How an **IDEA** becomes **LAW**

**A Simple View of the Oregon Legislative Process**

- **Concerned citizen, group or legislator suggests an IDEA for legislation**
- **Bill is introduced and read for the first time**
- **Speaker or President assigns bill to a committee**
- **Committee holds public hearing and takes action**
  - 1. Pass = Back to 1st Chamber
  - 2. Pass with amendments = Reprinted and back to House
  - 3. Do not pass = Bill is dead
- **Bill is passed to 2nd Chamber for first reading**
- **President of Speaker assigns committee**
- **Public hearing and committee action**
- **Back to 2nd Chamber for second and third reading, debate and vote**
  - 1. Pass = Goes to Governor
  - 2. Pass with amendments = Back to 1st Chamber
  - 3. Do not pass = Bill is dead
- **Conference committee appointed, legislators from both Chambers work out differences**
- **Conference committee sends bill back to House and Senate for concurrence**
- **House and Senate concur, bill is sent to Governor**
  - 1. Sign = Bill becomes **LAW** effective Jan. 1 of the year after passage
  - 2. Not sign = Bill becomes **LAW** without the Governor’s signature
  - 3. Veto = Bill goes back to House and Senate, 2/3 majority vote in both Chambers will override veto and bill becomes **LAW**

**THE OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Oregon Legislative Assembly is the 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.

Over 3,000 bills are considered each session. Relying largely upon work done in committees, the legislature enacts about one-third of the bills into law. The legislature convenes in Salem on the second Monday in January of every odd-numbered year and is in session for about six months.