

How a Bill Becomes a NH Law¹

Common Terms and Abbreviations

BY PROCESS

Introducing a Bill

LSR - Legislative Service Request

OLS - Office of Legislative Services

PRIME SPONSOR - the lead State Representative or Senator who proposes the legislation

CO-SPONSOR - other Representatives or Senators who indicate support for the legislation as introduced

Public Hearing

LOB - Legislative Office Building

FISCAL NOTE - a cost estimate attached to a bill to indicate its fiscal impact

EXECUTIVE SESSION - a convening of a committee to discuss and make a recommendation on the bill

OTP - Ought to Pass or OTP/A - Ought to Pass as Amended

ITL - Inexpedient to Legislate

IS - Interim Study

RE-REFER TO COMMITTEE - a recommendation used at times by Senate Committees in the first year of the legislative session

Floor Action

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY/PI - a request for information from the presiding officer regarding procedure

POINT OF ORDER - a question raised by a member when there is doubt regarding procedure or a statement

¹ References: NH General Court Legislative Handbook
http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/08book_fnal.pdf and Docket Abbreviations
http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/docket_abbrev.htm



LAY ON THE TABLE/ LOT - a non-debatable motion to set aside a bill until further action is desired

CONSENT CALENDAR/CC - a list of bills that is considered noncontroversial measures

DIVISION VOTE/ DIV - a vote on an issue counted by individual votes but not individual names

ROLL CALL/RC - a recorded vote by name

Referral to the Other Legislative Body

CROSSOVER - a date during the legislative year when bills introduced in the House move to the Senate and bills introduced in the Senate move to the House

HJ -/HC - House Journal/House Calendar

SJ/SC - Senate Journal/Senate Calendar

CONCUR, NON-CONCUR, NON-CONCUR WITH COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE - Options of the originating legislative body if original bill is amended

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE - a small group of legislators, usually 4 House and 3 Senate members, selected by their respective officers and charged with the reconciling of differences on the content of a bill that has passed both chambers

To the Governor

ENROLLED - Action taken by the Office of Legislative Services once a bill passes both Houses or comes out of Committee of Conference. The bill is sent to the Secretary of State who delivers it to the Governor.

VETO - The return of a bill to the Legislature by the Governor without an approving signature. The Legislature may override a veto with a 2/3 vote.

SIGNING CERMONY - a celebratory gathering of the Governor signing a bill into law

Overriding a Veto

RECALL - to summon a piece of legislation and return to the body last acting upon it

SPECIAL ORDER - a matter of legislative business set for a designated time and day

Citizen Participation

TESTIMONY - oral and/or written support or opposition for a bill provided at the public hearing



CACR - a Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution is a proposed constitutional change requiring 3/5 margin of the entire membership of each chamber. CACRs pass directly to the voters for ratification by a 2/3 margin at the next general election.



ALPHABETIC

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