

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN NEW HAMPSHIRE – GLOSSARY OF TERMS
Supplement to the Presentation

Table 4

January 4, 2023

Making sense of the alphabet soup of the legislative process!

CALENDAR – where the bills officially appear/are printed. “Any amendments proposed by the committee which make material changes in the original bill must be printed in the calendar.”

ENROLLMENT – the process where the Committee on Enrolled Bills (also known as the “Rules and Enrolled Bills Committee”) “carefully examines the bill for clerical errors or formal imperfections. In case of such errors, it reports them back to both houses for amendment in those particulars only.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION – a meeting of the committee that is part of the deliberation process for a bill, “[a] majority must be present in order to take action. The public may observe committees in executive session as they take their final vote on a bill.”

FIRST READING – when the bill is first introduced to the legislature in the chamber. Usually, the title (a brief, usually a sentence description of the bill) is read aloud. The **SECOND READING** is when the bill (its title) is read a second time and there may be action/debate on the bill from the chamber. The “reading” practice originates from British style parliamentary procedure.

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE (“ITL”) – a recommendation by the committee indicating that the committee is against the bill.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (“JLCAR”) – “is the legislative body that has oversight authority for rules proposed and adopted by agencies. As it is a ‘joint committee,’ it is made up of members of both the NH House and Senate. JLCAR does not have the power to veto rules.”

LAID ON THE TABLE - “This status means the House or Senate voted to set aside the bill. They can vote at a later date to take the bill off the table and continue the legislative process. If they do not vote to take the bill off the table by the end of the legislative session, the bill dies.”

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE REQUEST (“LSR”) – an LSR is a request to have a bill drafted. The request comes from a legislator. LSR numbers start with 1 in the first year of session and 2001 in the second session.

MAJORITY/MINORITY REPORT – the **MAJORITY REPORT** is filed by a member of the committee majority and describes the reasoning for the committee’s decision; the **MINORITY REPORT** is filed by a member of the minority and describes their reasoning for the opposition/losing decision.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES (“OLS”) – a state office that assists legislators in drafting bills, the drafting attorneys at OLS “translate” the legislator’s intent and topic and drafts the bill in the correct form.

OUGHT TO PASS (“OTP”) – “[a] recommendation by the committee indicating that the committee supports the bill.”

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT (“OTPA”) – “[a] recommendation by the committee indicating that the committee supports the bill with an amendment(s).”

POCKET VETO – when the Governor does not respond to a bill within five days, it is left unsigned and dies.

REFER TO INTERIM STUDY – the committee requests further analysis before acting upon the bill.

RE-REFER TO COMMITTEE – the chamber votes to send the bill back to the committee for further consideration.

RULES AND ENROLLED BILLS COMMITTEE – a standing committee of the Senate that is focused on the enrollment process (see above).

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