or eliminate an existing law.

- **Anyone** can suggest an idea (an individual, group, agency, legislator, etc.) but...
- A **legislator** needs to move the idea through the formal process.



# What to do with an Idea

- Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
(CSED)
- Minnesota Family Support and Recovery  
Council (MFSRC)
- Minnesota County Attorneys Association  
(MCAA)
- Local Legislator

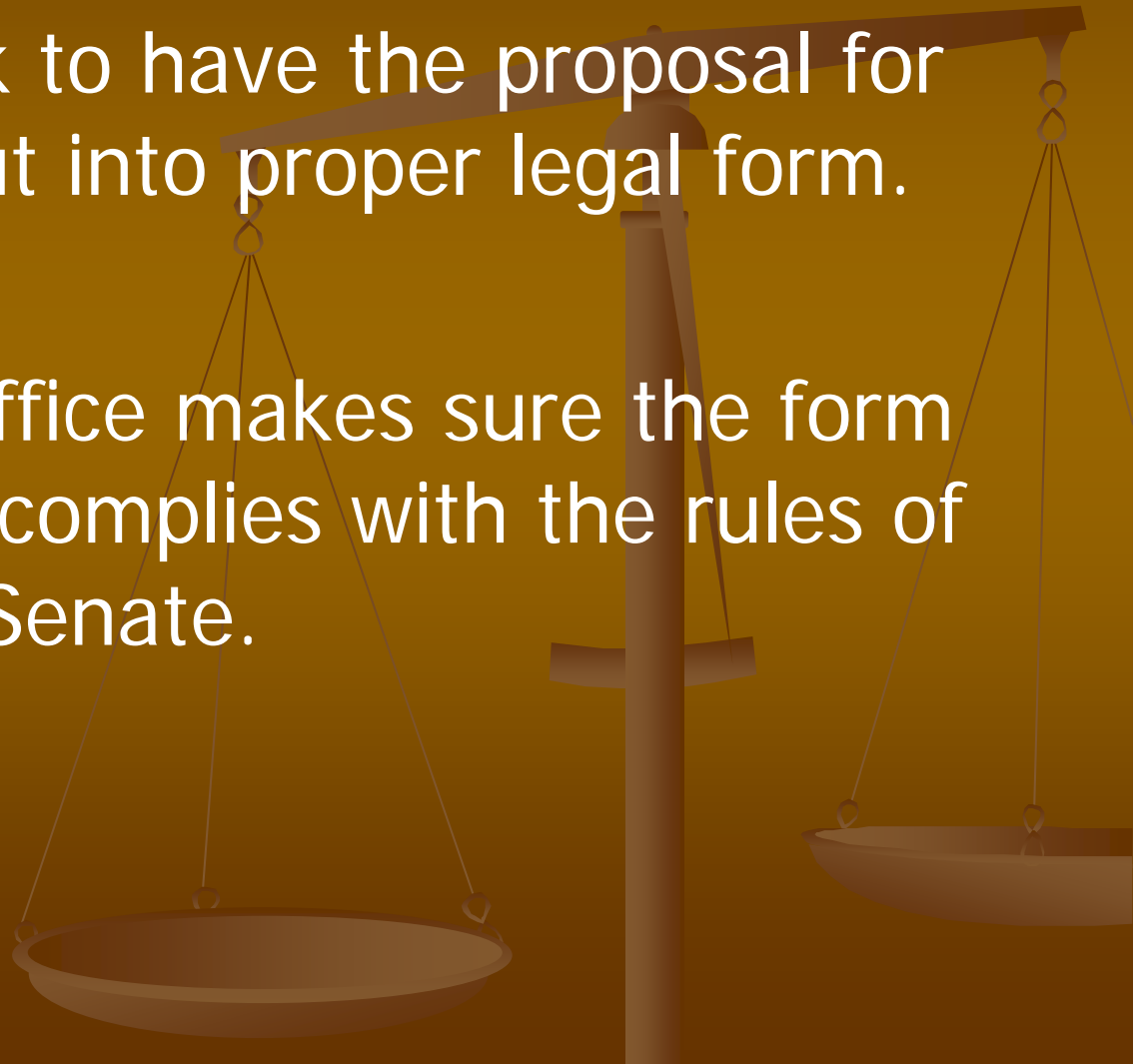


# How Bills Are Created



# Legal Form

- Legislators work to have the proposal for the new idea put into proper legal form.
- The Revisor's Office makes sure the form of the proposal complies with the rules of the House and Senate.



# Authors

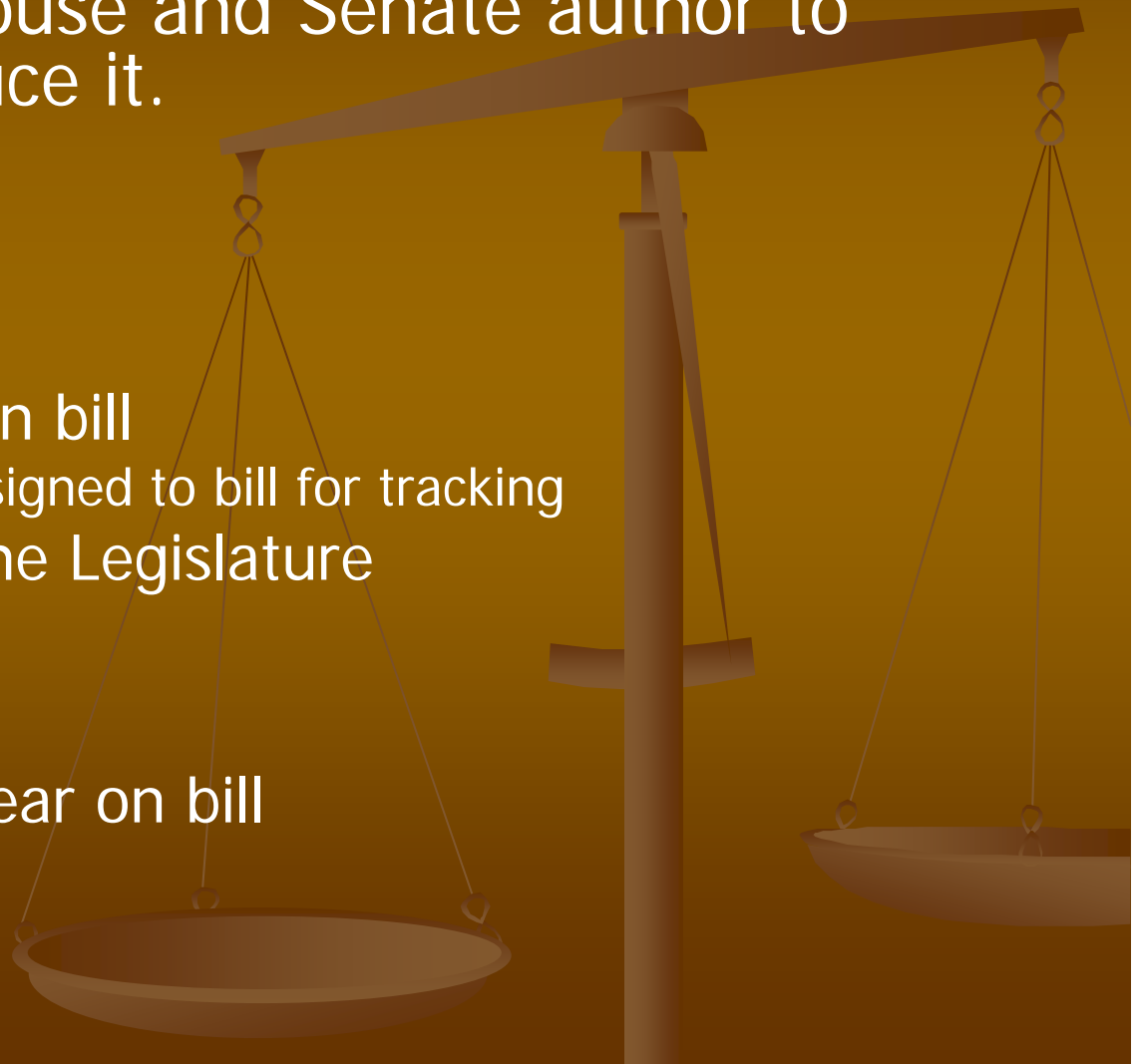
Each bill needs a House and Senate author to sponsor and introduce it.

- Chief Author

- Sponsors the bill
- Name appears on bill
  - File number assigned to bill for tracking
- Brings bill into the Legislature

- Co-authors

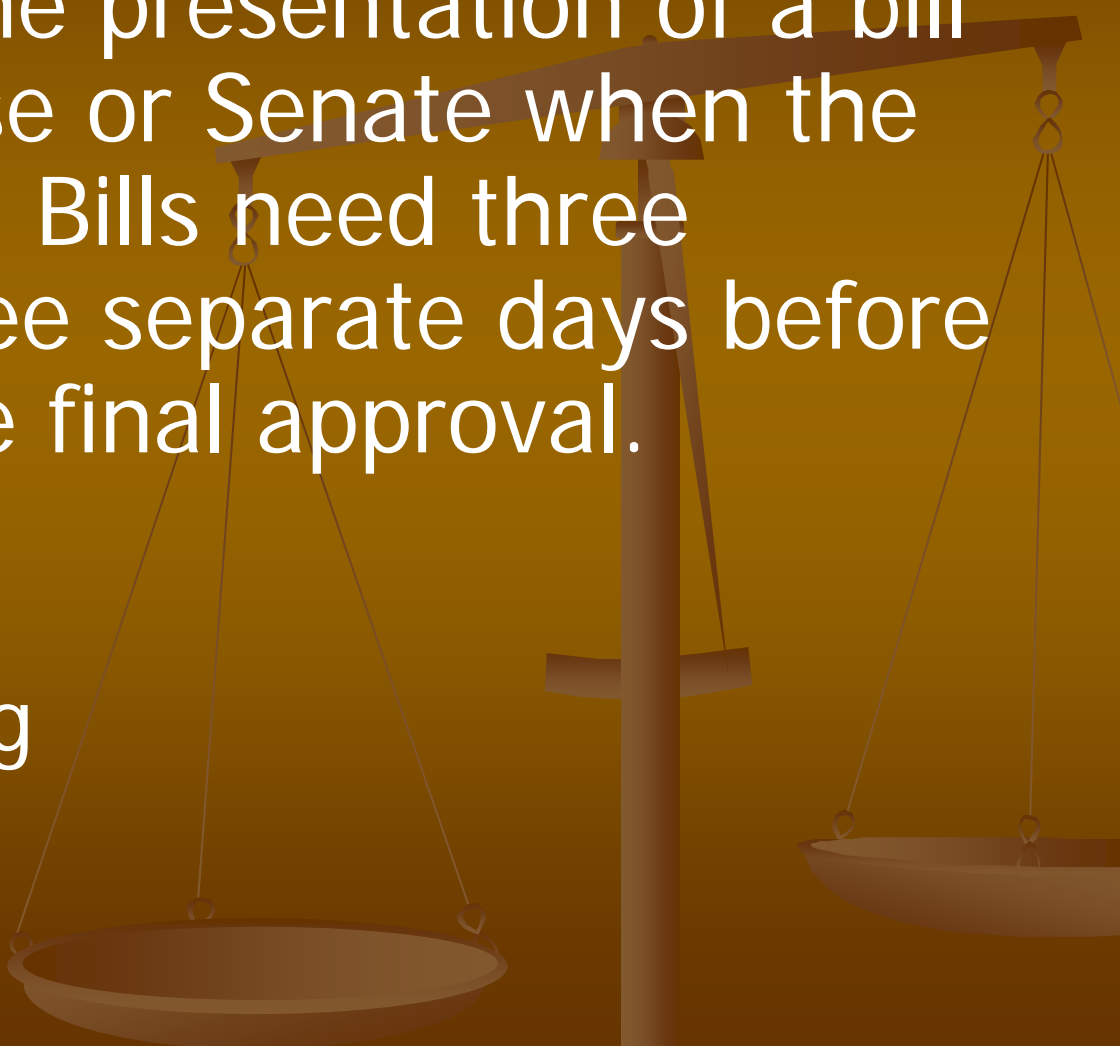
- Names also appear on bill
  - House up to 34
  - Senate up to 4



Bill Reading







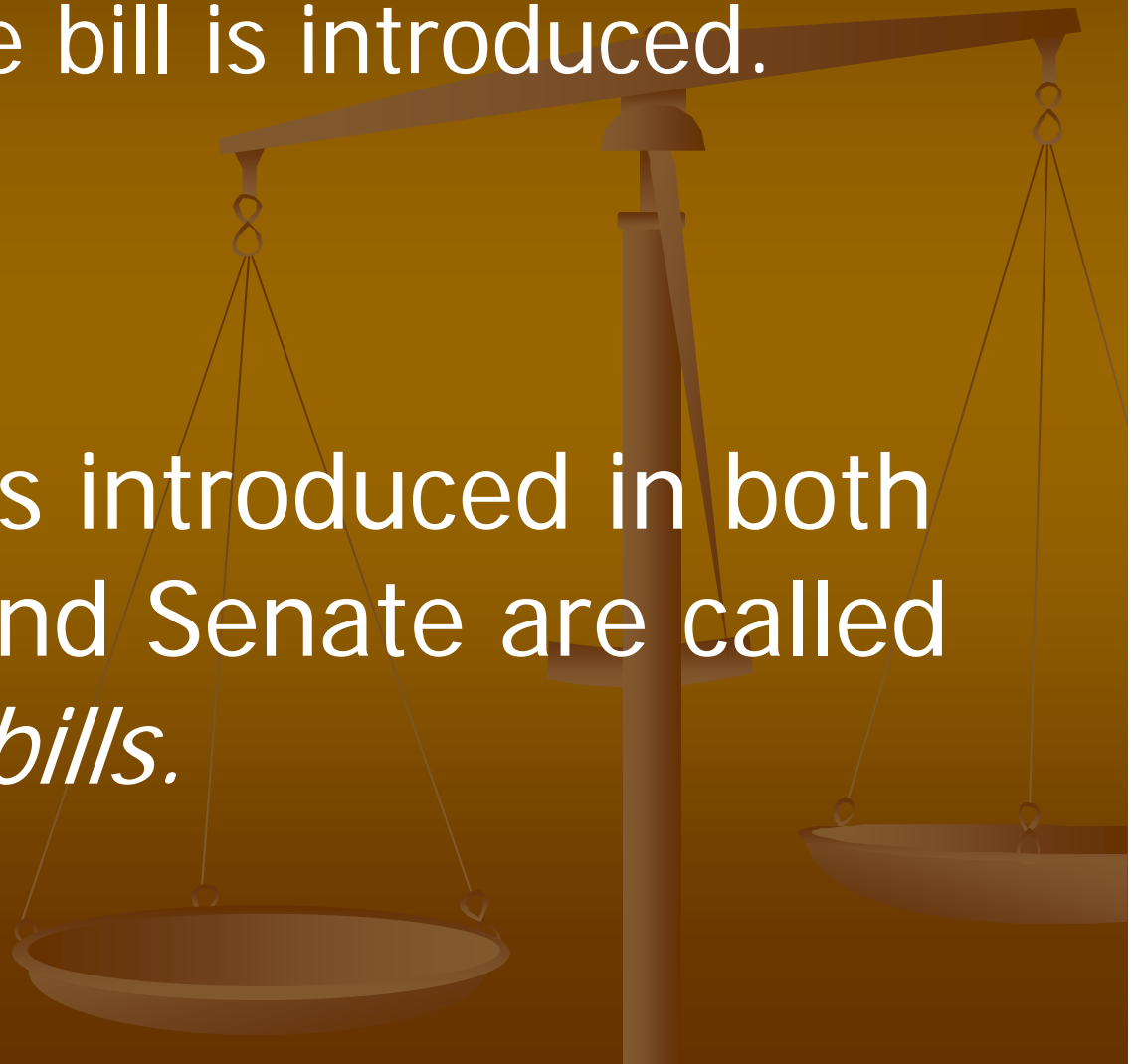
A “reading” is the presentation of a bill before the House or Senate when the bill title is read. Bills need three readings on three separate days before they can receive final approval.

- First Reading
- Second Reading
- Third Reading

# First Reading

This is when the bill is introduced.

- House
- Senate
- Identical bills introduced in both the House and Senate are called *companion bills*.

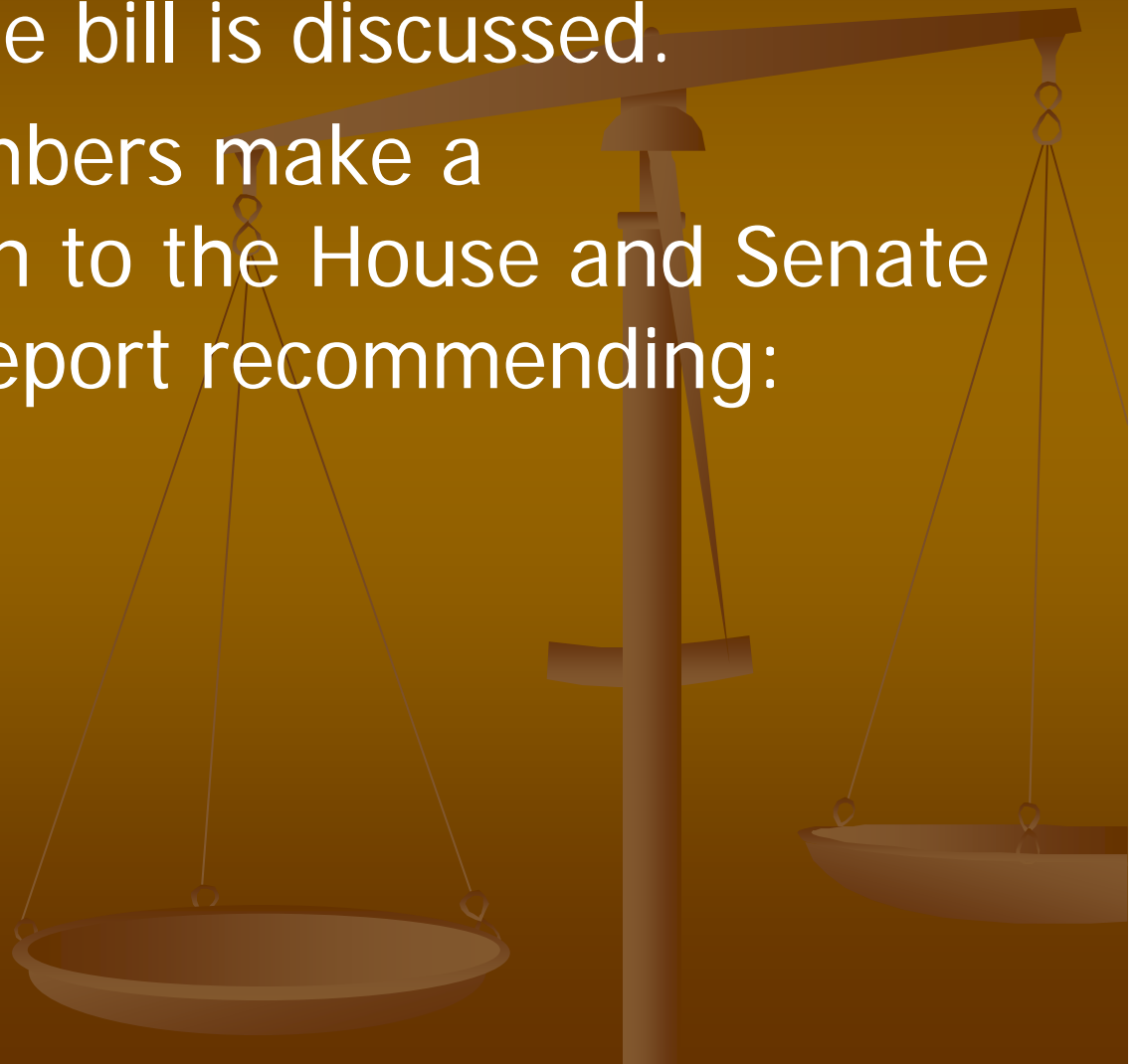


# Committees



# Committee

- This is where the bill is discussed.
- Committee members make a recommendation to the House and Senate and provide a report recommending:
  - Approval
  - Disapproval



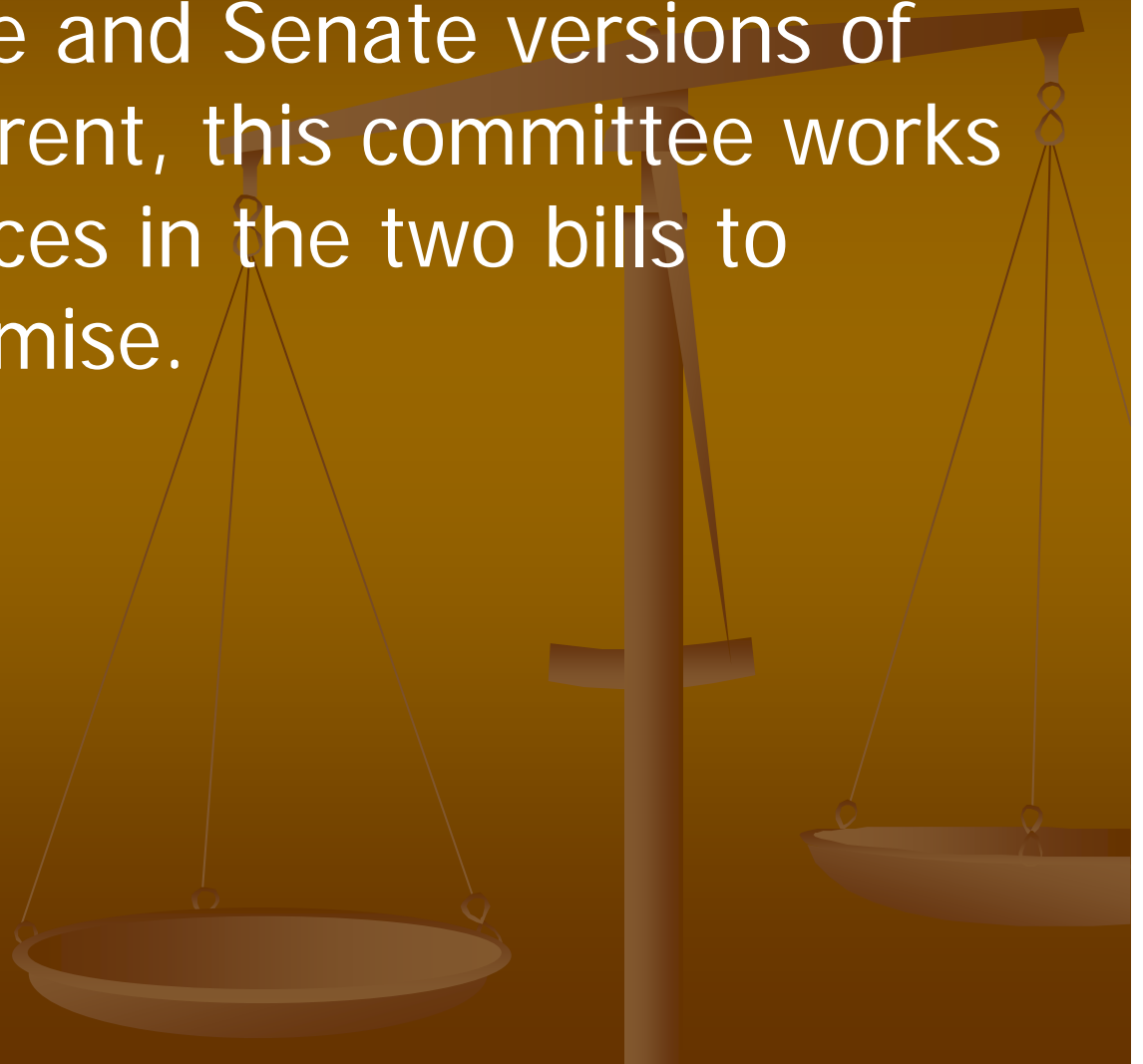
# Second Reading



- The bill is brought to the floor for a second reading. It then moves to the...
  - **General Register** – This is the House agenda where a bill waits for action by the full body.
  - **General Orders** – This is the Senate agenda which provides an opportunity to debate the issue and to offer amendments. A vote is then taken.
  - **Consent Calendar** – This is for non-controversial bills only. It is a list of bills the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee has designated for a full House vote.

# Conference Committee

- When the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, this committee works out the differences in the two bills to reach a compromise.



# Third Reading



- The conference committee's compromise bill returns to the House and Senate floor for another vote.
  - If it passes in both the House and Senate, it goes to the governor for approval or disapproval.
  - If it is rejected in either the House or Senate, it goes back to conference committee for further consideration.

The Bill Evolves into New Law





# The Bill Becomes Law

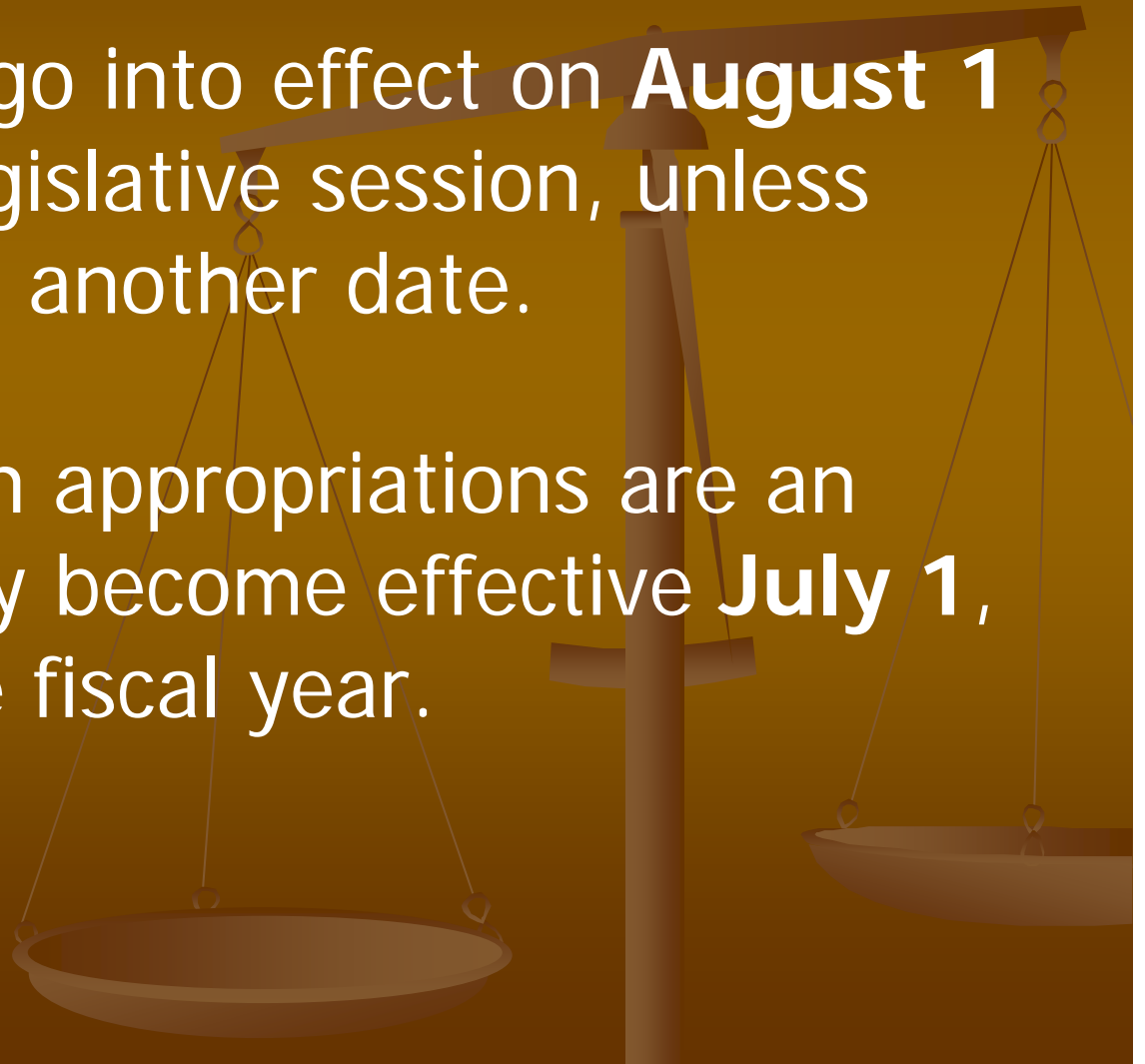


- When the governor signs it.
- If the governor doesn't veto the bill, within 3 days.
- If the House and Senate are in session and they override the governor's veto.

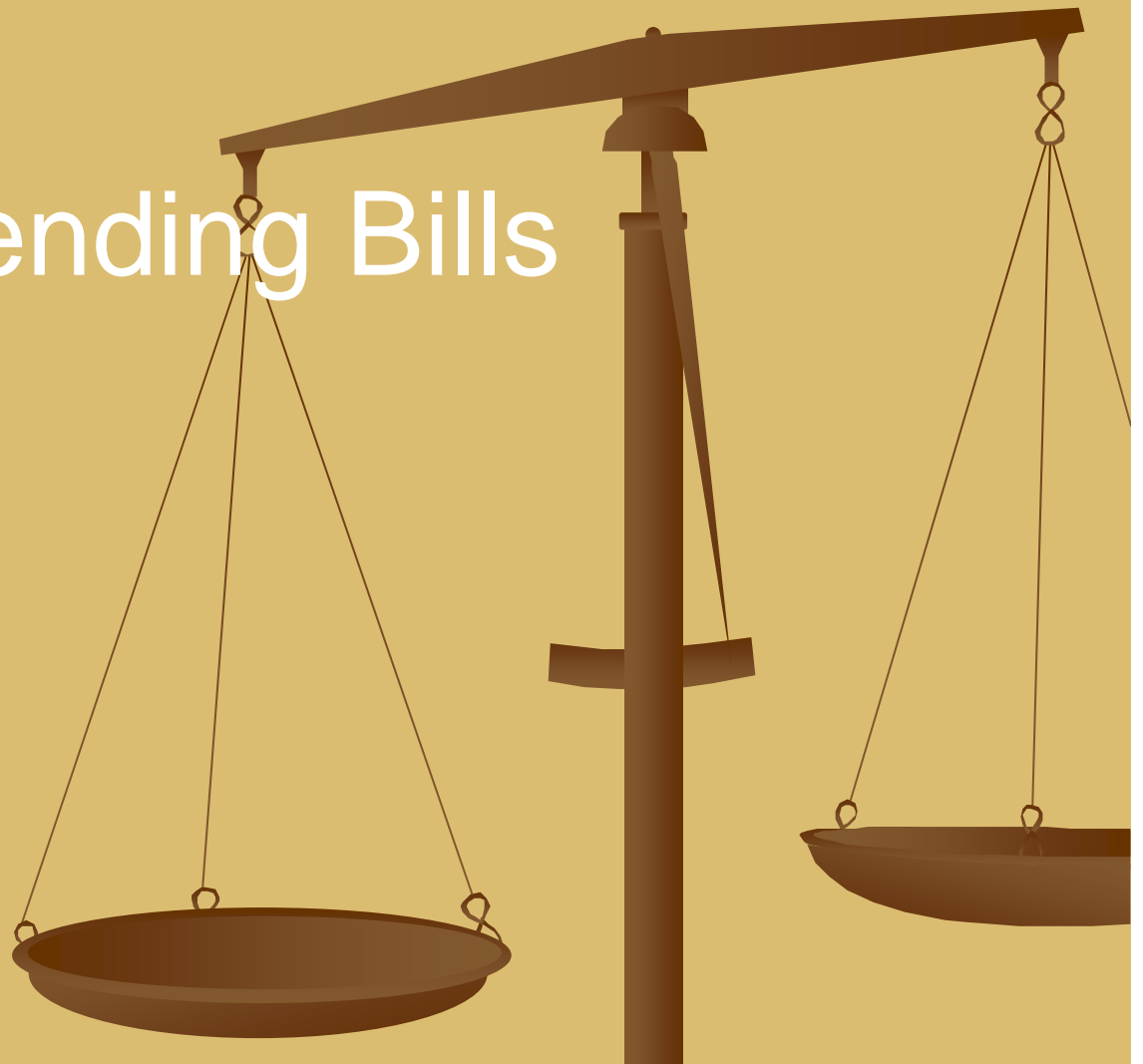
The governor may "line-item veto" parts of a money bill or "pocket veto" a bill passed in the last 3 days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment.

# New Law Goes into Effect

- Most new laws go into effect on **August 1** following the legislative session, unless the bill specifies another date.
- Bills that contain appropriations are an exception. They become effective **July 1**, the same as the fiscal year.

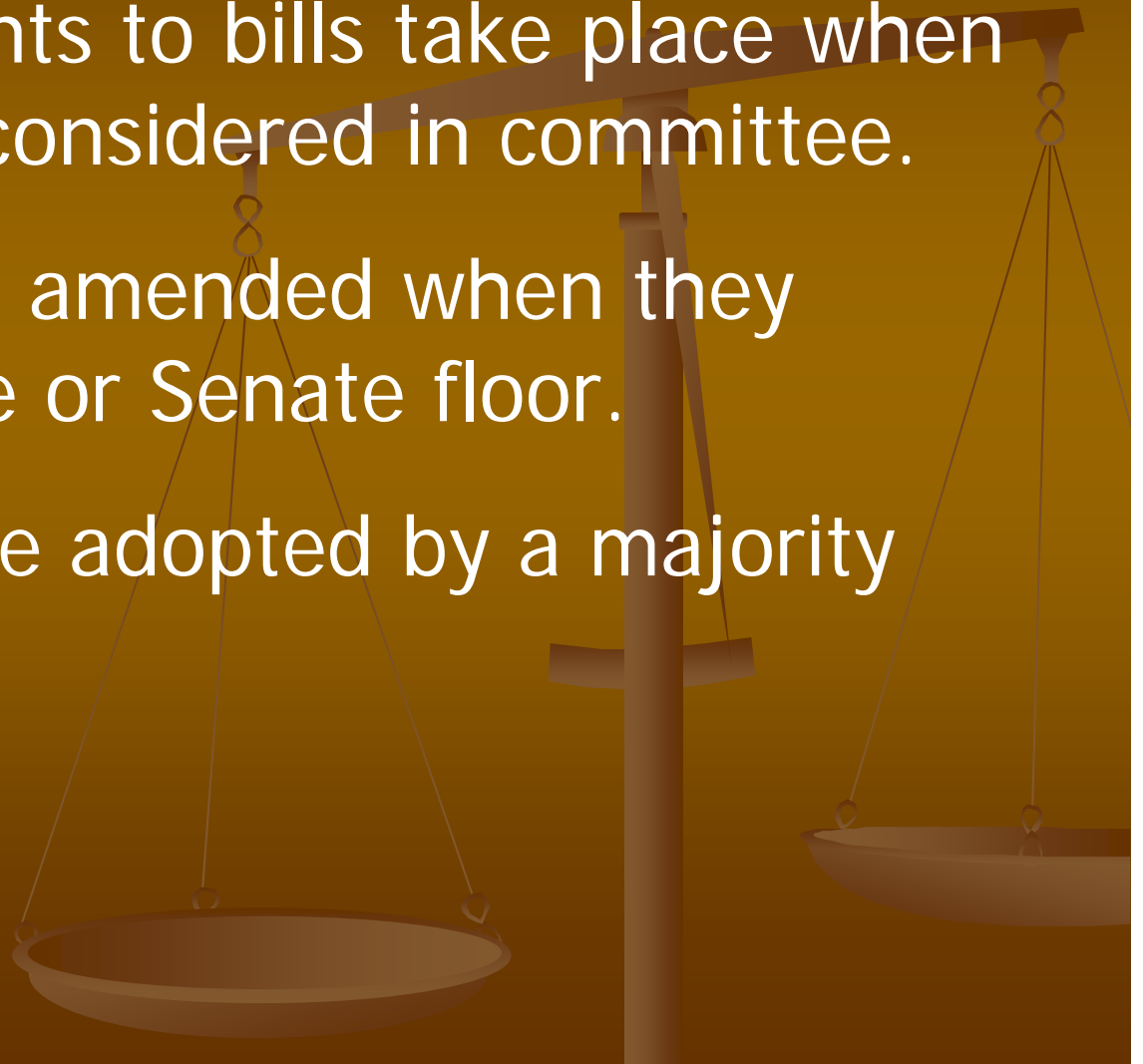


# Amending Bills

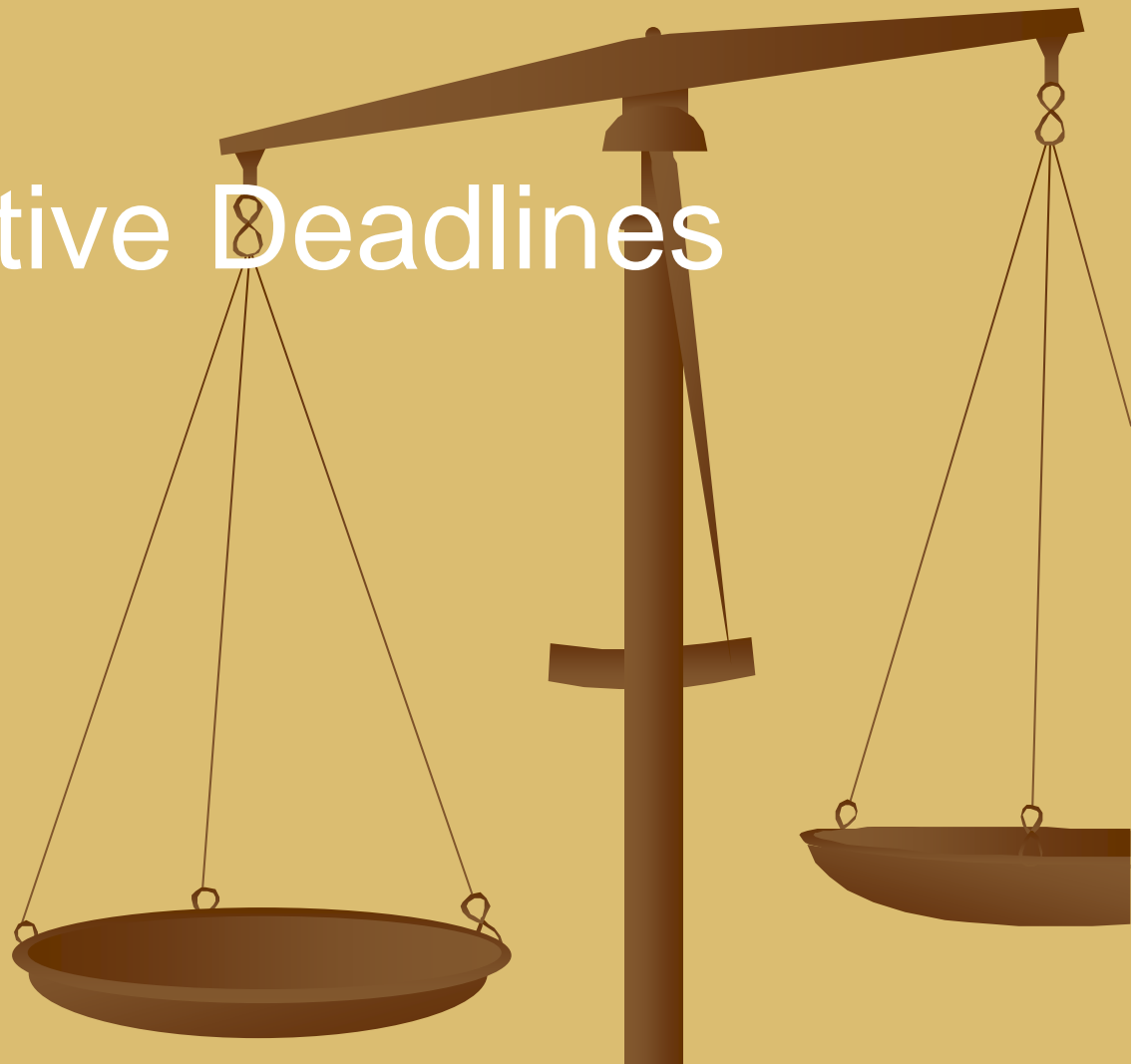


# Amending Bills

- Most amendments to bills take place when they are being considered in committee.
- Bills can also be amended when they reach the House or Senate floor.
- Amendments are adopted by a majority vote.



# Legislative Deadlines



# Deadlines

Bills can be introduced any time during a session, but there are committee deadlines after which a bill will no longer be considered at that session.

## ■ First Deadline

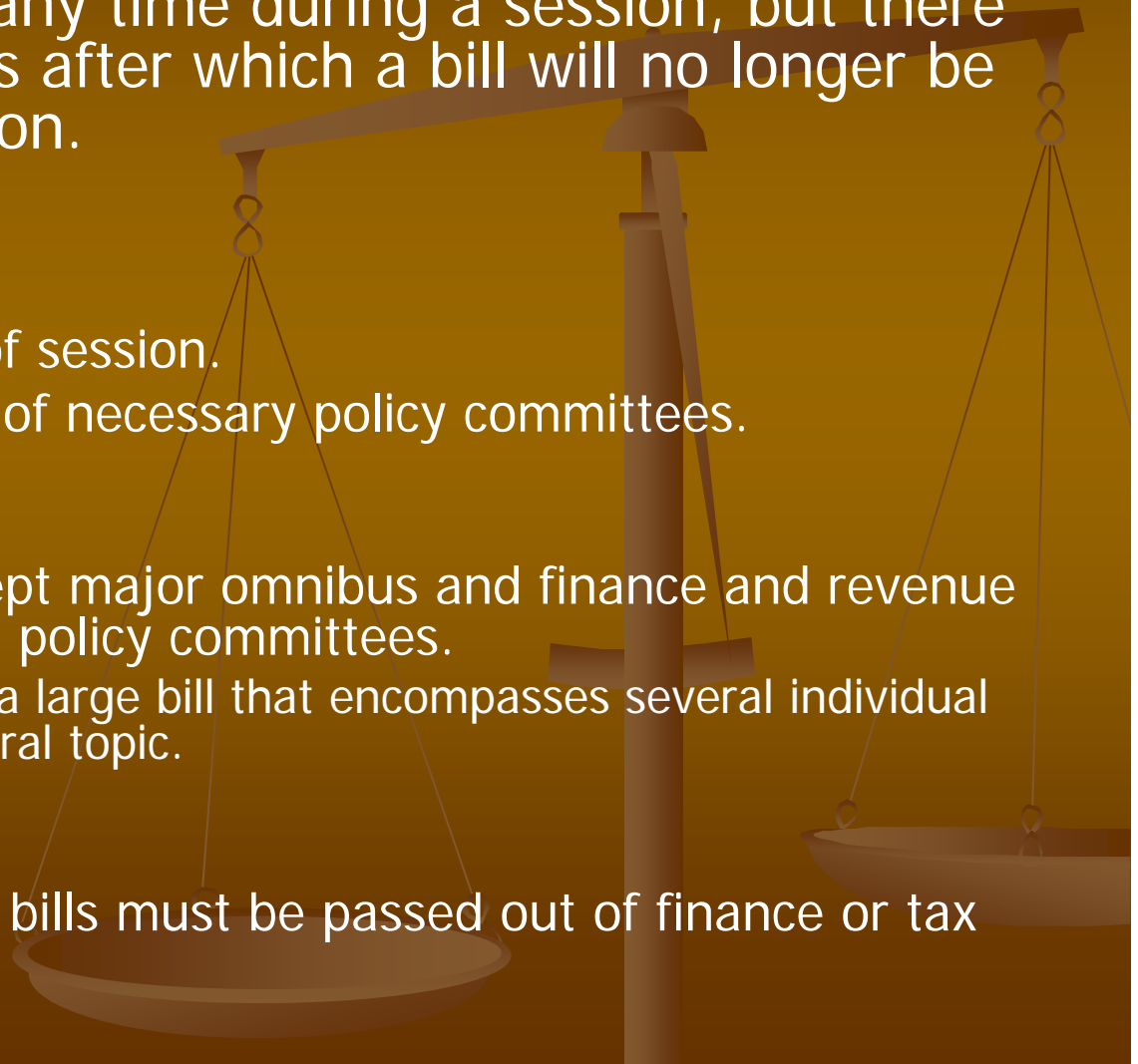
- Announced first half of session.
- Requires bill pass out of necessary policy committees.

## ■ Second Deadline

- Requires all bills, except major omnibus and finance and revenue bills, to pass out of all policy committees.
  - An **omnibus bill** is a large bill that encompasses several individual bills under one general topic.

## ■ Third Deadline

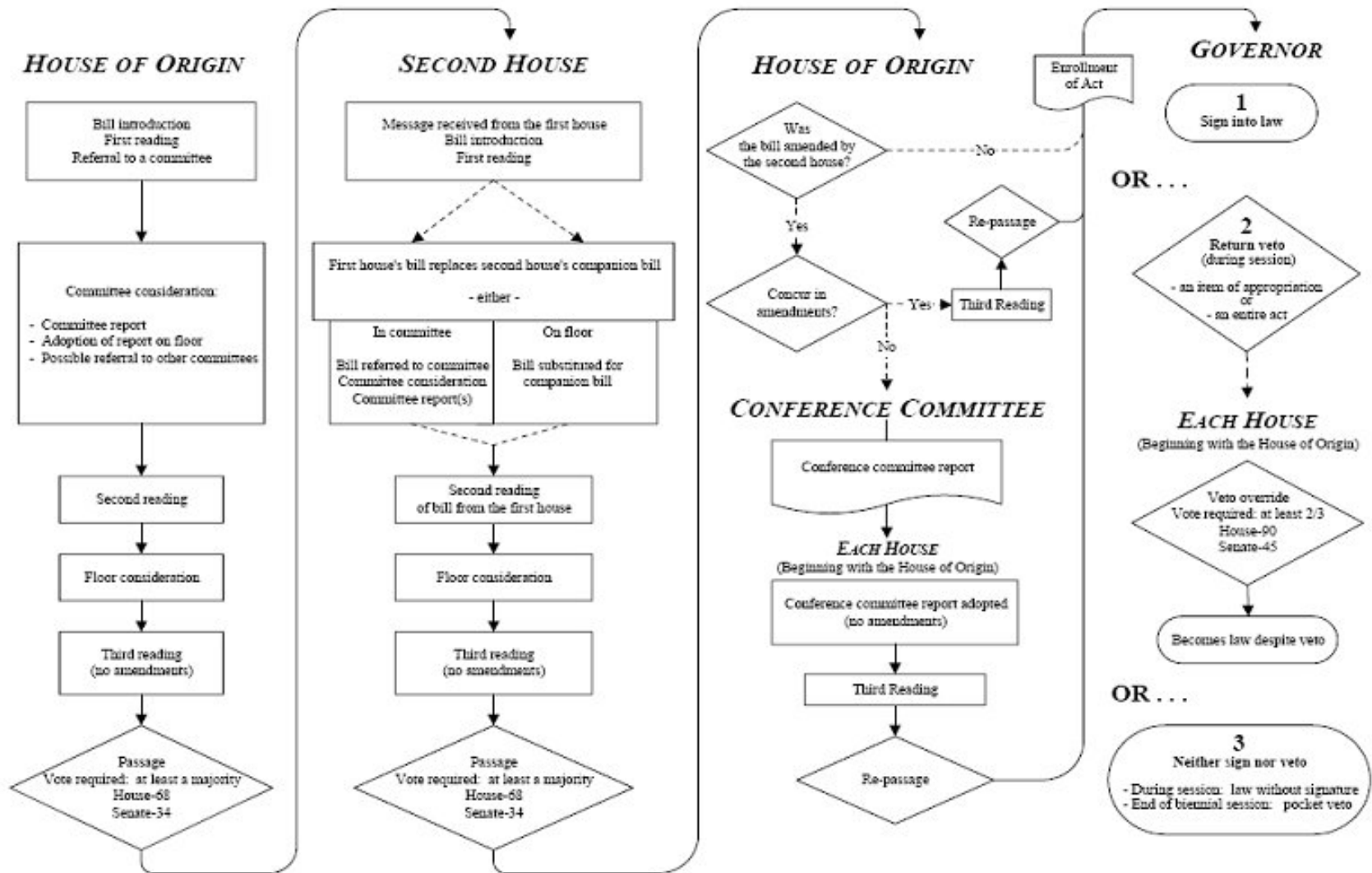
- Dictates when money bills must be passed out of finance or tax committees.



# Overview



# Overview of the Legislative Process



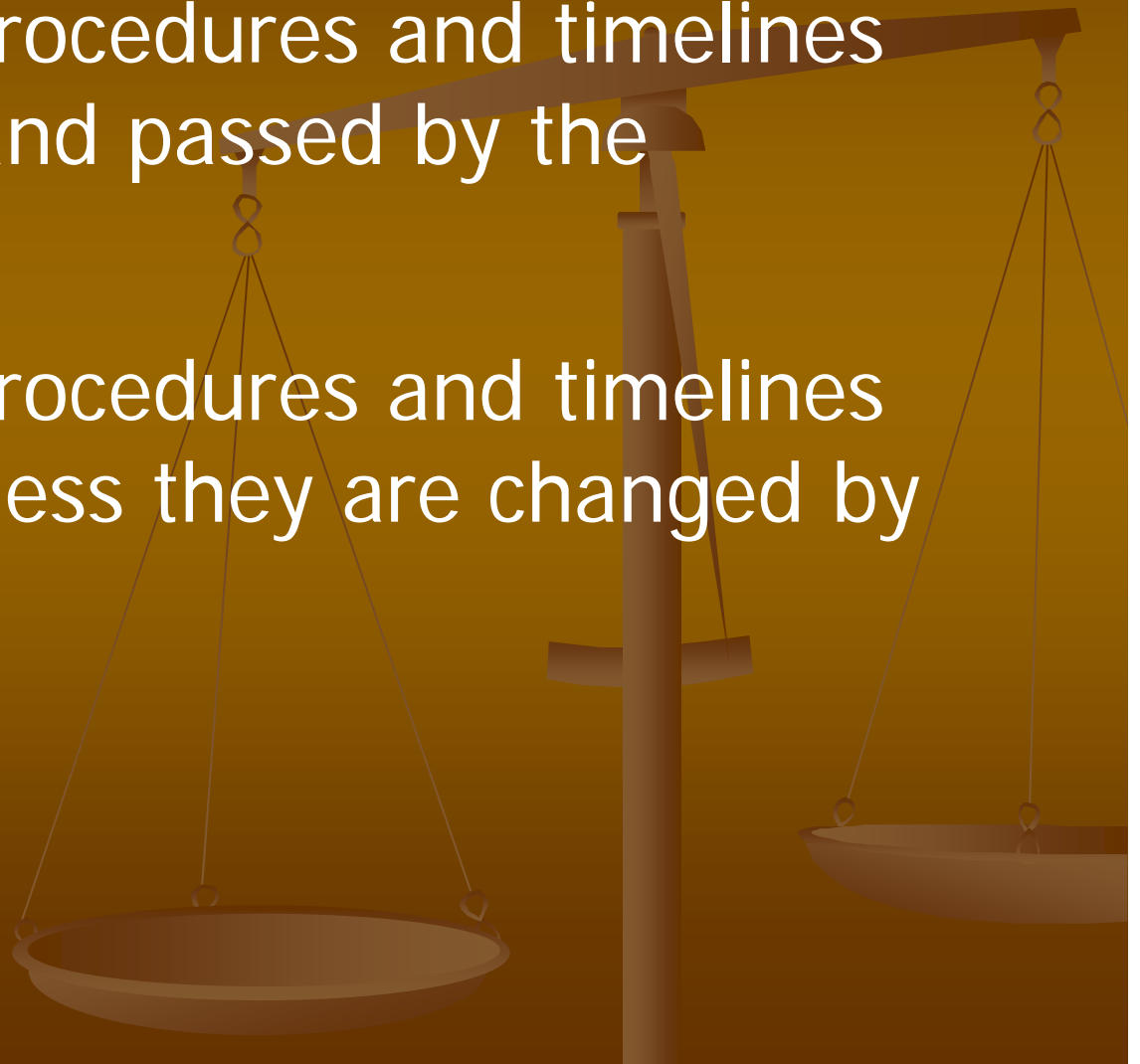


# Rules of Thumb



# The Ultimate Rule

- The rules and procedures and timelines are developed and passed by the Legislature.
- The rules and procedures and timelines are followed unless they are changed by the Legislature.



# Rules of Thumb

- Relationships
- Integrity
- Knowledge
- Full Disclosure
- Patience
- Big Picture
- See the Other Guy's Side



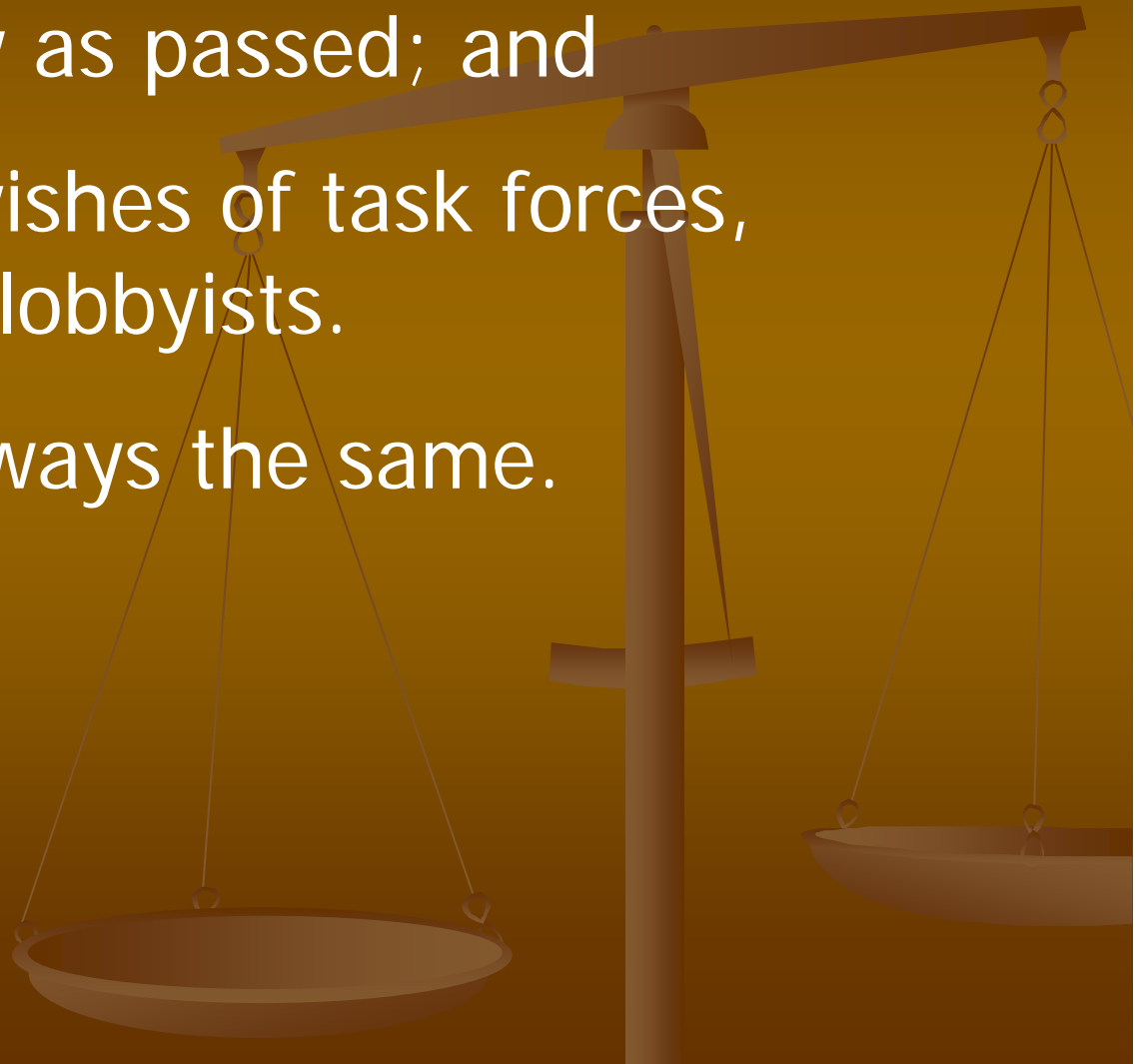
# Rules of Thumb

- Compromise v. No Compromise
- Don't Get Greedy
- Little Changes Have Big Effects
- Vigilance
- Sausage Making
- Examples
- Other



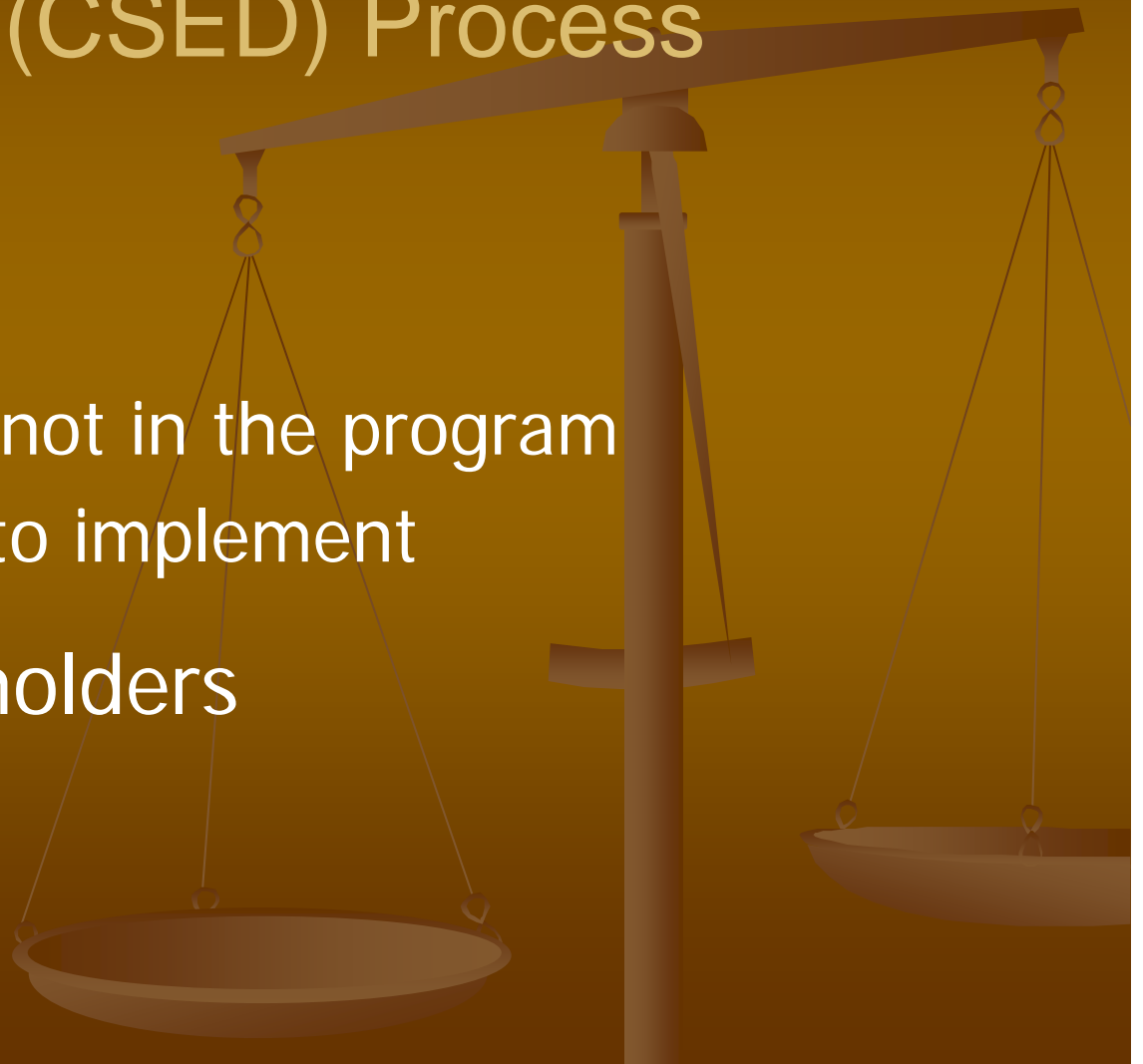
# Rules of Thumb

- There is the law as passed; and
- There are the wishes of task forces, advocates, and lobbyists.
- They are not always the same.



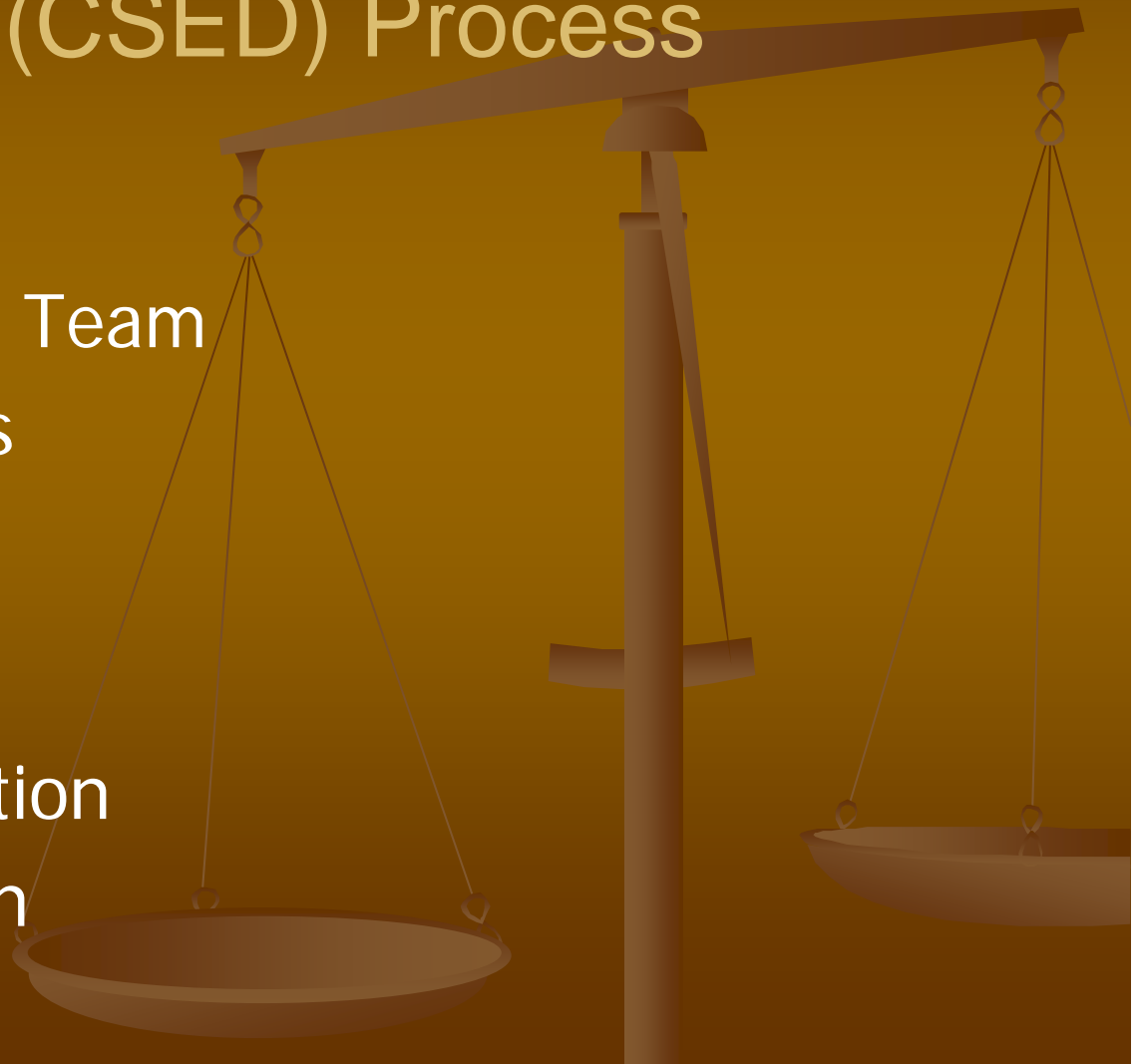
# Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) Process

- Evaluate Ideas
  - Program impact
  - Impact to those not in the program
  - Cost and ability to implement
- Meet with stakeholders



# Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) Process

- DHS bills
  - CSED Legislative Team
  - Approval process
  - Draft language
- Other bills
  - Prior to introduction
  - After introduction



# Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) Process



- Role with stakeholder bills
  - May work with stakeholders to:
    - Draft bill language
    - Provide technical assistance
  - Complete bill analysis
  - May meet with Legislator Author
  - May testify



# Minnesota Family Support and Recovery Council (MFSRC) Process

- MFSRC Legislative Committee
- MFSRC Board of Directors



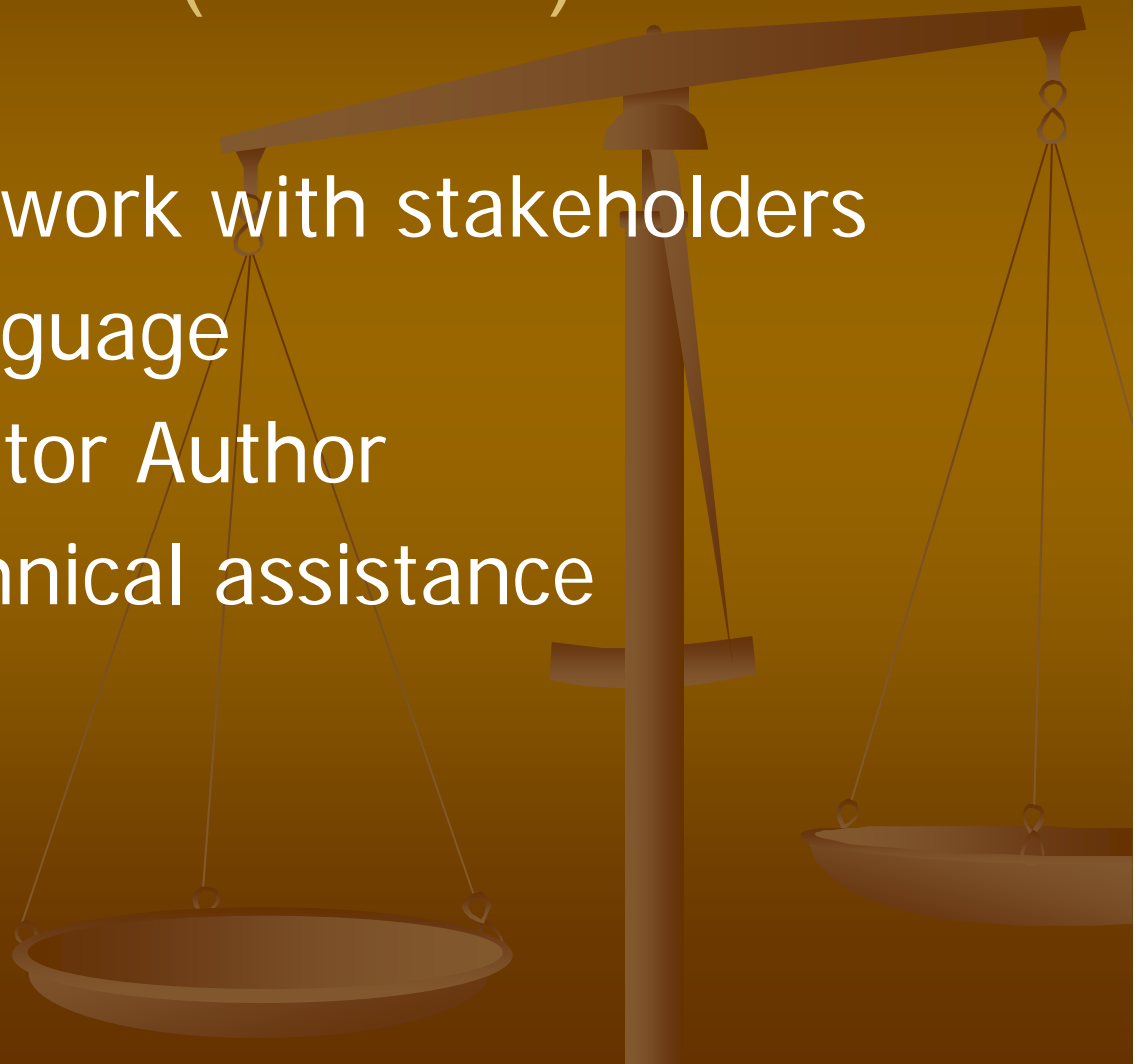
# Minnesota Family Support and Recovery Council (MFSRC) Process

- Decide to:
  - Take the Lead
  - Support
  - Remain Neutral
  - Oppose



# Minnesota Family Support and Recovery Council (MFSRC) Process

- May continue to work with stakeholders
- May draft bill language
- May seek Legislator Author
- May provide technical assistance
- May testify



# Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) Process

- MCAA Child Support Committee
- MCAA Board of Directors



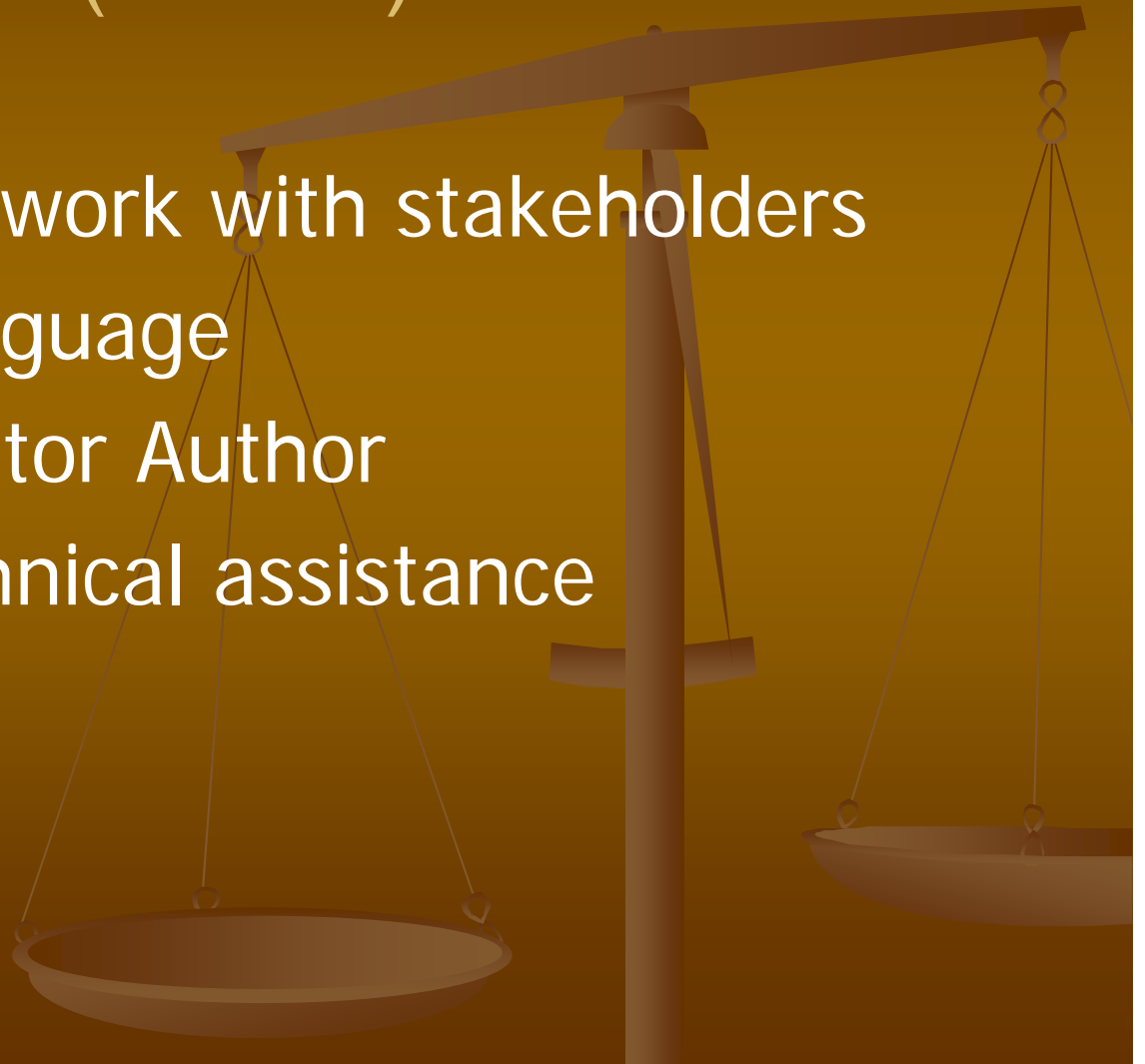
# Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) Process

- Decide to:
  - Take the Lead
  - Support
  - Remain Neutral
  - Oppose



# Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) Process

- May continue to work with stakeholders
- May draft bill language
- May seek Legislator Author
- May provide technical assistance
- May testify



# Summary

- Idea
- Bring to Organizations
- Draft Bill
- Seek Author
- Testify
- Hope for the Best
- Think Long Term



Questions ???

