How a Bill Becomes a Law

Introduction – Bills are introduced in each chamber and given a number (Senate Bills start at 001; House Bills start at 4000). This is considered First Reading.

Bills are sent to committees where it receives a hearing or debate, and can be changed (amended) by committee members.

Bills return to the full chamber on Second Reading and can be amended by any lawmaker with a majority of votes.

Bills then move to Third Reading where lawmakers can only vote yes or no on final passage.

After passing the House or Senate, the bill moves to the other chamber and goes through the same process (committee, Second Reading, Third Reading).

Governor signature - the governor has 14 days to sign or veto a bill or it automatically becomes law.

Conference Committees are used when the House and Senate cannot agree on the final version of the bill before it's presented to the governor. This is often the case in Appropriation bills (such as for MDCH).

More than 5,000 bills are introduced each two-year session, but only 15 % make it to the governor's desk, and fewer than that actually become a public act.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS