

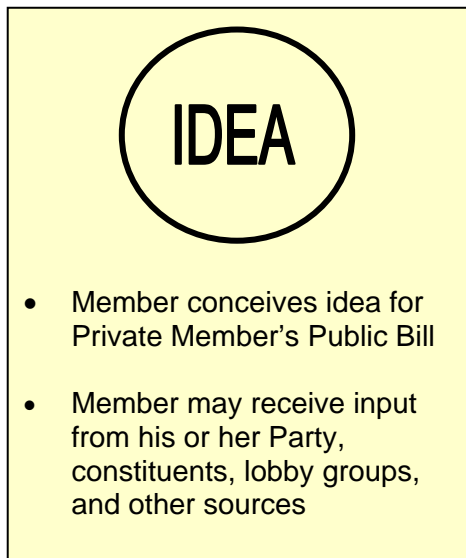
# How a Private Member's Public Bill Becomes Law

Legislative Library of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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This guide explains the process by which a typical Private Member's Public Bill becomes law. See also the guides: [How a Government Bill Becomes Law \(Pre-Legislative Stages\)](#), [How a Government Bill Becomes Law](#), [How a Committee Bill Becomes Law](#), [How a Private Bill Becomes Law](#), and the Backgrounder: [When do Ontario Acts and Regulations come into Force?](#)

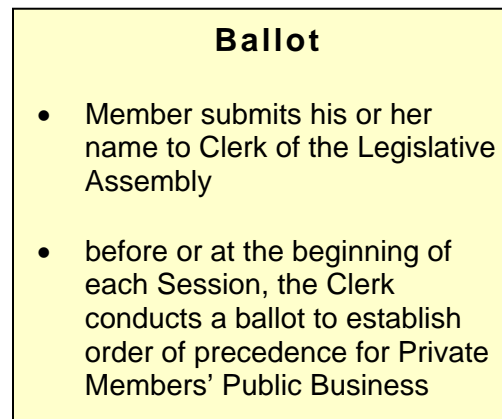
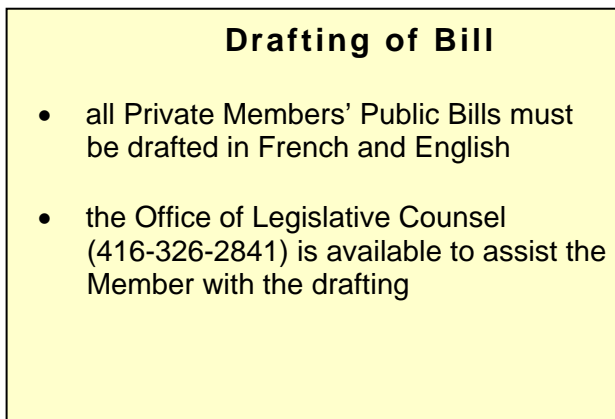
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Any Private Member (i.e., a Member who is not the Speaker or a Cabinet Minister) may introduce a Private Member's Public Bill. A Private Member's Public Bill may pertain to any topic within provincial jurisdiction, but, according to the *Standing Orders* of the Legislative Assembly, the *Legislative Assembly Act*, and the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the bill may not impose a tax or specifically direct the allocation of public funds.

A Private Member's Public Bill is introduced and given First Reading during Routine Proceedings. Second Reading debate normally is conducted during the time set aside under the *Standing Orders* on Thursday mornings for Private Members' Public Business, including Bills and Resolutions. This process is reflected in the following chart.

Private Members' Public Bills do not often receive Third Reading and Royal Assent, i.e., become law. However, they enable private members to bring matters that concern them, their constituency or their party to the attention of the House, the Ministries, the media and the public, and they may have a significant impact on future government policy.



### **Caucus**

- Bill is usually discussed in caucus
- decisions may be made in caucus on which Members will speak on the Bill and what points will be covered

### **Notice**

- Member gives Clerk of the Legislative Assembly at least 2 weeks' notice of the Bill he or she wishes to have debated
- notice is published in the *Orders and Notices Paper*

### **First Reading**

- if Bill is a ballot item for debate during the time set aside for Private Members' Public Business, Member introduces Bill with at least 14 clear calendar days between the time notice is published in the *Orders and Notices Paper* and the day on which Bill is debated
- if Bill is not intended to be considered during the time set aside for Private Members' Public Business, there is no restriction on when it may be introduced and given **First Reading**

### **Second Reading Debate**

- during the time allotted to consideration of Private Members' Public Business (i.e. Thursday mornings), the time for debate on a Bill is:
  - 1) 10 minutes for the Member who moves **Second Reading**
  - 2) 15 minutes per party for 1 or more representatives from each of the recognized parties in the House. (Mover of Motion may speak again as a party representative)
  - 3) up to 5 minutes for an independent member
  - 4) 2 minutes for a reply by the Member moving **Second Reading**
- debate may not be adjourned
- motion for **Second Reading** may not be amended

## Second Reading

- Speaker puts the question on the motion for **Second Reading** to the House
- a Private Member's Public Bill which is given **Second Reading** is automatically referred to the **Committee of the Whole House** *unless* a majority of the Members in the House at the time agree to the request of a Member that the Bill be referred to a **Standing** or **Select Committee**
- in exceptional cases the Bill may, by unanimous consent, be ordered for **Third Reading** after it has received **Second Reading**

## Standing or Select Committee

- a majority of the House may refer Bill to a **Standing** or **Select Committee**
- purpose is to comment on, ask questions about and/or propose amendments to various sections of Bill
- proceedings are less formal than in House and members may speak more than once
- Committee may invite individuals, groups and Ministry officials to comment on the Bill in writing or in person before the Committee
- Committee may travel to various locations in the province to receive public comment or to view a situation first hand
- following public submissions, Bill is considered clause by clause. Each clause of the Bill may be considered, amended or deleted, and new clauses may be added
- Bill is reported back to House after completion of clause-by-clause consideration
- if amendments have been made, Bill is reprinted
- when Committee reports Bill to House, Bill is ordered for **Third Reading** unless Minister or Parliamentary Assistant directs that it be referred to **Committee of the Whole House**

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

- purpose is to comment on, ask questions about and/or propose amendments to various sections of Bill
- proceedings are conducted in the Legislative Chamber but are less formal than under House rules and Members may speak more than once. All members of the Legislature are members of Committee of the Whole House
- individuals and groups cannot participate in the proceedings
- Bill is considered clause by clause. Each clause of the Bill may be considered, amended or deleted, and new clauses may be added
- if amendments have been made, Bill is reprinted
- when **Committee of the Whole House** reports Bill to House, Bill is ordered for **Third Reading**

## Third Reading

- there may be debate on motion for **Third Reading**, but this is not common
- if Bill is given **Third Reading**, it then awaits presentation to the Lieutenant Governor for assent in the Queen's name

## Royal Assent

- Bill is presented to the Lieutenant Governor for assent
- Lieutenant Governor assents to Bill in the Queen's name (the power of the Lieutenant Governor to withhold assent or reserve assent has fallen into disuse)
- when Bill is given **Royal Assent**, it becomes an Act and is given a statute number and is reprinted

## In Force

- statute is in force:
  - a) upon Royal Assent, *or*
  - b) on a day specified in the Act
- different sections may come into force at different times

Last updated August 2, 2001. CB