

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Bill Introduced and Title Read
- Perfunctory 1st reading
- Assigned a Bill Number
- Referred to Committee
- Subcommittee Hearing
- Committee Hearing
- Reported Out of Committee
- Placed on Calendar
- Amendments Proposed, Adopted
- 2nd Reading
- 3rd Reading
- Sent to Other Chamber
- Repeat Process
- If Different from Bill Passed by the Originating Body, then Concurrence/Ratification or Non-concurrence/Conference Committee
- Conference Committee
- Report Adopted
- Ratified
- Signed by Governor
- Becomes Law without Governor's Signature (5 Days Excluding Sunday)



ADVOCACY TIPS

Build Relationships with Legislators

- Make Personal Contacts with Delegation Members Before Asking for Favors
- Keep Open Lines of Communication, Be Nice
- Keep Them Informed about Issues Affecting Your County
- Create Opportunities for Both Public and Non-public Face-to-Face Meetings
- Thank Them Regardless of the Outcome of the Contact (Relationship is Bigger than the Issue)



Communicate with Legislators

- Face-to-Face Communication
- Phone Calls/Text Messaging/Email
- Letter Writing
- Letters to the Editor/Opinion Pieces

RESOURCES

South Carolina General Assembly Website: www.scstatehouse.gov

- Current Legislation
- SC Statutes and Regulations
- Budget Bills
- General Assembly Contact Information

SC Association of Counties Website: <https://www.sccounties.org/advocacy>

- Friday Report – released weekly during general session to inform county officials of legislation that impacts county government
- Legislative Alerts
- Government Affairs Staff Contacts

National Association of Counties Website: <https://www.naco.org/page/advocacy-hub>

- NACo Advocacy Updates by Key Word