



***BERMUDA***

***HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY***

***The Legislative Process in the  
House of Assembly and the Senate***

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## Legislative Process in House & Senate

After the Drafting phase of the process is completed:

- House** - Bills introduced and read by Title only at First Reading by responsible Minister;
- Bill is then listed on Order Paper for the Second Reading at sequent meeting;
  - Minister will lead Second Reading and general debate on the Bill in the House, with the Speaker presiding;
  - After Seconding Reading approval, House resolves into Committee of the Whole for further consideration of Bill, with a Chairman presiding;
  - During Committee stage, Minister leads detailed debate on specifics of the Bill;
  - Amendments to Bill may be considered and approved during Committee;
  - After approval of all clauses of Bill in Committee, Committee reports to House;
  - Report of Committee, including any amendments, is agreed by the House;
  - Third Reading and Passage usually follows on same day as Second Reading, but comes after the House has dealt with all items on the Order Paper;
  - There is no debate on the third reading of a Bill;
  - Overprint of the Bill is signed by the Speaker and forwarded on to the Senate.

- Senate** -Bills introduced and read by Title only for First Reading by the President;
- Bill is then listed on Order Paper for the Second Reading at sequent meeting;
  - Responsible Minister or Junior Minister Second Reading and general debate on the Bill in the House, with President presiding;
  - After Second Reading approval, Senate resolves into Committee of the Whole for further consideration of Bill, with a Chairman presiding;
  - \* Note that Committee stage is sometimes skipped in Senate as Senate Rule 26 provides this convenience in expediting passage, particularly when Bill is not contentious;
  - In Committee, Minister/Junior Minister leads debate on specific of the Bill;
  - Amendments to Bill may be considered and approved during Committee stage;
  - After approval of all clauses of Bill in Committee, Committee reports to Senate;
  - Report of Committee, including any amendments, is agreed to by the Senate,
  - \* If a Bill is amended, it is returned to the House with a Message requesting Concurrence in Senate's amendment to the Bill; and if the House agrees to the amendment, a Message of concurrence from the House is sent back;
  - Third Reading and Passage usually follows immediately after Second Reading;
  - There is no debate on the third reading of a Bill;
  - Overprint of Bill or amended Bill is signed by President and forwarded on for the Governor's Assent.

**Note** that there are some differences in processing Private Bills; and that there are different legislative procedures for approving subsidiary legislation. [e.g. Subsidiary items (statutory instruments) cannot be amended during debate; instead a new revised version of the item much be tabled for debate and approval.]