
How a bill becomes a law



The Lesbian and Gay Legislative Advocacy Network-Philippines (LAGABLAB) is a broad, non-partisan, non-profit network of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) organizations and individuals working towards achieving a society free from all forms of discrimination, particularly those based on gender and sexual orientation

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**Bill
Filing**



**First
Reading**

- Which committee?
- Who are the members?



**Committee
Hearing**

- Bring the experts, lead the debate. Attend the technical working group, if there's any

- Anyone may draft a bill, but only legislators can sponsor it.

- A bill is read in the plenary, given a number (ex., H.B. 0001), and referred to a committee

- A committee conducts hearing on the bill and prepares a report on it. The committee may propose the creation of a Technical Working Group to resolve disagreements or incorporate revisions.

Committee Report

Check the difference between the substitute bill and the original bill. It very crucial to coordinate with the Committee Secretariat for amendments, etc.

Rules Committee

The Rules Committee is a very powerful Committee. It can kill a bill simply by causing delays.

Second Reading

Mobilize! A show of force is oftentimes necessary to pressure legislators.

Negotiate, and if necessary, compromise.

- A committee report is prepared (only) when the committee decides to recommend the bill's approval. It is read again at the plenary, and the report contains the substitute bill.
- The Committee on Rules schedules the bill for Second Reading. The Committee on Rules organizes the legislative priorities of Congress.
- Once a bill is scheduled for Second Reading, sponsorship speeches, debates and/or amendments take place at plenary level. The body may approve, reject, or bring the bill back to the committee. This is the most tedious part in lobbying.

Third Reading



Watch out for insertions or amendments. Coordinate with committee secretariat.



Enactment

Get the support of the President, if possible.

- Final passage of the bill. If it has no counterpart, the approved bill is forwarded to the Senate or to the House of Representatives
- If there are differences in the versions approved by the Senate and the House, a 'bi-cameral conference committee' (or 'bi-cam') is organized to harmonize the bill
- A bill is finally enacted when: 1. the President signs the bill, 2. fails to sign or veto the bill within 30 days, 3. or a veto is overturned by a 2/3 vote in Congress