



LDH Legislative Process Overview

LDH Legislative Prep Timeline

July / August – Prep Proposals

- Bureaus prep bill proposals for OPH leadership review using provided templates.
 - Brief topical summary
 - Fact Sheet
 - Talking Points
 - Fiscal and Programmatic Analysis

Late August / Early September – OPH Leadership Review

- OPH leadership reviews submitted proposals and selects proposals for LDH leadership review.

October – LDH Leadership Review

- LDH offices present selected proposals to LDH leadership.
- LDH leadership selects proposals to include in a package for presentation to the Governor.

November / December – Governor Approval

- If the Governor likes a proposal, he/she works with LDH to identify a legislator to author the bill.

Pre-Session / Session Timeline

December through March – **Respond to Requests**

- During this time, it is common for the bureau to get requests for information in regards to bureau programming.

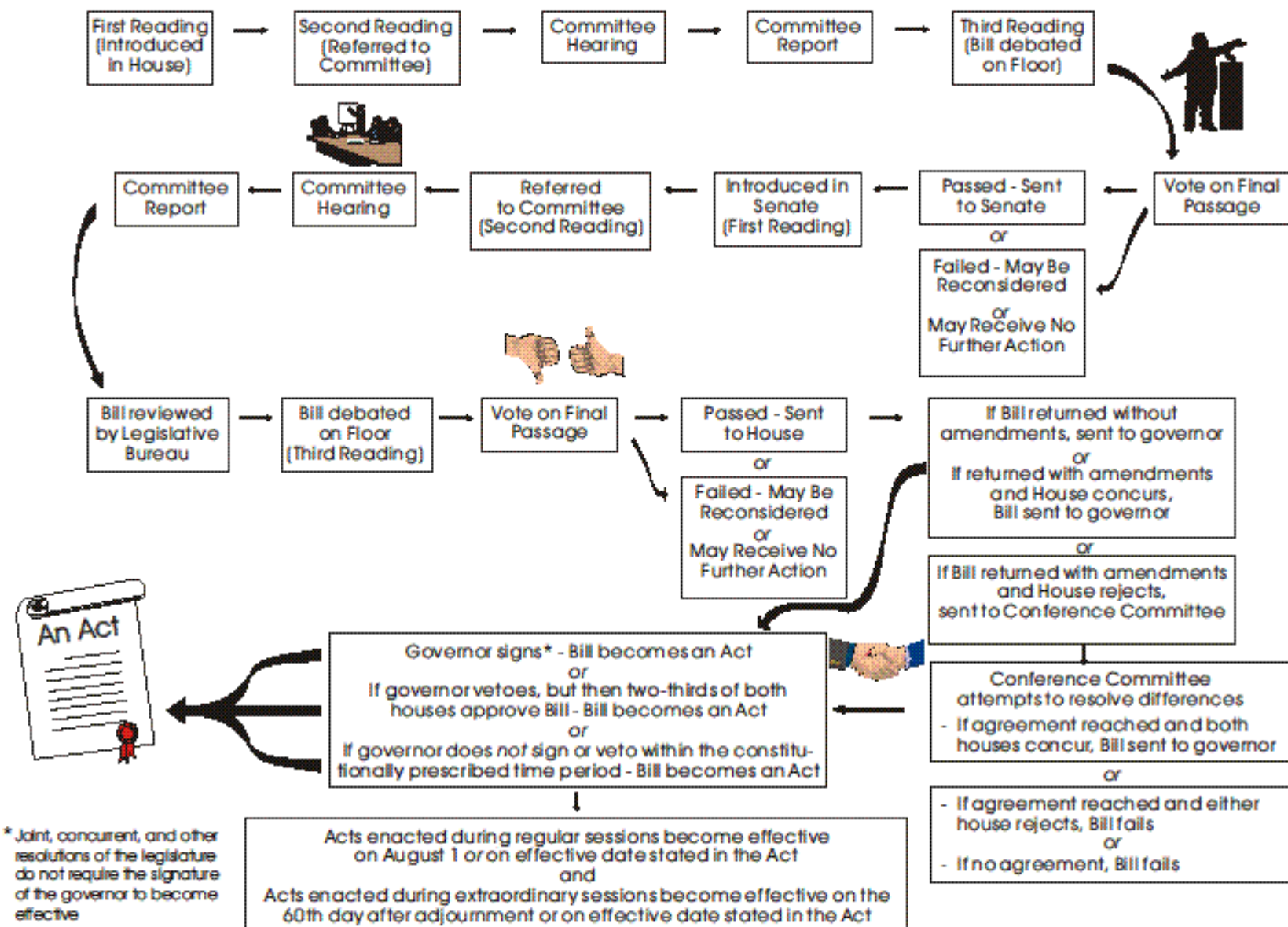
Week before session begins – **Tracked Bills & Concern Bills Identified**

- LGR sends out a list of bills LDH needs to track and asks departments to identify additional bills and mark concern bills.
- **Concern bill** – LDH may label a bill a concern bill if:
 - It requires a fiscal note (i.e., there will be a financial cost to LDH to implement the bill)
 - It will harm existing work in some way.
 - It either is not aligned with public health best practices and/or it will cause direct harm to public health.

April through June – **SESSION**

- Session usually begins some time in April and lasts for 3 months.
- The legislature sometimes calls **special sessions** following the regular session.
- **Stakeholder meetings** are scheduled throughout session.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



* Joint, concurrent, and other resolutions of the legislature do not require the signature of the governor to become effective

Acts enacted during regular sessions become effective on August 1 or on effective date stated in the Act
and
Acts enacted during extraordinary sessions become effective on the 60th day after adjournment or on effective date stated in the Act

Important Terminology

Bill Status

- **Prefiled** – original filed bill; receives a number and committee assignment at this point
- **Original** – bill as initially introduced into the legislature
- **Engrossed** – original bill prepared with adopted amendments added upon initial consideration by house of origin
- **Reengrossed** – usually a bill to which additional amendments are added from the floor after its engrossment; amendments are usually adopted when bill is considered on 3rd reading and final passage
- **Enrolled** – a bill in its final form, including all amendments in both houses, to be submitted to the Governor for approval or veto

Deferred

- Bills can be voluntarily or involuntarily deferred in committee.
- Deferred bills can be reschedule for committee hearing or indefinitely postponed (meaning the bill is dead for that session)

Digest

- A brief explanation of the changes in a law proposed by a bill
- Usually found at the end of a bill

Important Terminology

Executive Order (EO)

- Issued by the Governor to accomplish a purpose for which he has authority
- When we submit proposals, we are usually asked if the intent of the bill can be accomplished any other way. EO is sometimes an option.

Fiscal Note

- An estimate of the fiscal effect of a bill or other legislative instrument
- We are asked to complete fiscal notes for bills that would have a financial cost to LDH for implementation.

Legislative Instrument

- Includes bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, resolutions

Resolution

- Used for making declarations, stating policies, and making decisions where some other form is not required

Find a complete glossary here: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Glossary.aspx>

Lobbying vs. Education

Well-Ahead CAN

- Provide data
- Provide general education related to
 - best practices
 - basic information about a particular issue
 - data and research driven impact statements
- Share practices of other states

Well-Ahead CANNOT

- Lobby – influence others to pass or defeat legislation

Learn more from the [National Association of Council and City Health Officials](#).



Regulatory Implementation Process

LDH has a developed Legislative process:

- Bill tracking and monitoring by the appropriate office/bureau
- Developing reports when requested or as needed
- Providing data when requested

Signed Legislation could result in:

- Task Force
- Report
- Implement a program



LEGIS.LA.GOV

This is your one stop shop for all things legislation!

- Past bills
 - <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx>
- 2024 Regular Session
 - https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/SessionInfo/SessionInfo_24RS.aspx
- Track bills
 - <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/MyLegis.aspx>
- Archived House video on demand
 - https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Video/Hse_Video_OnDemand
- Archived Senate video on demand
 - https://senate.la.gov/Video_Archive



LOUISIANA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**2024 Legislative Session
Updates**

2024 Session Overview

- 2024 Legislative Session: March 11th to June 3rd
- Typically, a flurry of proposals with just a fraction becoming law.
- 2022 Session Example (last even year session):
 - 1,582 bills; 718 resolutions; and 42 constitutional amendments
 - 268 health care bills (137 House and 131 Senate)
 - 776 bills passed into law



HB 190

Medicaid Reimbursement

- Requires LDH to develop a plan for increased Medicaid managed care organization reimbursement rates and fee-for-service reimbursement rates to physicians at one hundred percent of Medicare rates and provides for plan requirements.
- **Legislation passed**



HB 702

Medicaid Coverage for Doulas

- Requires Medicaid to provide coverage for services provided by a doula before, during, and after childbirth.
- Requires that coverage be subject to a minimum service rate per pregnancy of \$1,250.
- Doula services must include:
 - Support and assistance during labor and childbirth.
 - Prenatal and postpartum support and education.
 - Breastfeeding assistance and lactation support.
 - Parenting education.
 - Support for a mother after the loss of a pregnancy.
- **Legislation failed**



HB 975

Minor Consent

- Requires informed consent from the parent of a minor child for all medical and mental health services provided to the minor child until the minor reaches the age of 18.
- **Legislation failed**



SB 46

Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council

- Establishes the Louisiana Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council within LDH.
- Requires the council to conduct assessments of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in Louisiana and to develop and lead implementation of a five-year statewide plan to address Alzheimer's and related dementias.
- Requires the council to submit the five-year statewide plan to the governor and legislature no later than Nov. 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter.
- **Legislation passed**



SB 146

Step Therapy

- Currently health plans that restrict medications through step therapy must have a process for the prescribing practitioner to request to override the restriction if certain criteria is met.
- This bill adds that the prescribing practitioner can request an override for postpartum depression if the indication for which the prescription drug is required has not been approved by the FDA as described on the prescription drug's approved label.
- **Legislation passed**



HB 939

Sickle Cell Services

- Provides Medicaid coverage for patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease, including coverage for digital monitoring of vitals and at-home care.
- **Legislation Failed**



THANK YOU!

Questions?

Connect with LRHA

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www.lrha.org

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