THE PATH *of a* BILL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1ST READING
↓
2ND READING
↓
House committee*
↓
Consideration in detail*
↓
3RD READING
↓
BILL IS PASSED

- **1st reading**—the bill is introduced to the House of Representatives.
- **2nd reading**—members debate and vote on the main idea of the bill.
- **House committee***—public inquiry into the bill and reporting back to the House.
- **Consideration in detail***—members discuss the bill in detail, including any changes to the bill.
- **3rd reading**—members vote on the bill in its final form.
- The **bill is passed** in the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate.

SENATE

1ST READING
↓
2ND READING
↓
Senate committee*
↓
Committee of the whole*
↓
3RD READING
↓
BILL IS PASSED

- **1st reading**—the bill is introduced to the Senate.
- **2nd reading**—senators debate and vote on the main idea of the bill.
- **Senate committee***—public inquiry into the bill and reporting back to the Senate.
- **Committee of the whole***—senators discuss the bill in detail, including any changes to the bill.
- **3rd reading**—senators vote on the bill in its final form.
- The **bill is passed** in the Senate.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Royal Assent by the Governor-General
↓
BILL BECOMES AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT

- **Royal Assent**—The Governor-General signs the bill.
- **Bill becomes an Act of Parliament**—a law for Australia.

*optional stage