

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS



What is a legislative proposal?

A legislative proposal is a recommendation for a policy or amendment of already existing policies/laws. Policies and draft Bills are examples of legislative proposals.

A legislative proposal can be brought to the floor of the House in five different ways:



a) Parliamentary Party

It can be introduced in the name of the Leader of Majority/Leader of Minority or their respective deputies.



b) Executive

It can also be introduced on behalf of the executive, in the name of the Leader of Majority/Leader of Minority or the name of the Chairperson of the relevant Committee



c) Individual Members of the House (Private Member's Bill)

It can be introduced in the name of the Member sponsoring the Bill.



d) Committee of the House

It can also be introduced in the name of the Chairperson or a member of a committee.



d) Member of the Public

This can either be through a petition to Parliament, or by forwarding a legislative idea to your Member of Parliament.

Did you know?:

- It has been best practice for policy to precede the law. In fact, most legislation, including subsidiary legislation, trace their foundations on an agreed policy framework. With the exception of Private Member Bills, the bulk of other Bills, spring from policy proposals of the Executive, civil society, professional bodies, private sector or citizens.
- While the idea for a Bill may come from anyone, **a Bill must have a Sponsor to be introduced in the House.**

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How is a Bill drafted, published and introduced in the House?

➤ The sponsor of a bill presents the legislative proposal to the **Speaker, typically by submitting an instruction note that outlines the bill's concept** and cites any relevant resources.



➤ The submission is accompanied by a **Memorandum of Objects and Reasons**. The Speaker then directs the proposal to the Clerk, who coordinates the drafting process with the Directorate of Legal Services



➤ Once the Bill is drafted, the **draft Bill is signed by the Sponsor and is forwarded by the Clerk to the Speaker** (with comments on whether it affects or does not affect counties, is a money Bill and conforms to the Constitution and to the Law as to format and style).



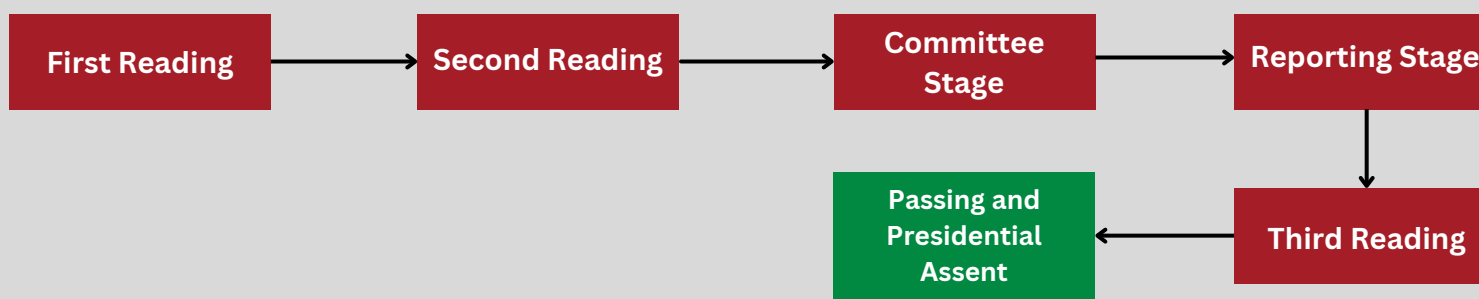
➤ The draft Bill is then referred to the relevant Committee for pre-publication scrutiny and comments. The **Committee is required to submit its comments to the Speaker within 14 days** of receipt of the draft Bill.



➤ Once the relevant Committee provides feedback on the Bill, **the Speaker approves the draft Bill for publication.**



➤ Once the Bill is published, it then goes through the normal process a Bill goes through that is:



Note: In some cases, the Bill may be referred back to Parliament by the President with proposed changes. A good example is the Finance Bill where the President referred the Bill back to the National Assembly, proposing deletion of all clauses.

Did You Know? : Private Members' Bills are usually slotted for Wednesday mornings in the National Assembly and Thursday mornings in the Senate?