

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN COLORADO

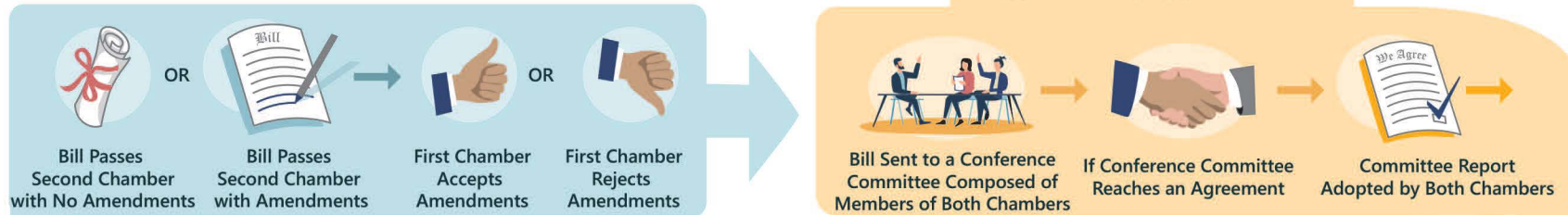
FIRST CHAMBER HEARINGS



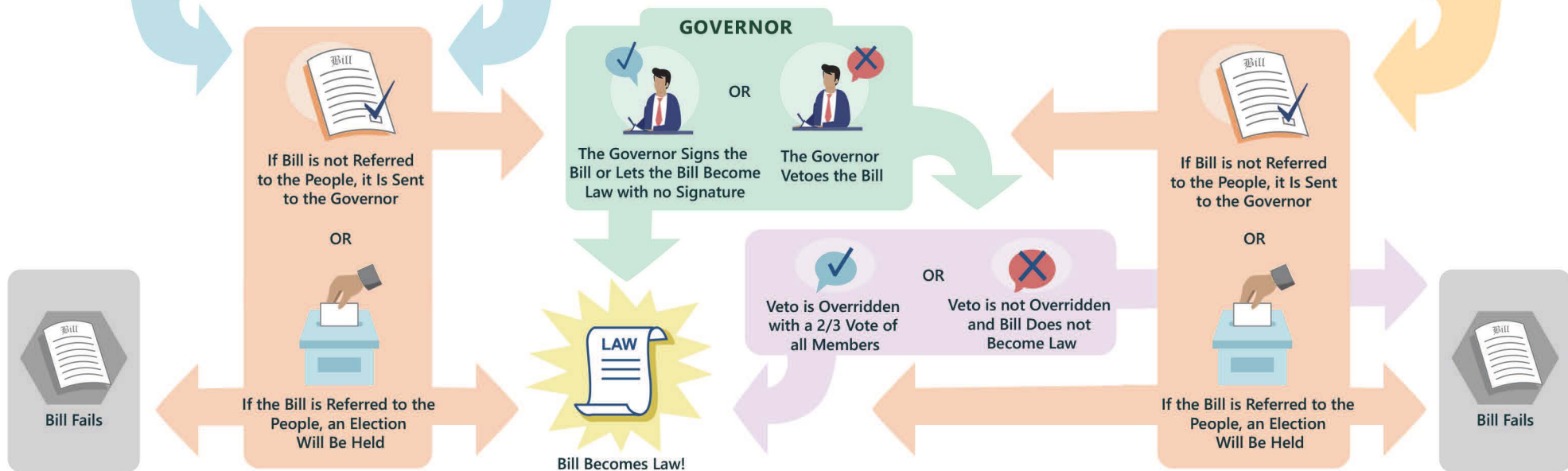
SECOND CHAMBER HEARINGS



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



GOVERNOR



How a Bill Becomes Law in Colorado

First Chamber Hearings

- A bill starts in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.
- The bill is introduced in the first chamber and assigned to committee. This is the bill's first reading.
- The committee hears the bill and votes on whether to pass it.
- The bill goes on to second reading where debate, amendments, and a voice vote take place.
- The bill goes on to third reading for a final, recorded vote.

Second Chamber Hearings

- The bill moves to the other chamber where it is introduced and assigned to committee. This is the bill's first reading.
- The committee hears the bill and votes on whether to pass it.
- The bill goes on to second reading where debate, amendments, and a voice vote take place.
- The bill goes on to third reading for a final, recorded vote.

What Happens if the Bill is Amended by the Second Chamber

If the second chamber amends the bill, the first chamber has two options:

- If the first chamber **accepts** the amendments, the bill is sent to the Governor for action, or, in the case of a referred measure, will be voted on at an election.
- If the first chamber **rejects** the amendments, it can request that a conference committee be formed. If a conference committee is formed, members of both chambers will attempt to reach an agreement. If an agreement is reached, it must be adopted by both chambers. The bill is then sent to the Governor for action, or in the case of a referred measure, will be voted on at an election.
- Instead of forming a conference committee, if the first chamber **rejects** the second chamber amendments, the first chamber can adhere to its version of the bill. In this case, the second chamber would have to recede from its amendments, or the bill would fail.

Governor Action on Bills

After a bill passes the second chamber it is sent to the Governor. The Governor has three options.

- The Governor signs the bill and it becomes law.

- The Governor lets the bill become law without his signature.
- The Governor vetoes the bill. After the Governor vetoes a bill, it is sent back to both chambers. A veto can be overridden by two-thirds of the members of each chamber, in which case the bill passes into law. If it is not overridden, the bill fails.

Referred Bills

Bills that are referred to the people are not acted on by the Governor. Rather an election is held, and the bill is either approved or fails as a result of the election.