

# NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE & GOVERNMENT 101

Presented by:

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# WHAT'S TO COME

- Branches of Government
- Focus on Legislature:
  - Leadership
  - Legislative Process
- Between Legislative Sessions
- How to Get Engaged



# Three Branches of Government

## Executive

- Governor Steve Sisolak
- Includes Department heads as cabinet members
  - Including State Superintendent Jhone Ebert
- Constitutional Officers:
  - Lt. Governor
  - Attorney General
  - Secretary of State
  - State Treasurer
  - State Controller

## Legislative

- Bicameral (two house) system
- 120-day sessions bi-annually
  - Every odd year
- Legislating: passing legislation/bills that become law
- Nevada Revised Statute or NRS
- First female-majority legislature in the US in 2019

## Judicial

- City & municipal courts
- District courts
- Appellate courts
- Nevada State Supreme Court
- Federal judicial system operates separately of our state judicial branch

# TWO HOUSES: SENATE & ASSEMBLY

## Senate

- 21 members:
  - 13 Democrats
  - 8 Republicans
- Serve 4-year terms
- Education Committee:
  - Senator Denis as Chair
  - Senator Woodhouse as Vice Chair
- Interim Education Committee
  - Senator Mo Denis

## Assembly

- 42 Members
  - 29 Democrats (1 open seat)
  - 13 Republicans
- Democrats have a super majority
- Serve 2-year terms
- Education Committee:
  - Assemblyman Flores as Chair
  - Assemblywoman Miller as Vice Chair
- Interim Committee on Education
  - Assemblywoman Miller as Vice Chair

OUR LEADERSHIP:  
SENATE  
DEMOCRATS



Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader

- Up for election in 2020
- Deputy District Attorney for Clark County



Julia Ratti, Senate Majority Assistant Leader

- Up for election in 2022
- Former Sparks City Councilmember
- Non-profit management

OUR LEADERSHIP:  
ASSEMBLY  
DEMOCRATS



Jason Frierson, Speaker

- Up for re-election in 2020
- District Attorney's Office



Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Majority  
Floor Leader

- Up for re-election in 2020
- Licensed social worker

OUR LEADERSHIP:  
REPUBLICANS



James Settelmeyer, Senate Minority  
Leader

- Up for re-election in 2022
- Owns ranch in Gardnerville

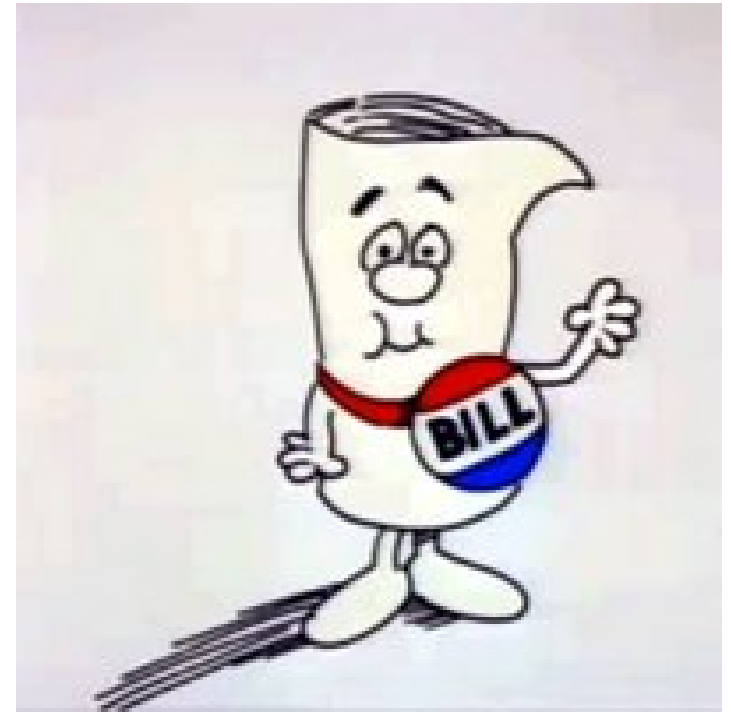


Robin Titus, Assembly Republican  
Caucus Leader

- Up for re-election in 2020
- Family practice doctor in  
Wellington

# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

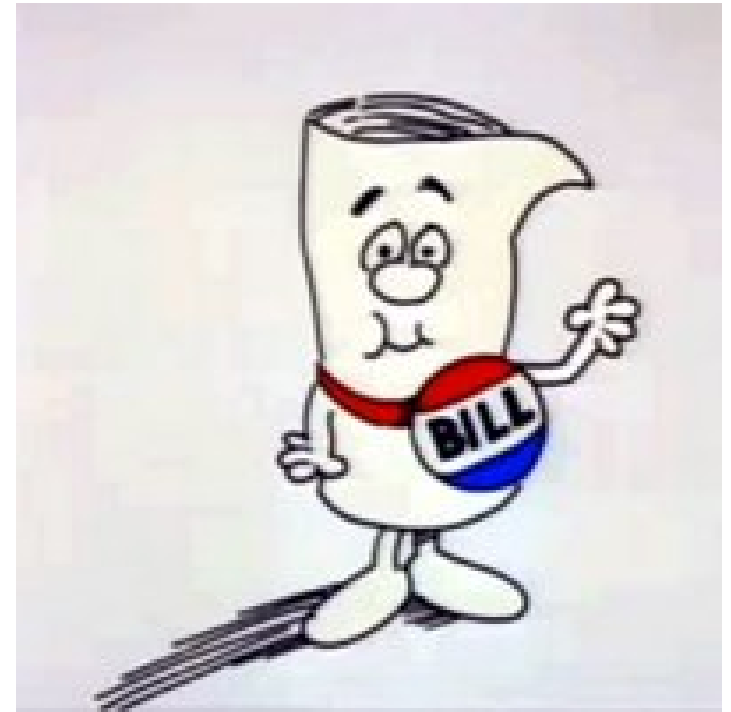
1. A legislator, committee, or government entity submits a bill draft request (BDR) to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) staff that supports the legislative branch.
2. Bill language is published.
3. The bill must be introduced on the floor of origin where the entire body of one house sits. It is then referred to a committee.
4. The committee holds a public hearing where a person provides an overview and background of the bill. Legislators on the committee may ask questions of the presenter (typically the sponsoring legislator). Stakeholders are permitted to provide public comment in support, opposition or neutral to the bill





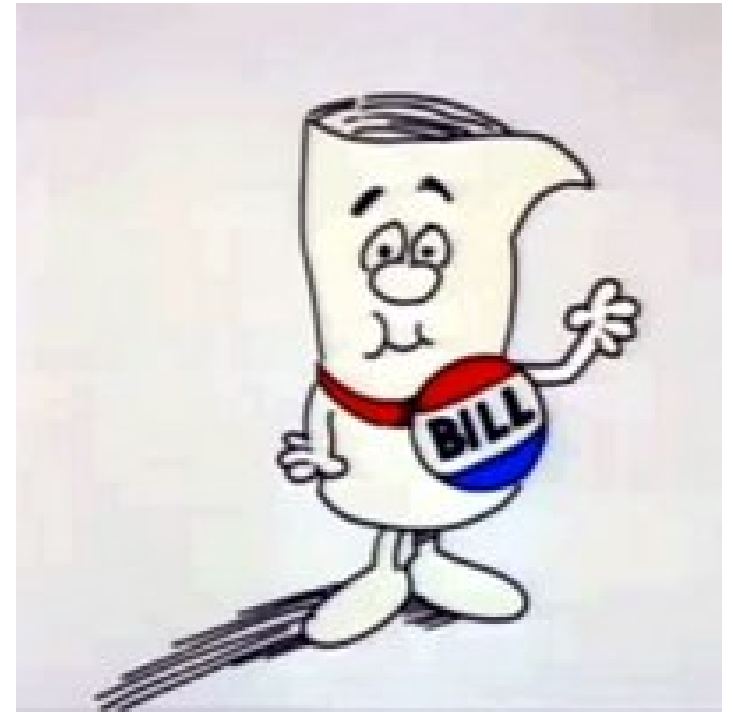
# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

5. Typically at a later committee meeting, the chair will bring a bill up to be voted out of the committee. The vote is seen as a recommendation to all the members of the house.
  - If the bill passes, it then goes back to the floor for a second reading. If there are any amendments approved by the committee, the entire body votes to adopt the amendment.
  - If the bill fails to be voted out of committee, it does not move forward. A chair may decide never to bring a bill up for a vote.
6. After amendments are adopted and the appropriate number of floor readings are completed, the house may vote on a bill.
  - Most bills just need a simple majority. Revenue increasing measures must receive a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.



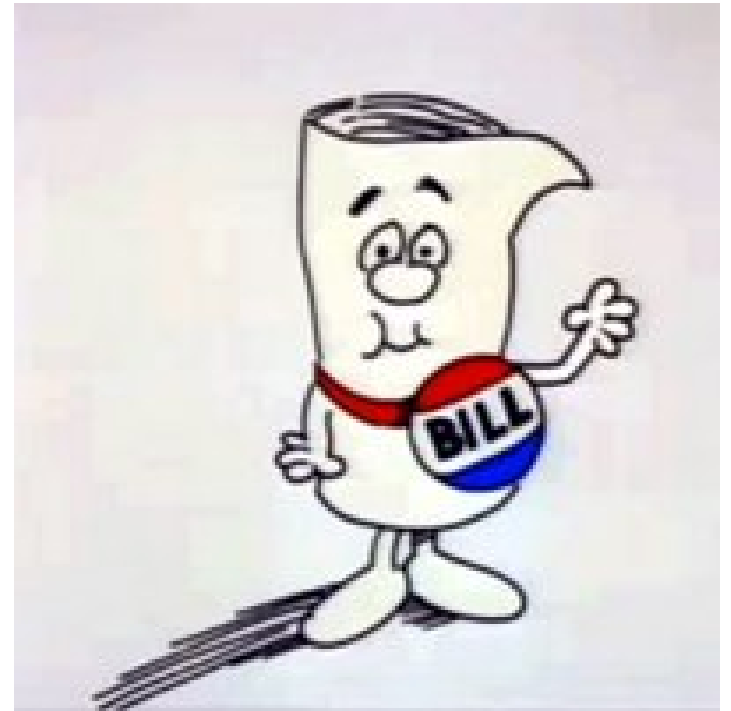
# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

7. If the bill passes out of the first house, it must repeat the process in the second house: first reading, committee hearing, committee vote, amendments adopted, floor readings and vote.
8. If there is an amendment to the bill in the second house, the house of origin must approve the amendment.
9. If they don't approve, then each house picks three legislators to attend a conference committee to compromise on amendments. The bill must go back to each floor for a final vote.
10. Once a bill is passed out both houses and amendments are approved, the bill goes to the governor for signing.



# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

11. The governor may sign or veto a bill within a set period of time. The timeline for approval or veto varies depending on the timing of session.
12. Within each bill, there is an effective date for the bill to begin.
13. If the bill is vetoed, the bill returns to the legislature to decide whether or not to override the veto. An override vote needs 2/3rds.
14. If designated, a new law may go through a regulatory process.



# INTERIM PROCESS

## REGULATIONS

- Regulation in Nevada is referred to as Nevada Administrative Code or NAC
- Written by various executive departments like the Department of Education
- A bill may need further clarity after it is passed so departments may draft regulation to provide that clarity to carry out the law
- A bill passage is not required to change regulation

## POLICY DISCUSSION

- Interim legislative committees discuss legislation passed in the previous session and outline priorities for the next session
- Each interim committee gets 10 BDRs for the next session
- The interim is also time for legislators to work with constituents and stakeholders on potential policies for the upcoming session.

We are tracking activity at the Nevada Department of Education, Interim Committee on Education and Commission on School Funding.

# Hot Topic: Education Policy

- Additional revenue streams for education
- Modernizing the funding formula
- Anti-bullying
- Charter schools
- Categorical programs: Victory, Zoom, Read by 3
- Wrap around services
- Social & emotional learning
- Teacher pipeline



GET ENGAGED!

- As school board members, you can be advocates for the students within your district
  - You are also constituents of your legislators
  - Encourage you to speak openly with legislators who represent your school district
  - There is also space to speak at public comment during regulation hearings and various legislative committees
  - To find your legislators visit:  
<http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>
    - You can also find this link by Googling the Nevada State Legislature or going to leg.state.nv.us. Select Who's my legislator on the column to the right.
  - For more information on communications and engagement, you can visit our workshop this afternoon
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QUESTIONS