ACLU Wisconsin

Wisconsin Legislative Process Overview

Bill Drafted

Legislator (or state agency) requests a bill draft from Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB); LRB drafts bill

Circulated for Co-Sponsorship

The bill's author(s) send out a co-sponsorship memo to get other legislators to sign on to the bill

Bill Introduced in Assembly

Given bill number (e.g. 2023 Assembly Bill 101), referred to Assembly committee by legislative leadership

Fiscal Estimates

State agencies affected by the bill submit fiscal estimate(s) about how much the proposal will cost

Public Hearing

Assembly committee holds public hearing, scheduled by committee chair and clerk

Amendments

Amendments, if needed, are drafted by LRB and introduced by amendment author

Executive Session

Assembly committee holds executive session (takes a vote) on the bill and any amendments; majority vote needed

Assembly Floor Vote

Legislative leadership schedules bill (and amendments) for a vote from the entire Assembly; majority vote needed to pass

Bill Introduced in Senate

Given bill number (e.g. 2023 Senate Bill 101), referred to Senate committee by legislative leadership

Fiscal Estimates

State agencies affected by the bill submit fiscal estimate(s) about how much the proposal will cost

Public Hearing

Senate committee holds public hearing, scheduled by committee chair and clerk

Amendments

Amendments, if needed, are drafted by LRB and introduced by amendment author

Executive Session

Senate committee holds executive session (takes a vote) on the bill and any amendments; majority vote needed

Assembly Floor Vote

Legislative leadership schedules bill (and amendments) for a vote from the entire Senate; majority vote needed to pass

Legislature Passes Bill

Both houses of the legislature must pass an identical bill by a majority vote

Bill Sent to Governor

If passed by the Assembly and Senate, the bill is sent to the governor for signature or veto

Governor Signs Bill

Bill becomes an Act and is renamed (e.g. 2023 Act 5)

Act Implemented

Relevant agencies/departments implement the Act

Governor Vetoes Bill

Governor issues veto message

Veto Override

Legislature may override veto by 2/3 vote