The North Carolina General Assembly
How *YOUR* Laws Are Made

Power Point to accompany Carolina K-12's lesson "North Carolina General Assembly: A Simulation of How a Bill Becomes a Law," available in the Database of K-12 Resources

- To view this PDF as a projectable presentation, save the file, click "View" in the top menu bar of the file, and select "Full Screen Mode"
- To request an editable PPT version of this presentation, send a request to CarolinaK12@unc.edu

Civics 101

Our State Government . . .
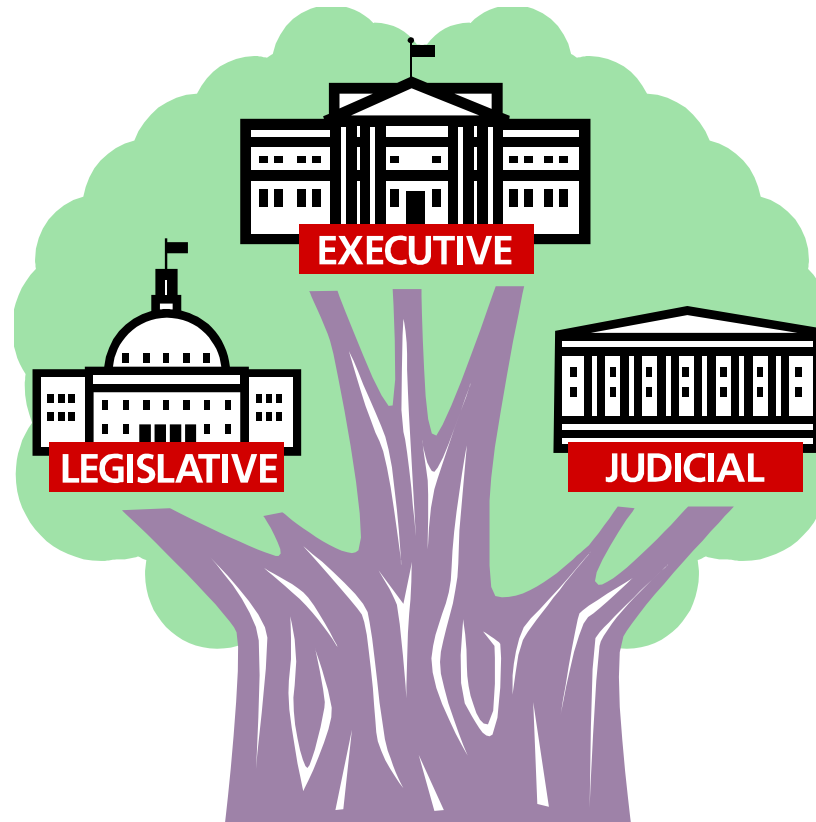
The NC General Assembly

SENATE

- 50 Members

- Presiding Officer: Lieutenant Governor

- Elected Chamber Leader: President *Pro Tempore*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 120 Members

- Presiding Officer: Speaker of the House

- Elected Chamber Leader: Speaker of the House

Quiz Time!

❓ How long are legislators' terms?

❓ How many women currently serve in the NC General Assembly?

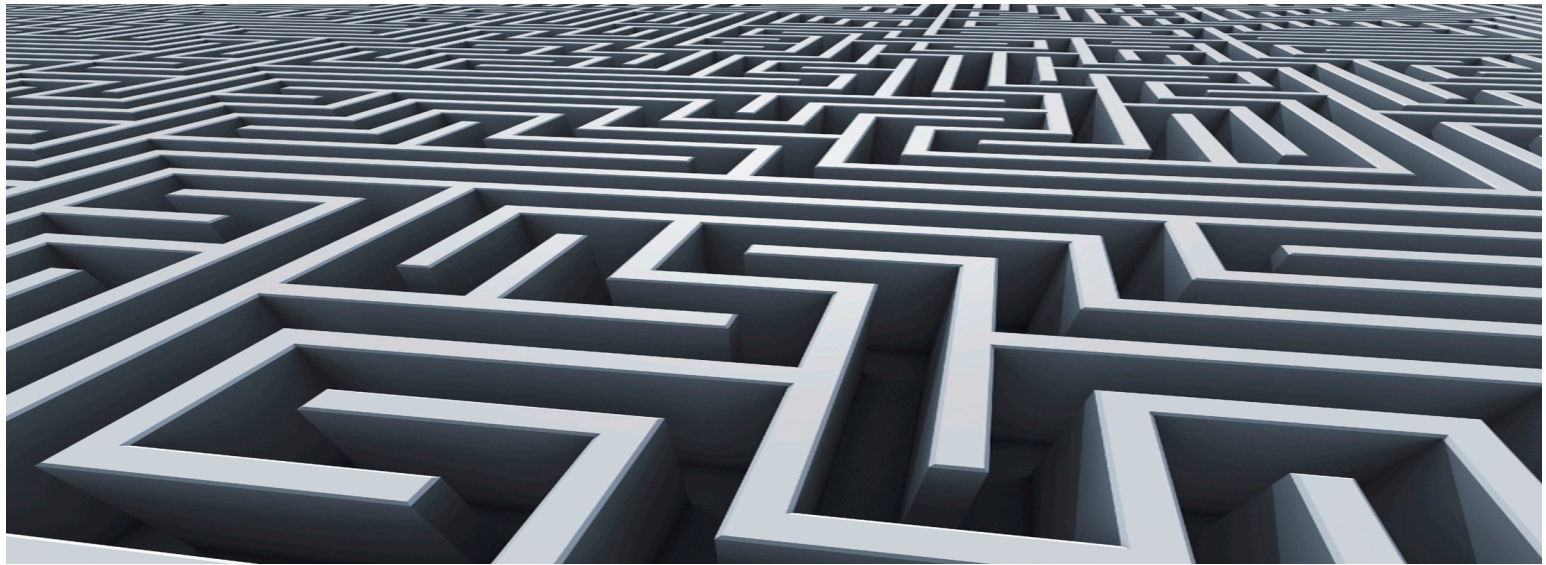❓ How much is the average legislator paid?

Answers! (As of Jan. 2017)

☑ 2 years

☑ 28 (House) + 12 (Senate) = 40

☑ $13,951 per year (plus per diem and expenses during session)

How Laws Are Made
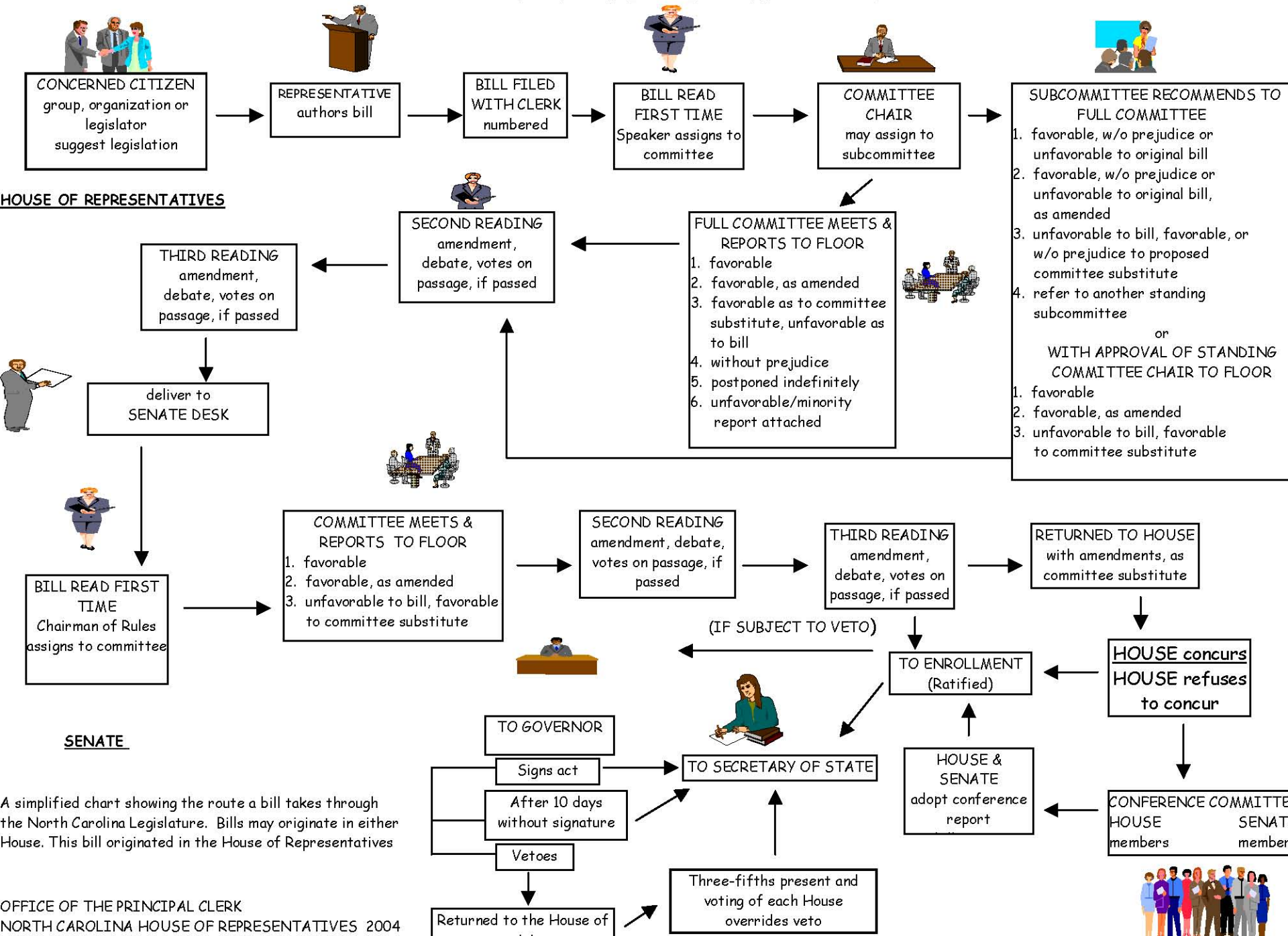
It may seem like this . . .

It's really like this . . .

HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCERNED CITIZEN
group, organization or legislator suggest legislation

REPRESENTATIVE
authors bill

BILL FILED WITH CLERK
numbered

BILL READ FIRST TIME
Speaker assigns to committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR
may assign to subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO FULL COMMITTEE
1. favorable, w/o prejudice or unfavorable to original bill
2. favorable, w/o prejudice or unfavorable to original bill, as amended
3. unfavorable to bill, favorable, or w/o prejudice to proposed committee substitute
4. refer to another standing subcommittee

or

WITH APPROVAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR TO FLOOR
1. favorable
2. favorable, as amended
3. unfavorable to bill, favorable to committee substitute

FULL COMMITTEE MEETS & REPORTS TO FLOOR
1. favorable
2. favorable, as amended
3. favorable as to committee substitute, unfavorable as to bill
4. without prejudice
5. postponed indefinitely
6. unfavorable/minority report attached

SECOND READING
amendment, debate, votes on passage, if passed

THIRD READING
amendment, debate, votes on passage, if passed

deliver to SENATE DESK

SENATE

BILL READ FIRST TIME
Chairman of Rules assigns to committee

COMMITTEE MEETS & REPORTS TO FLOOR
1. favorable
2. favorable, as amended
3. unfavorable to bill, favorable to committee substitute

SECOND READING
amendment, debate, votes on passage, if passed

THIRD READING
amendment, debate, votes on passage, if passed

RETURNED TO HOUSE
with amendments, as committee substitute

HOUSE concurs
HOUSE refuses to concur

(IF SUBJECT TO VETO)

TO ENROLLMENT
(Ratified)

HOUSE & SENATE
adopt conference report

CONFERENCE COMMITTE[E]
HOUSE   SENAT[E]
members   member[s]

TO GOVERNOR

Signs act

After 10 days without signature

Vetoes

TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Three-fifths present and voting of each House overrides veto

Returned to the House of

A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the North Carolina Legislature. Bills may originate in either House. This bill originated in the House of Representatives

It Starts With an Idea . . .

Ideas for laws come from:

- Concerned citizens
- Advocacy and interest groups
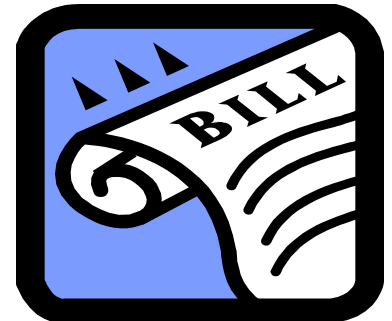- Legislative study committees
- State agencies and officials
- Legislators

The idea becomes a Bill . . .

The Bill Becomes Law

- Representative or Senator <u>introduces</u> a bill

- The bill must be read <u>three</u> times in each chamber

- The bill must be <u>approved</u> by both Chambers

- Most Public bills must be <u>signed (or not vetoed) by the Governor</u> to become law

What is a Bill?

A Bill is . . .

An Act of the General Assembly that proposes changes to existing law or establishing a new law ("The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts . . .")

Types of Bills:

- *Public* – Statewide application
- *Local* – Affects fewer than 15 counties
- *Resolutions* – Honors state institutions and deceased persons

What Local Bills Can't Do

- Relating to health, sanitation, and the abatement of nuisances
- Changing the names of cities, towns, and townships
- Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, maintaining, or discontinuing of highways, streets, or alleys
- Relating to ferries or bridges
- Relating to non-navigable streams
- Relating to cemeteries
- Relating to the pay of jurors
- Erecting new townships, or changing township lines, or establishing or changing the lines of school districts
- Remitting fines, penalties, and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the public treasury
- Regulating labor, trade, mining, or manufacturing
- Extending the time for the levy or collection of taxes or otherwise relieving any collector of taxes from the due performance of his official duties or his sureties from liability
- Giving effect to informal wills and deeds
- Granting a divorce or securing alimony in any individual case
- Altering the name of any person, or legitimating any person not born in lawful wedlock, or restoring to the rights of citizenship any person convicted of a felony
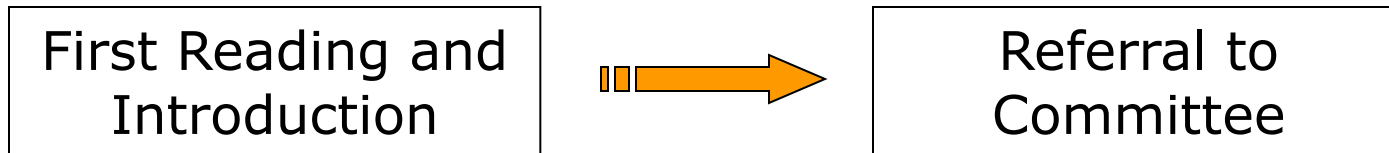
The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin
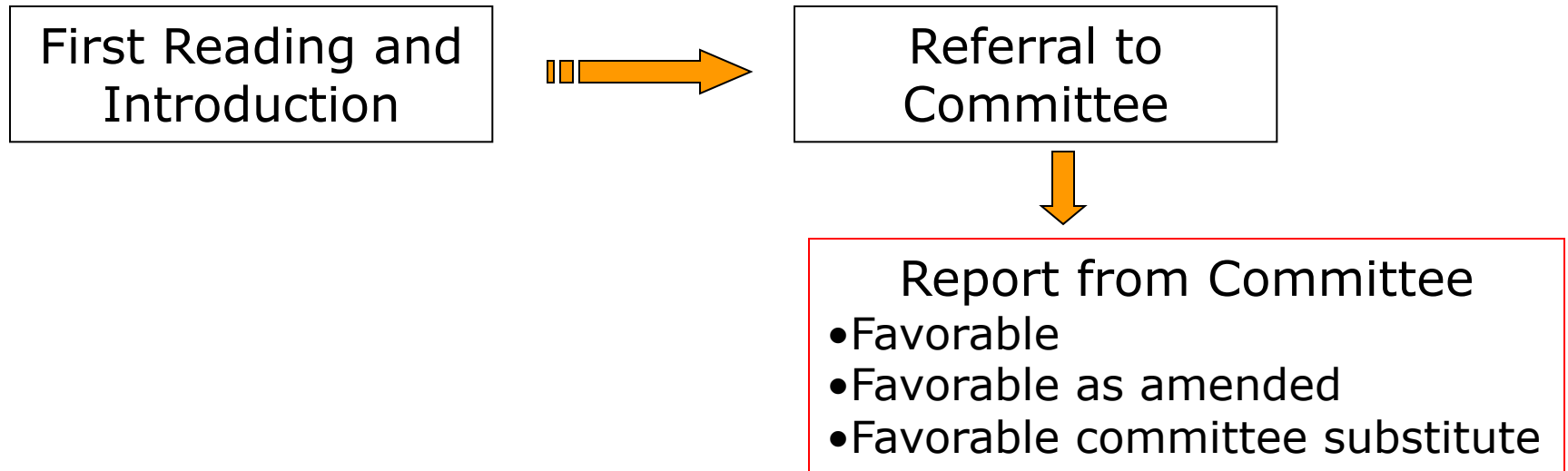
First Reading and Introduction

The Journey of a Bill
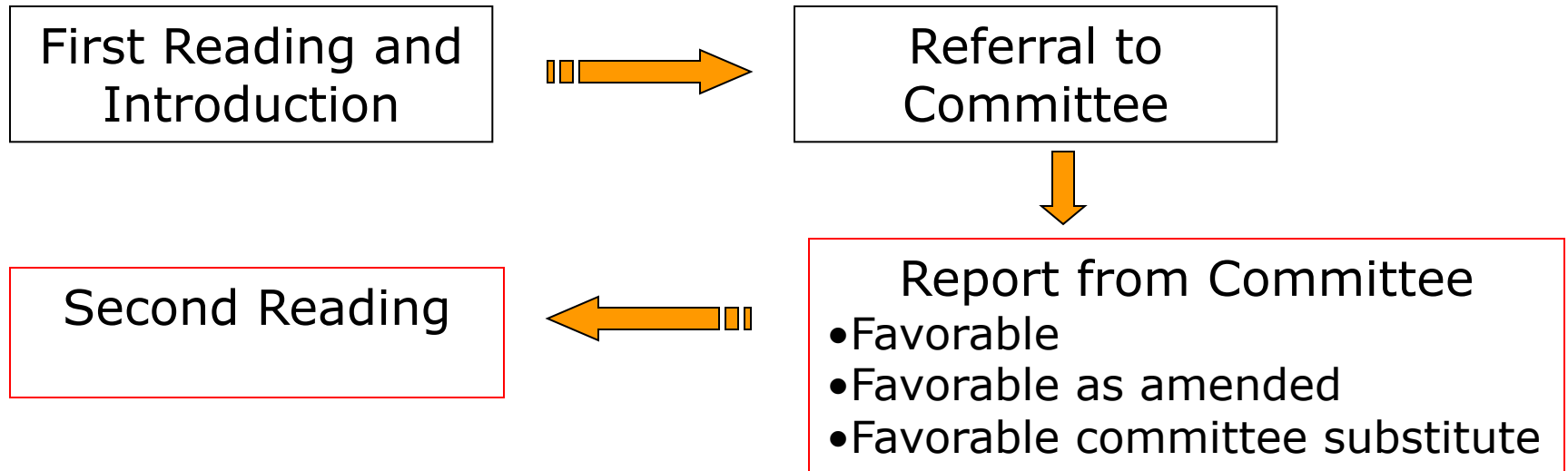
Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin

First Reading and Introduction	→	Referral to Committee

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin

First Reading and Introduction

Referral to Committee

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin

First Reading and Introduction ➡️ Referral to Committee

⬇️

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

⬅️ Second Reading

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin

First Reading and Introduction → Referral to Committee

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

Second Reading

Third Reading

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin

First Reading and Introduction → Referral to Committee

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

→ Second Reading

Second Reading → Third Reading

Third Reading → To other Chamber for consideration →

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Receiving Chamber

First Reading and Introduction → Referral to Committee

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

Second Reading

Third Reading

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Receiving Chamber

First Reading and Introduction → Referral to Committee

↓

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

← Second Reading

↓

Third Reading → If no changes - To Governor

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In the Receiving Chamber

First Reading and Introduction → Referral to Committee

↓

Report from Committee
- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

← Second Reading

↓

Third Reading → If no changes - To Governor

. . .or . . .

→ If changed – Back to Chamber of Origin

The Journey of a Bill
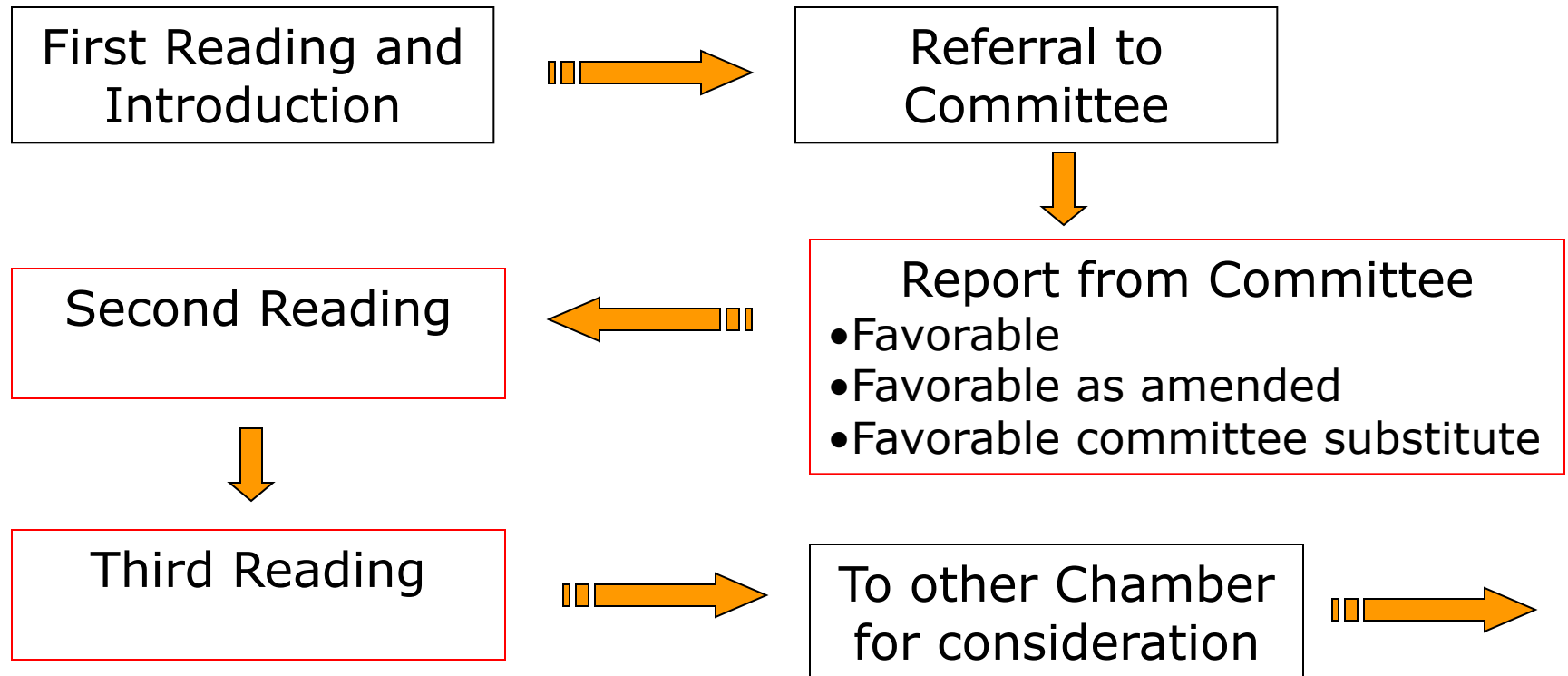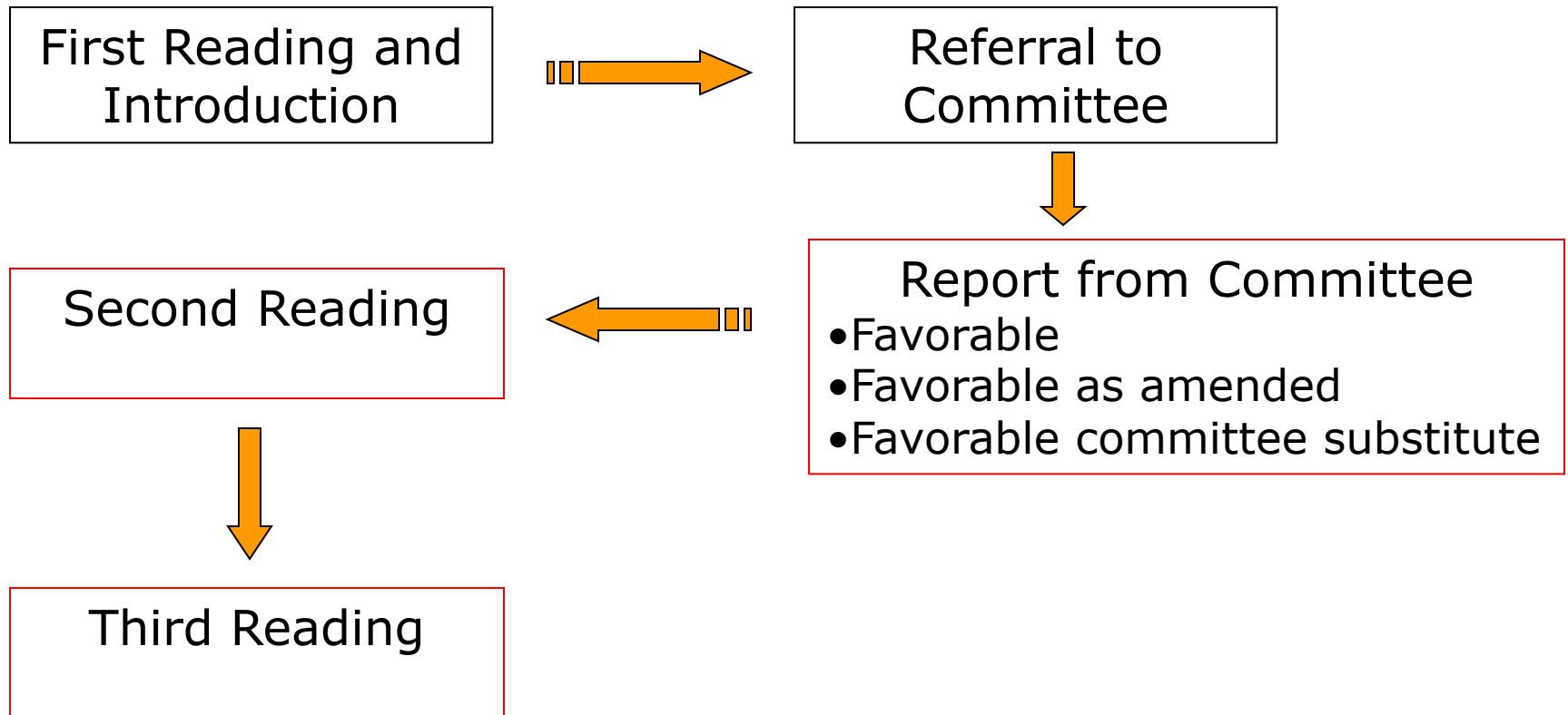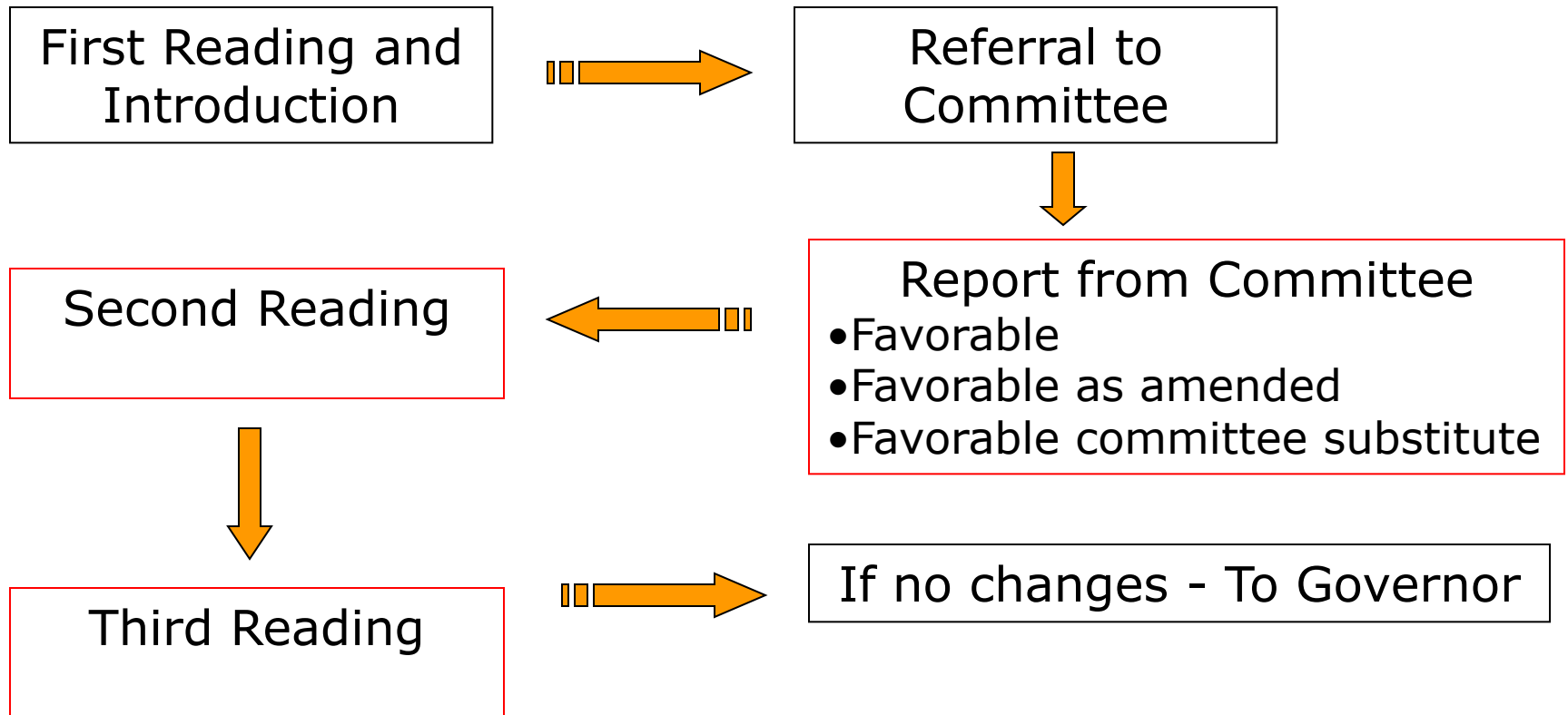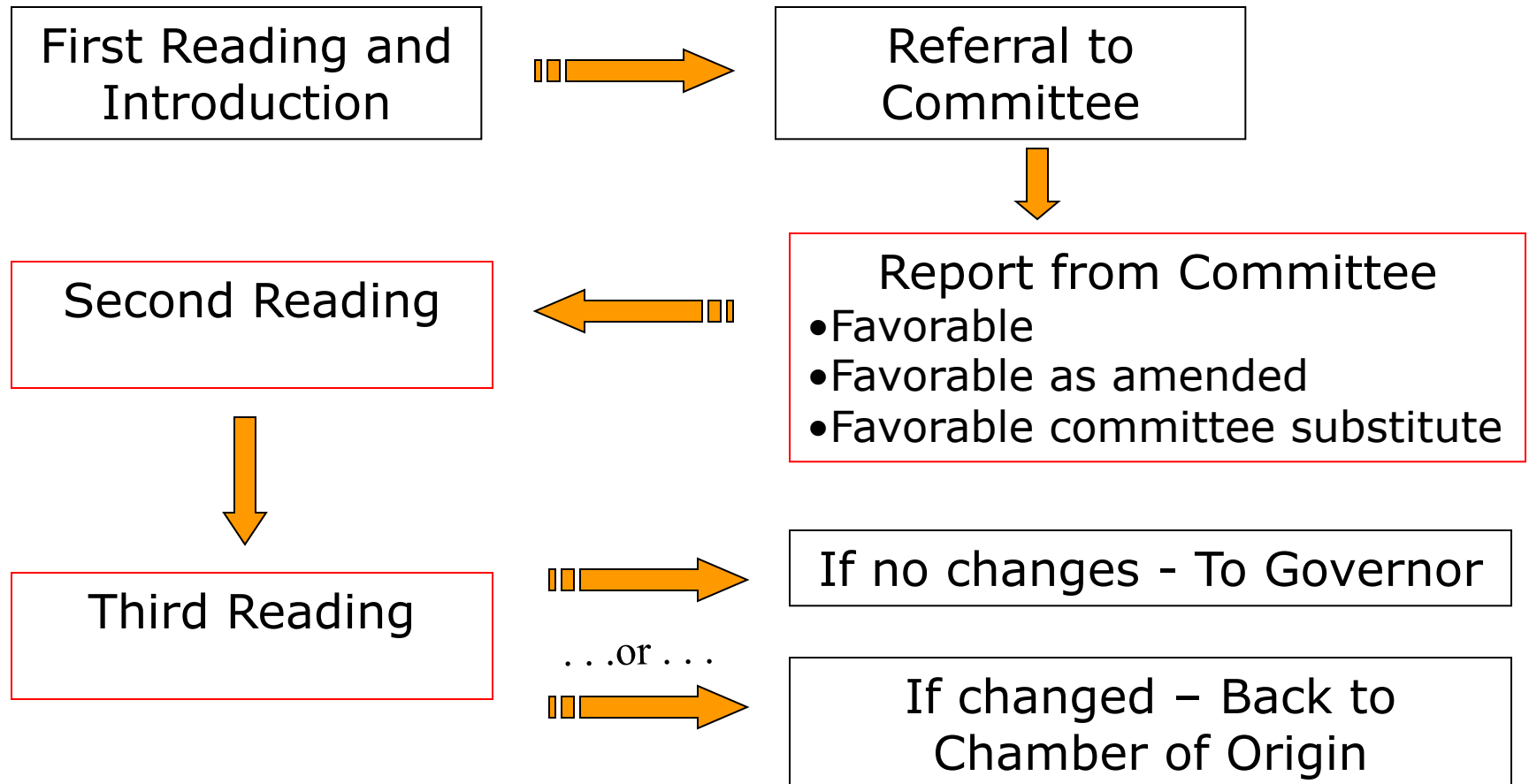
Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Concurs in Changes

To Governor
- Sign into law
- Does not sign – becomes law in 10 days
- Veto

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Concurs in Changes

$\longrightarrow$

To Governor
- Sign into law
- Does not sign – becomes law in 10 days
- Veto

. . .*or* . . .

Fails to Concur in Changes

$\downarrow$

Goes to Conference

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Concurs in Changes	→	To Governor • Sign into law • Does not sign – becomes law in 10 days • Veto

. . .*or* . . .

Fails to Concur in Changes

↓

Goes to Conference	→	Conference Report adopted by both Chambers

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Concurs in Changes → To Governor
- Sign into law
- Does not sign – becomes law in 10 days
- Veto

. . .*or* . . .

Fails to Concur in Changes → Goes to Conference → Conference Report adopted by both Chambers

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action By the Governor

Signs into Law → Bill is now a Law!

. . .*or* . . .
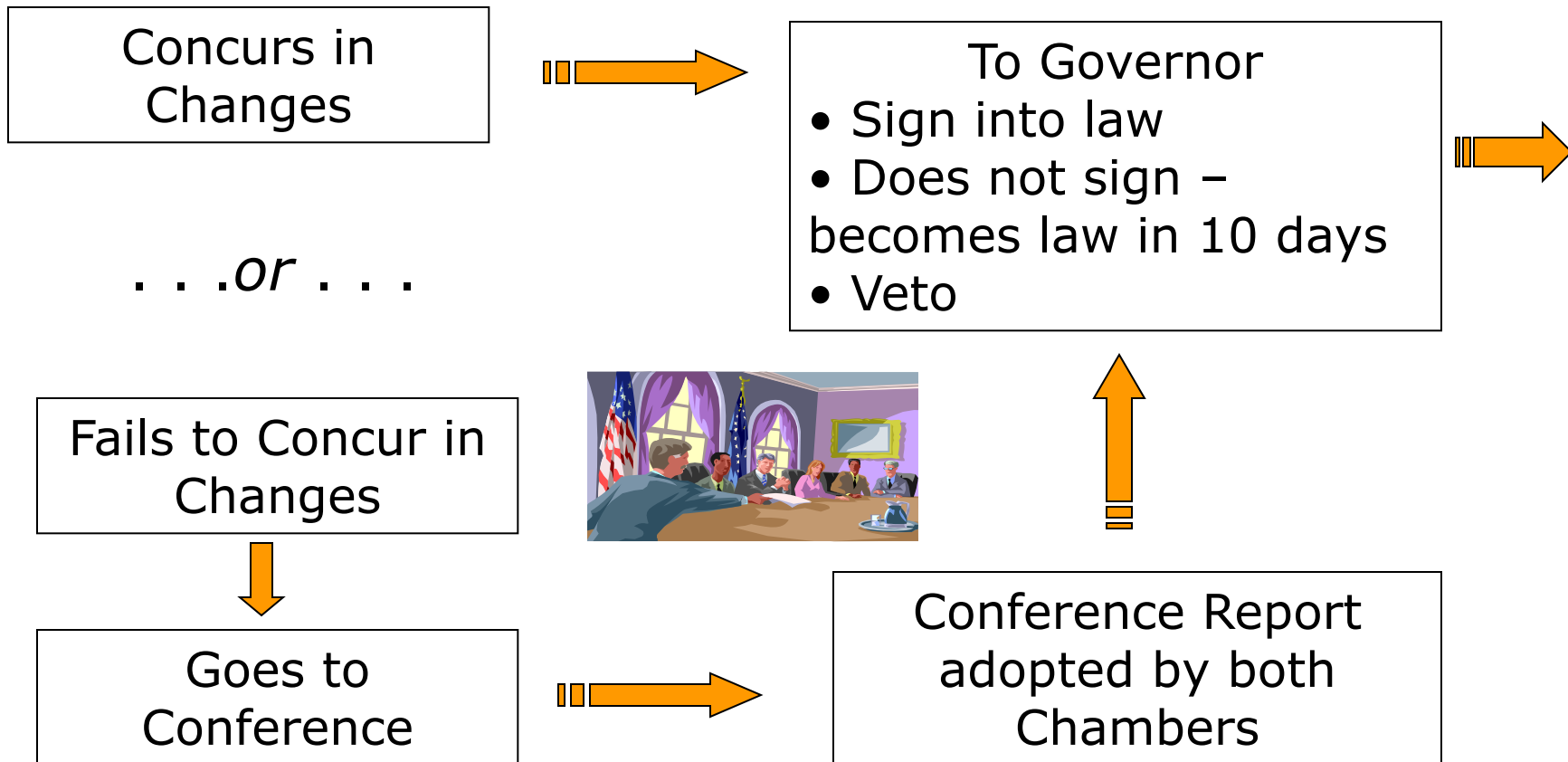
Does not sign – Becomes law in 10 days

. . .*or* . . .

Vetoes

The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action By the Governor

Signs into Law → Bill is now a Law!

. . .*or* . . .

Does not sign – Becomes law in 10 days
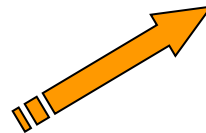
. . .*or* . . .

Vetoes → Back to Chamber of Origin to Override Veto

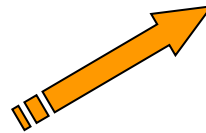# The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action By the Governor

| Signs into Law | → | Bill is now a Law! |

. . .*or* . . .

| Does not sign – Becomes law in 10 days |

. . .*or* . . .

Then to Receiving Chamber to Override Veto

| Vetoes | → | Back to Chamber of Origin to Override Veto |

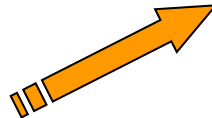# The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action By the Governor

Signs into Law → Bill is now a Law!

. . .*or* . . .

Does not sign – Becomes law in 10 days →

. . .*or* . . .

Vetoes →

Then to Receiving Chamber to Override Veto

Back to Chamber of Origin to Override Veto

Bill Signing Can be Fun!

Resources

- General Assembly Website www.ncleg.net

- Legislative Library (919) 733-7778

- State Government Website
  www.ncgov.com

- Carolina K-12 www.carolinak12.org