



This overview accompanies MMUA's March 2026 Government Relations video, which explains the sometimes-confusing process by which a bill becomes law. Although the process generally follows 12 steps, several include alternative paths. The basic steps are outlined below.

1. **An idea for a new law—or a change to an existing statute—is suggested.** At MMUA, ideas come from members, joint power agencies, staff, and the Board of Directors. The process by which ideas are suggested and vetted is covered in earlier videos.
2. **A legislator agrees to sponsor the idea** and requests that it be drafted into an official bill.
3. **Supporters seek authors for the bill.** Typically, one chief author is secured in each chamber, along with up to five Senate authors and up to 35 House authors who serve as co-authors.
4. **The bill is formally introduced in both chambers.** It receives a first reading and is referred to the policy committee with jurisdiction over the subject matter.
5. **The chief author in each chamber requests a committee hearing** for the bill.
6. **During the committee hearing,** the author presents the bill, and testimony is taken from supporters, opponents, and others with relevant information. This is often when MMUA member advocates share their stories in support of the proposal.
7. **The committee debates the bill and may consider amendments.** The committee may vote to advance the bill to another committee or to the floor, lay it over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill, or vote it down.
8. **Bills must meet legislative deadlines.** They must advance through all required policy committees and then the finance committees by certain dates. A bill that misses these deadlines is generally considered dead for the session, although the video explains ways the issue may still be revived.
9. **If a bill clears its committee, it moves to the floor of the chamber.** It receives a second reading, when debate and amendments may occur, followed by a third reading, when additional debate may occur but no further amendments are allowed. The chamber then votes on final passage.
10. **If passed, the bill moves to the other chamber, where the process is repeated.** If the second chamber passes the bill in identical form, it is sent to the Governor. If the second chamber adopts a different version, the first chamber may agree to the changes or request a conference committee.
11. **A conference committee resolves differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.** If a negotiated agreement is reached, both chambers vote on the conference report, which cannot be amended.



12. **The final bill is sent to the Governor, who may sign or veto it.** Special options—such as the pocket veto or line-item veto—are discussed in the video.

Bill introductions, progress tracking, and committee schedules can be found at www.leg.mn.gov. MMUA members may pose questions to MMUA's government relations team and to one another by using the new Crossroads link at www.mmua.org.

And remember, what happens in St. Paul affects us all.

Throughout the session, watch for the *Capitol Letter*, a frequent update on the session as it progresses in real time and consider attending the weekly GRAG virtual meetings on Friday mornings. To be added to the GRAG list, email bblack@mmua.org. We hope you will consider joining MMUA and your municipal utilities colleagues us at MMUA's Legislative Conference **March 24–25** in downtown St. Paul where we will bring our issues directly to elected decision-makers.