

Pass that Law!

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING

The Minister presents the Bill, statement of compatibility with Human Rights and explanatory notes to the House. The Minister gives a speech explaining why the new law is needed and how it will work. The Bill is referred to a parliamentary committee to be investigated. The short title is read for the first time.



COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee lets the public know about the Bill and invites people to make a submission. Some stakeholders are invited to meetings with the Committee (public hearings) so that the Committee Members can ask questions and find out more information. The Committee Inquiry can last from 6 weeks – 6 months.



SECOND READING

The Minister gives a speech about the Bill and the Committee Report. The Shadow Minister gives a speech outlining the Opposition position – what they agree with or changes they think should be made to the Bill. Members from both sides of the House speak about the Bill. The short title of the Bill is read for the second time.



COMMITTEE REPORT

The findings of the Committee's Inquiry into the Bill are collated into a report. The Committee may make a number of recommendations about how the Bill could be improved. The report is presented to the Parliament.



CONSIDERATION-IN-DETAIL

The Bill is examined clause by clause. Both Government and non-Government Members can move amendments and ask the Minister for more information. There may be a number of formal votes (Divisions) on whether to keep or amend the individual clauses in the Bill.



THIRD READING

This is a further opportunity for division. The short title is read for the third time. The long title is agreed to – the Members have to make sure that it still covers the content of the Bill after the changes have been made. The Bill is now passed by the Legislative Assembly but it is not a law.



DIVISION

A formal vote in the Parliament. The Bells ring and Members have to come into the Chamber to vote. The Whips count the votes for the major parties. The minor parties and Independents report their votes to the Speaker. Members' votes are recorded against their names in Hansard.



ROYAL ASSENT

The Bill is signed by the Governor as the representative of the Crown. The Bill becomes an Act and is now a law.

