

## Introducing and Passing a Bill in the Philadelphia City Council

The process of introducing and passing a bill in the Philadelphia City Council generally involves several key steps. Throughout this process, there are opportunities for public engagement, revisions, and scrutiny by council members and other stakeholders to ensure that the proposed legislation addresses community needs and concerns effectively.

- **Drafting the Bill:** The process begins with the drafting of a bill. This could be initiated by a council member, the Mayor, a committee, or a citizen. The bill's language is carefully crafted to outline its purpose, provisions, and proposed changes to existing laws or regulations.
- **Introducing the Bill:** Once drafted, the bill is formally introduced in the Philadelphia City Council. Typically, a council member sponsors the bill by formally submitting it during a council session. The bill is then assigned a number and referred to the appropriate committee for review.
- **Committee Review:** The bill is referred to a specific committee based on its subject matter (e.g., finance, public safety, zoning). The committee conducts hearings where stakeholders, experts, and the public can provide testimony and feedback on the bill. The committee can suggest amendments or modifications to the bill.
- **Committee Vote:** After the hearings and deliberations, the committee votes on whether to advance the bill to the full council. If approved by the committee, the bill moves forward; otherwise, it may be tabled or not recommended for further consideration.
- **First Reading:** If the bill is approved by the committee, it proceeds to the full City Council for a first reading. During this reading, the bill is presented, and council members have an opportunity to discuss its merits.
- **Public Comment and Amendments:** After the first reading, there may be additional public comment periods where citizens can voice their opinions on the bill. Council members may also propose amendments to refine the bill based on feedback or further discussions.
- **Second Reading and Final Passage:** The bill undergoes a second reading and final vote by the City Council. A majority vote of the council members present is usually required to pass the bill. If the bill passes, it is sent to the Mayor for approval.
- **Mayor's Action:** Once the bill is approved by the City Council, it is sent to the Mayor for signature. The Mayor can either sign the bill into law, veto it (in which case the Council

may override the veto with a higher majority vote), or let it become law without signature.

- Implementation: If signed by the Mayor or if the Mayor's veto is overridden, the bill becomes law. Relevant city departments then take steps to implement and enforce the provisions of the new law.