

## Formal Legislative Procedure

### The stages of the Parliamentary Process Timeline

#### First Reading

Formal procedure where the name and main aims of the bill are read out. There is then a vote on whether the House wants consider the bill any further.

#### Second Reading

Main debate on whole bill in which MPs debate the principles behind the bill. It focuses on the main principles and at the end a vote is taken.

#### Committee Stage

A detailed examination of each clause of the bill. This is usually done by a Standing Committee.

#### Report Stage

The committee report back to the House on any amendments. The amendments will then be debated, accepted or rejected.

#### Third Reading

The final vote on the bill.

#### House of Lords

If it was started in the House of Commons it is passed to the House of Lords where it goes through the same 5 stages. If the House of Lords make amendments it will go back to the House of Commons for them to consider the amendments. If it started in the House of Lords it will be passed to the House of Commons.

#### Royal Assent

The Monarch formally gives approval to the bill and it becomes law. Although this stage is not just a formality.