

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN METRO COUNCIL

METRO COUNCIL IS MADE UP
OF 40 COUNCIL MEMBERS

BILLS CAN BE DEFERRED
TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY

BILL IS INTRODUCED

At least one Council member sponsors a bill and files it with the Metro Clerk's Office before the filing deadline. Then the bill is introduced

FIRST READING

The bill comes to the floor for a first reading. Then the bill is voted on and almost always passes as a courtesy.

ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

The bill is assigned to a committee or committees by the Vice Mayor (which by Rule is usually deferred to the Metro Clerk to handle). The committee meets about the bill and then makes a recommendation to the full Council. The public is often able to comment on the bill at committee meetings.

SECOND READING

The bill comes to the floor for a second reading, which can include a time for public comments.

- Bills can't be amended after the second reading—except for bills pertaining to revenue, budget, economic development incentives, or zoning.
- If it passes the second reading, it comes for a third reading and final vote two weeks after.

THIRD READING

Council members vote on the bill which has to receive at least 21 votes to pass. If Planning Commission or the Traffic and Parking Commission disapprove of the bill, the bill has to receive at least 27 votes to pass.

All legislation approved by the Council is sent to the Mayor for approval (or disapproval) before the next Council meeting. If the Mayor does not veto a piece of legislation but simply refuses to sign it, the legislation will become effective without the Mayor's signature.

BILL BECOMES A LAW

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The agenda, an analysis of the proposed legislation, and the minutes of each meeting are published on the Metropolitan Council website, www.nashville.gov/Metro-Council.aspx