

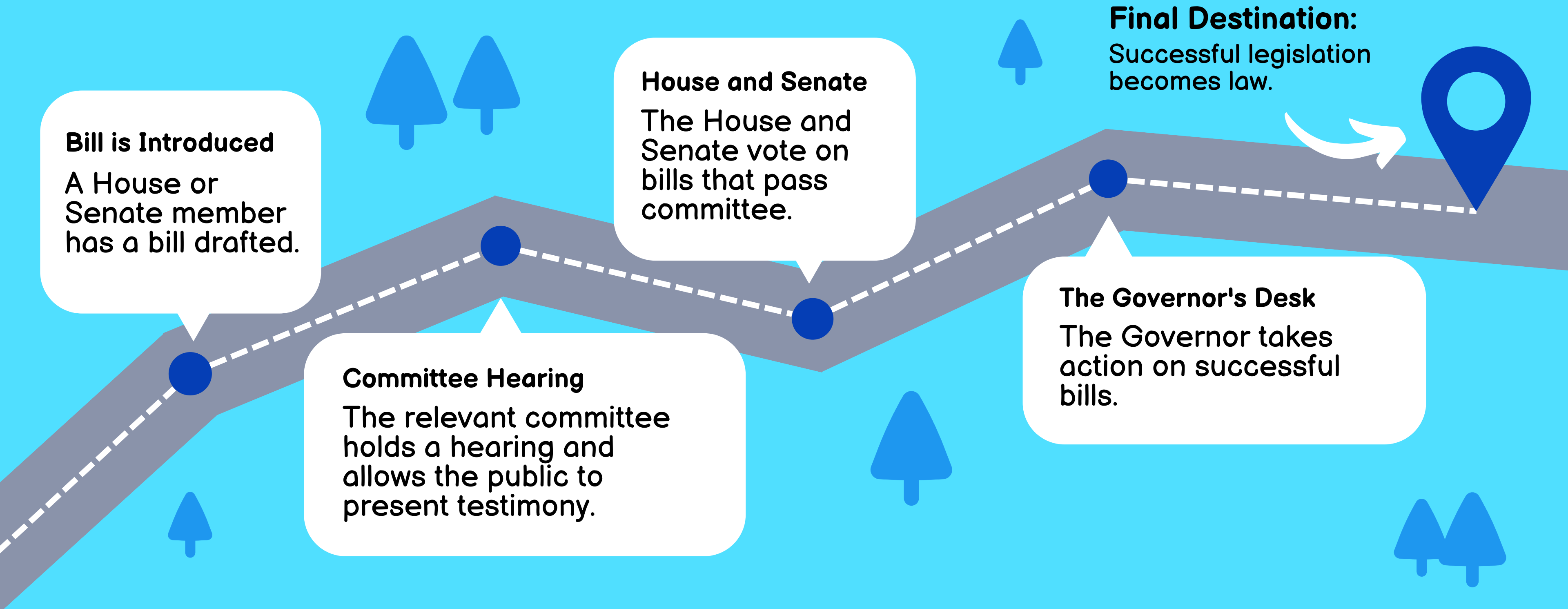
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Legislative Advocacy 2022 Guide



How does a bill become law in New Hampshire?

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How do I read a bill?

HOUSE BILL *123*

AN ACT *relative to* Oreo cookies.

SPONSORS: Rep. Joe, Hills. 1; Rep. Shmoe, Hills. 2

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

Analysis

This bill allows members to eat Oreo cookies on the House Floor while the House is in session and makes Oreo cookies the official snack of the Legislature.

12:3 Snacks on the House Floor.

I. House Members shall ~~not~~ be permitted to eat while on the House Floor *if, and only if, their snack of choice is an Oreo cookie.*

12:4 New Paragraph

I. The official snack of the New Hampshire Legislature shall be the Oreo cookie.

The first lines of text in a bill tell you the **most essential pieces of information**, including the bill's number and short title, the sponsors of the bill, and the committee it will be heard in.

The "Analysis" section **summarizes** the bill in **easier-to-understand language**.

Numbers and roman numerals indicate the **section** of a bill. Each section will also have a **title**.

- Text that is stricken through is to be *removed*.
- Text in bold and italics is *replacing old text*.
- Anything after the words "new paragraph" is being *added to* the old text, but it won't appear in bold and italics.



How can I use my voice?



Write a piece of testimony.

Writing testimony allows you to **argue for an issue in your own words and speak directly to your representatives**. Every bill gets a public hearing and will accept public comment.

If you want to send in testimony virtually, you can find a committee's email at gencourt.state.nh.us by going to *Committees > Standing Committees* and looking for the committee that your bill is being heard in.

Speak on a bill in person.

If you want to guarantee your representatives hear what you have to say, you also have the option of **presenting your testimony live** during the hearing. The hearing date and location will be listed on the docket for a bill at least seven days before the hearing's date.



Tips for testimony

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1

Keep it short and simple.

One page or less of writing is best to make sure you keep your readers' attention.

2

Use good data.

Having research to back up your opinions solidifies your claim.

3

Be formal.

Always make sure to introduce yourself and address the committee members.

4

Practice before you speak.

What you have to say is important! Don't undersell yourself by being underprepared.

5

Watch the clock.

Committee hearings generally enforce a limit of three minutes per speaker. Make sure your testimony is short enough that you can recite the entirety of it before time runs out.



Other ways to take action

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Arrange a demonstration or rally outside of the State House to show your support for or opposition to a bill. Bring signs or have speakers talk about the importance of legislative issues.

Discuss legislative issues with your family and friends. Educate your peers on what's going on at the State House and encourage them to find out who their elected officials are.



Even when session is out, your elected officials have work to do! If it's an election year, you can support candidates for State House with your time, your money, or your vote.