The usual path of a bill:

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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 — 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

Royal Assent — The Governor-General signs the bill.

Bill becomes an Act of Parliament — a law for Australia.

*optional stage

*Senate referral

The Senate may refer the text of the bill to a Senate committee for inquiry (this can happen while the bill is in the House).