THE PATH of a BILL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1ST READING
- 1st reading—the bill is introduced to the House of Representatives.

2ND READING
- 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
- 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.

BILL IS PASSED

SENATE

1ST READING
- 1st reading—the bill is introduced to the Senate.

2ND READING
- 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
- 3rd reading—senators vote on the bill in its final form.
- The bill is passed in the Senate.

BILL IS PASSED

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

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

BILL BECOMES AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT

*optional stage