

The Legislative Process

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The NH General Court By Numbers

- 3rd Largest Legislative Body in the English-Speaking World
- 400 Volunteer Member House
- 24 Volunteer Member Senate
- 30% Turnover Every 2 Years
- Members of the County Delegation
- 1,000+ bills filed every year
- \$13 Billion Budget
- Every bill has a Public Hearing
- Every bill has a Vote on the Floor
- 22 House Policy Committees
- 14 Senate Policy Committees



2023 General Court

House

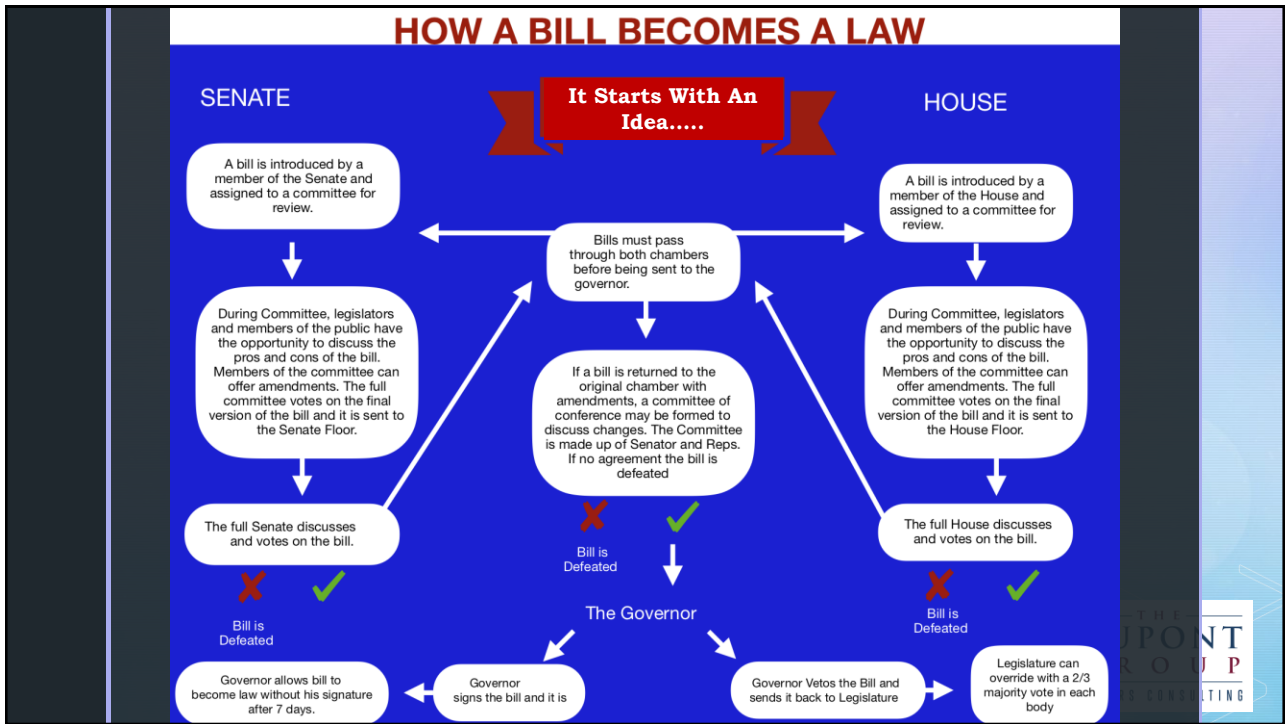
- 201 Republicans
- 198 Democrats
- 1 Election Tie – undetermined
- 157 New Members
- 11 (of 22) new Committee Chairs

Senate

- 14 Republicans
- 10 Democrats
- 9 New Members
- Major shift of membership on Senate Finance

How Do They Get Anything Done?

- Rely on "Advice"
 - Committee Recommendations
 - Party Leadership Guidance
 - Lobbyists' advocacy
 - Constituents' Calls
 - Governor's Advice
 - State Agencies' Advice
- Most Work is Done in Committees
- Calendars and Schedules
 - Very Tight Deadlines
 - But, They have More Flexibility than They Let On



Basic Step by Step

- Bills can be filed in both the House and Senate
- In each body, every bill gets a public hearing, committee vote and is reported to the floor to a vote.
- Every bill that is approved by the House or Senate, then goes to the other body for approval
- Bills which have passed both the House and Senate in an agree upon form, must then go to the Governor
- The Governor can sign the bill, veto the bill or allow a bill to become law without signature

The Lobbying Process

- Contract lobbyists
- In-House
 - Full Time
 - Part Time
- Knowing the Rhythm, Rules and the Policy

