

VI. THIRD READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

After perfection and re-printing, a bill goes on the calendar for Third Reading. Only technical corrective amendments may be introduced at this stage, but members may debate the bill. At the conclusion of debate, a recorded vote is taken. Approval by a constitutional majority of the elected members (82 in the House) is required for final passage. If the bill receives the required minimum of 82 votes, it is sent to the Senate, where it is again read a first and second time; referred to a committee for a public hearing; reported by committee; amended on the floor and offered for final approval. If the Senate changes the bill in any way, it is sent back to the House with the request that the changes be approved. If they are, the bill is Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed and sent to the Governor for his consideration. If one or more Senate changes are rejected, a conference may be requested and five members from each house are designated as a conference committee. Upon agreement by the conference committee (usually a compromise of differences), each reports to its own house on the committee's recommendation. If both houses approve the conference committee report, the bill is declared Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed. The bill is reprinted and the words "Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed" are printed above the bill number. If either house rejects the conference committee report, it may be returned to the same or a newly-appointed conference committee for further conferences.

Consent Bills: There is a procedure in both the House and the Senate for expedited treatment of bills of a non-controversial nature. In the House the procedure is this: By unanimous vote any House committee may report a bill which neither increases state costs nor reduces state revenues to the consent calendar. The bill remains on the Consent Bills for Perfection Calendar for five days. At the end of that time, as long as at least five members have not objected to it being on the Consent Calendar, it is considered perfected and is placed on the Consent Bills for Third Reading Calendar. On Third Reading such bills may not be amended. They may, however, be amended in the Senate.