Legislative Process

Bill Introduction
“Bills” include proposed bills, resolutions, governor’s bills, committee bills, raised bills, and proposed drafts. See Joint Rules 7 & 9, Rules of the General Assembly, in Connecticut (C.T.) Legislative Guide.

First Reading
The bill is given a number and assigned to a committee. Bills originating in the Senate are numbered starting at 1; bills originating in the House begin numbering at 5,000. Not all bills are actually read aloud. See Joint Rules 8(b) & 16, in Rules of the General Assembly, in C.T. Legislative Guide.

Public Hearing in Committee
Unlike the United States Congress, all committees of Connecticut’s General Assembly are joint committees consisting of members of both the House and Senate. Not all bills receive a public hearing. see Rule 6, in Rules of the General Assembly, in C.T. Legislative Guide.

Bill Is Reported by Committee
The committee decides whether to refer the bill to another committee, amend it, and/or give the bill a favorable or unfavorable report. The committee is not required to publish an actual report. Reporting of the bill constitutes its second reading. See Joint Rules 13-16, in Rules of the General Assembly, in C.T. Legislative Guide.

Documentation of Legislative Intent

Bill Title, Text, and Statement of Purpose
For discussions of bill text as a source of legislative intent, see Starkes v. U. of Conn., 270 Conn. 1, 850 A.2d 1013 (2004); Travelers Ins. Co. v. Pondi-Salik, 262 Conn. 746, 817 A.2d 663 (2004); Manchester Sand & Gravel Co. v. South Windsor, 203 Conn. 267, 524 A.2d 621

Submitted Testimony/Hearing Transcripts

Bill Text & Joint Favorable Reports

Sources

1988- present: Connecticut (C.T.) General Assembly advanced search
1911 - present: C.T. State Library, Law and Legislative Reference Unit
pre-1911: State Library Archives, General Assembly records, RG002

Submitted Testimony, 2005-present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Committee Hearing Transcripts, 1988-present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Submitted Testimony and Official Committee Hearing Transcripts, early 1900s-present: C.T. State Library, Law and Legislative Reference Unit

Bill text, 1988 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Bill text, 1911 - present: C.T. State Library, Law and Legislative Reference Unit
Bill text, pre-1911: State Library Archives, General Assembly records, RG002
Joint Favorable Reports, 2000-2014: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Analysis of Legislation
Immediately after being reported favorably, the bill is submitted to the Legislative Commissioners’ Office (LCO) for review. The LCO examines the bill for compliance with the state constitution, consistency with existing statutes, accuracy, cleanness and conciseness. The Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) looks at the bill’s financial impact and prepares a Fiscal Note. The Office of Legislative Research (OLR) writes a plain-language summary of the bill (Bill Analysis). The OLR might also be required to issue a Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement to accompany the bill file. The OFA and OLR reports are included in the file for the bill that is provided to each legislator prior to floor debate. See Joint Rule 13, in Rules of the General Assembly, Connecticut (C.T.) Legislative Guide.

Bill Analysis & Fiscal Analysis
Bill Analysis, 1990 - present: Connecticut (C.T.) General Assembly advanced search
Fiscal Note, 1988 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Other OLR Reports, 1994 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
Other OFA Reports, 2008 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search

Floor Action
The bill first goes to the chamber from which it originated. The clerk of the House or Senate puts the bill on the calendar (a list of all bills each day that are awaiting action). On the third day after being placed on the calendar, the bill has its third reading and is ready for debate and a vote. After passing one house, the bill is transferred to the other chamber for debate and a vote. See Joint Rule 17, Senate Rules 24-27, House Rules 36-41, in C.T. Legislative Guide.

Session Transcripts

1988 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
1953 - present: Print transcripts available at the CT State Library, Law and Legislative Reference Unit
1945 - 1953: Partial coverage from the Connecticut State Library, Law and Legislative Reference Unit
Pre-1945: Although formal transcripts are not necessarily available prior to 1945, you might find relevant supplementary information in the records State Library Archives, General Assembly records, RG002

Engrossing
If a bill passes both chambers, it’s submitted to the LCO for engrossing. Engrossment is the final certification that the bill is correct and printed in its final form with all amendments incorporated. The bill is transmitted to the Secretary of State and upon receipt becomes a public act. The Secretary of State then presents it to the Governor for signature.

Public Act
1672 - last year’s session: HeinOnline
1988 - present: C.T. General Assembly advanced search
2000-2010, 2013: Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research

Governor’s Signature or Veto
A Public Act becomes law either when signed by the Governor or when the amount of time during which the Governor may sign or veto lapses. If the Governor receives the bill while the legislature is in session, he has five calendar days to sign it (not counting Sundays and holidays).

Veto Packages
2000-2010, 2013: Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research