

Legislative Process

Documentation of Legislative Intent

Sources

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](#).

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

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](#)

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](#).

N/A

N/A

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](#).

Submitted Testimony/Hearing Transcripts

For discussions of hearing transcripts and testimony, see [Jim’s Auto Body v. Commr. of Motor Veh.](#), 285 Conn. 794; 942 A.2d 305 (2008); [State v. Ledbetter](#), 240 Conn. 317, 692 A.2d 713 (1997); [Spring v. Constantino](#), 168 Conn. 563, 362 A.2d 871 (1975)

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](#)

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](#).

Bill Text & Joint Favorable Reports

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, in [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

For discussion of floor debate as evidence of legislative intent, see [Middlebury v. Dept. of Environmental Protection](#), 283 Conn. 156, 927 A.2d 793 (2007), [Doe v. Marselle](#), 236 Conn. 845, 675 A.2d 835 (1996), [Elections Rev. Comm. v. Freedom of Info. Commn.](#) 219 Conn. 685, 595 A.2d 313 (1991), [Manchester Sand & Gravel Co. v. South Windsor](#), 203 Conn. 267, 524 A.2d 621 (1987)

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 RG007](#)

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

1988 - present: [C.T. General Assembly advanced search](#)

1672 - last year's session: [HeinOnline](#)

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](#)