## How Does an IDEA Become a LAW?

It's complicated! And it takes a *lot* of work by a *lot* of people. The members of the General Assembly study and debate the idea. People living in North Carolina can also voice their opinions by contacting their representatives. Not all ideas make it! At any point along the way, a bill can "die" and never become law. But for those that do, here are the basic steps that an idea must go through to become a law in North Carolina.

Based on information from the North Carolina Secretary of State's website www.sosnc.gov/divisions/publications/kids\_page\_law.

A representative or senator writes a bill.

A concerned citizen, group, or legislator has an idea and suggests legislation.

The bill goes to the other chamber of the General Assembly.

> The senate or house passes the bill.

The bill is introduced to either

the house of

representatives

or the senate.

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A committee reviews the bill and reports on it.

The house or senate passes the bill.

A conference committee made up of house and senate members writes a final version of the bill.

The governor signs the bill.

The secretary of state is given custody of the bill, and it becomes a law.

> The house and senate pass the final version of the bill.

If the bill has been changed, it either returns to the original chamber for a new vote OR proceeds to a conference committee. If no changes have been made, the bill is sent to the governor.

