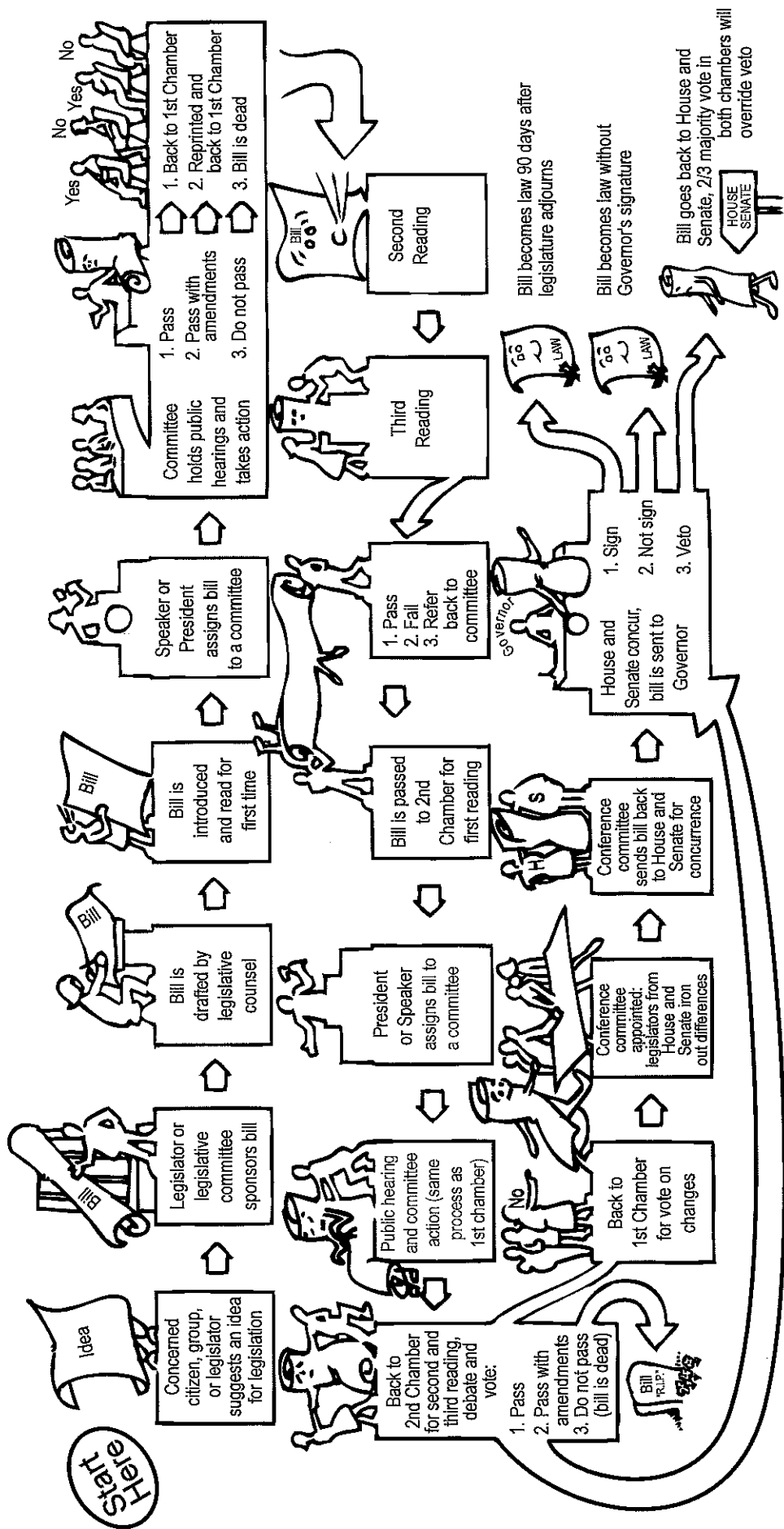




How an Idea Becomes Law

A simple view of the Oregon Legislative Process



The Oregon Legislative Assembly

The Oregon Legislative Assembly is state government's "board of directors." It is responsible for making laws dealing with Oregon's well-being, adopting the state's budget, and for setting public policy. The Legislative Assembly is made up of two bodies: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 30 members elected for four-year terms. The House consists of 60 representatives elected for two-year terms. Each member of the legislature represents a district (an area determined by population). Every Oregonian is represented by one state Senator and one state Representative.

The legislature convenes annually in February at the State Capitol in Salem, but sessions may not exceed 160 days in odd-numbered years and 35 days in even-numbered years, unless extended by a two-thirds vote in each chamber. About 3,000 bills are considered in each odd-year session. Relying largely upon work done in committees, the legislature enacts about one-third of these bills into Law.