HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW – A (SOMEWHAT SIMPLIFIED) ROADMAP TO PASSAGE IN NEW YORK STATE

START WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A BILL

- Bill is introduced by a member of the Senate or Assembly, or both
- Public Hearing held to discuss the bill
- Bill is referred to committee with relevant subject matter jurisdiction
- Bill is placed on a committee agenda for a vote
- Bill is reported to the floor
- Bill is placed on the calendar and aged for 3 days ("calendar reading")
- Bill is placed on the 'active list' to be voted on by the full house

ALTERNATE ROUTE

- No action taken and the bill ‘dies’ in committee
- Bill doesn’t pass and ‘dies’
- Bill is ‘held’ for consideration
- Bill is ‘laid aside’ by the sponsor

DEAD END

- Bill is vetoed
- Bill is defeated
- Bill sits on 3rd calendar reading indefinitely
- Bill doesn’t pass and ‘dies’

FINISH WITH A LAW

- After Bill passes BOTH houses, it is delivered to the Governor by the house that first passed the bill
- Bill is signed or no action is taken (generally, 10 day deadline for Governor to act)
- Bill is chaptered and becomes a law
- Veto is overturned by 2/3 majority vote in each house

* A bill can be amended at any time during this process - and often is - as the sponsor receives both positive and negative feedback. This can delay or derail the bill.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Bill is referred to another committee (w/ or w/o positive report)

GENERAL NOTES

- Bill is placed on the 'active list' to be voted on by the full house
- Bill sits on 3rd calendar reading indefinitely
- No action taken and the bill 'dies' in committee
- Bill is defeated
- Veto is overturned by 2/3 majority vote in each house
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