

## Readings of Bills

According to noted parliamentarian Luther Cushing, "the different stages or steps, through which a bill must regularly pass, in its progress in each house, were the invention of an early period of parliamentary history, when the accomplishments of reading and writing were not so general as they now are, and when the art of printing was either unknown, or very little practised."

In his book *Hughes' American Parliamentary Guide*, Edward Hughes wrote:

In the early days or in the mediaeval parliaments known as the Parliaments of Estates, all laws were based upon petitions of the people presented to parliament through its members. These petitions would be read in open house by the member presenting them and debate would follow on the subject of the petitioners. If approved by the Parliament they were sent to the king, and if approved the petition with the king's answer subjoined was sent, at the close of parliament, to the judges of the courts. The judges from these often imperfect records drew up the laws which were then entered on the statute rolls. ... The history of this procedure is that very frequently the judges exceeded their authority by inserting in the law, matter not petitioned for by the people, resulting about the 15<sup>th</sup> century in lawmaking by petition being superseded by the invention and adoption of "Procedure by Bill" and by the end of the reign of Henry VII, procedure by bill and the three reading stages were firmly established and continue to this day in nearly if not all legislative bodies in Continental Europe and the United States of America.

Hughes also lists the original stages of "procedure by bill" as:

1. Request to introduce.
2. Committee appointed to prepare and introduce bill.
3. Introduction and fixing time for first reading.
4. First reading—Fixing time for second reading.
5. Second reading—Commitment.
6. Consideration in committee of whole for amendment.
7. Report of committee.
8. Engrossment.
9. Third reading.
10. Passage.
11. Transmission to Lords.
12. Return to Commons.
13. Settlement of disagreement (if any) by conference.
14. Authentication by Speaker and Lord Chancellor.
15. Royal assent.

These stages have changed little since their first adoption. Bills still are introduced, referred to committee, amended and, if passed, presented to the executive.

Bills also still must be read a set number of times (see Table 08-5.87), and these readings often cannot be waived (see Table 08-5.88). The main principle behind the various readings has remained constant as well—that the content of every bill be known and understood. Typically,

the first reading is for introduction and information—to place the house on notice as to a bill and the nature of its provisions. On second reading, the matter and form of the bill are debated and, if necessary, refined. On third reading, the house judges whether the bill is in the form agreed upon and if it truly expresses "the deliberate sense or will of the house."

In the past, as noted above, the only way of informing legislators about the contents of a bill was for the clerk to read it aloud from beginning to end. Today, bills are rarely read at length (see Table 08-5.89); instead, other mechanisms constitute readings at various parliamentary stages (see Tables 08-5.90 through 08-5.94). For example, the most common mechanisms for first, second and third readings are:

- First reading—reading the bill number, title and author (37 chambers).
- Second reading—reading the bill number and title (29 chambers).
- Third reading—reading the bill number, title and author (28 chambers).

Thousands of bills are introduced in state legislatures. To ensure that members have the opportunity to study the legislation, most states require bills to be "read" on separate days (see Table 08-5.93). The provision for readings on separate days often can be waived, however (see Table 08-5.94).

Other mechanisms to slow bill processing on the floor have been established. Some legislative assemblies have set time requirements for how long a bill must lie on members' desks before it can be considered. Tables 08-5.95 through 08-5.100 highlight the limits at various stages.

Table 08-5.87 A Bill Is Read a Set Number of Times

State (1)	Yes	Number of Readings			
		Two	Three	Four	Other
Alabama	B		B		
Alaska	B		B		
Arizona	B		B		
Arkansas	B		B		
California	B		B		
Colorado	H		H		
Connecticut	S		S		
Delaware	H		H		
Florida	B		B		
Georgia	B		B		
Hawaii	B		B		
Idaho	B		B		
Illinois	B		B		
Indiana	H		H		
Iowa	B		B		
Kansas	B		H		2
Kentucky	B		B		
Louisiana	B		B		
Maine					
Maryland	S		S		
Massachusetts	B		B		
Michigan	S		S		
Minnesota	B		B		
Mississippi	B		B		
Missouri	B		B		
Montana	B		B		
Nebraska	S			S	
Nevada	B		B		
New Hampshire	S		S		
New Jersey	S		S		
New Mexico	B		B		
New York	S		S		
North Carolina	B		B		
North Dakota	B	B			

Table 08-5.87 A Bill Is Read a Set Number of Times, cont'd.

State (1)	Yes	Number of Readings			
		Two	Three	Four	Other
Ohio	B		B		
Oklahoma	B			B	
Oregon	B		B		
Pennsylvania	B		B		
Rhode Island	H		H		
South Carolina	B		B		
South Dakota	B	B			
Tennessee	B		B		
Texas	B		B		
Utah	B		B		
Vermont	B		B		
Virginia	B		B		
Washington	B		B		
West Virginia	B		B		
Wisconsin	B		B		
Wyoming	B		B		
Puerto Rico	S	S			3

## Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

## Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Kansas. In the Senate, a bill can have six readings—introduction, reference in the calendar, committee report, committee of the whole, final passage, and concur or conference report.
3. Puerto Rico. In the Senate, in addition to first and second reading, a bill could be read when the Senate becomes a "Total Commission" under Senate Rule 35.7 and when the "Calendar of Special Orders of the Day" is read to the whole chamber under Senate Rule 36.3.

**Table 08-5.88 A Reading of a Bill Can Be Waived**

<b>In the following chambers, a reading of a bill can be waived. (1)</b>	
Alabama Senate	New Hampshire House
Arizona House	New Mexico Senate and House
California Senate and Assembly	New York Senate
Colorado House	Ohio Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	Oregon Senate
Delaware House	Rhode Island House
Idaho Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Indiana House	Utah Senate
Kansas Senate	Vermont Senate
Kentucky Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate	Washington Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	West Virginia House
Montana Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate
Nebraska Senate	Puerto Rico Senate
Nevada Senate and Assembly	
<b>In the following chambers, a reading of a bill cannot be waived.</b>	
Alabama House	Missouri Senate and House
Alaska Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Arizona Senate	North Carolina Senate and House
Arkansas Senate and House	North Dakota Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oregon House
Hawaii Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	South Carolina Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate and House
Kansas House	Texas Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Utah House
Maryland Senate	Vermont House
Massachusetts House	West Virginia Senate
Michigan Senate	Wisconsin Assembly
Minnesota Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House

**Note:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.

**Table 08-5.89 The Readings of a Bill Must Be on Separate Days**

<b>In the following chambers, the readings of a bill must be on separate days. (1)</b>	
Alabama Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arizona Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Arkansas Senate and House	New Mexico Senate and House
California Senate and Assembly	New York Senate
Colorado House	North Dakota Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	Ohio Senate and House
Delaware House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Oregon Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Rhode Island House
Idaho Senate and House	South Carolina Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Indiana House	Tennessee Senate and House
Kansas House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Virginia Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate and House	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Missouri Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Montana Senate and House (2)	
<b>In the following chambers, the readings of a bill are not required to be on separate days.</b>	
Iowa Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Kansas Senate	North Carolina Senate and House (3)
Michigan Senate	Puerto Rico Senate

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Montana. In both chambers, more than one reading is allowed on the last day of session.
3. North Carolina. In the Senate, only revenue bills must be read on separate days. In the House, all bills must be read on separate days; for bills that are not constitutional rolls on revenue bills, the rules can be suspended to allow two readings on one day.

**Table 08-5.90 The Provision for Readings on Separate Days Can Be Waived**

**In the following chambers, the provision that requires bill readings to be on separate days can be waived. (1)**

Alaska Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Arizona Senate and House	New Mexico Senate and House
Arkansas House	New York Senate
California Senate and Assembly	North Carolina Senate and House (2)
Delaware House	Ohio Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Oregon Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Rhode Island House
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Kansas House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky House	Utah Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Vermont Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	Washington Senate and House
Mississippi Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Montana Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and House
Nevada Senate and Assembly	Wyoming Senate and House

**In the following chambers, the provision that requires bill readings to be on separate days cannot be waived.**

Alabama Senate and House	Louisiana Senate and House
Arkansas Senate	Missouri Senate and House
Colorado House	Nebraska Senate
Connecticut Senate	North Dakota Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	South Carolina Senate and House
Kentucky Senate	Tennessee Senate and House

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. North Carolina. In the Senate, the requirement for readings on separate days cannot be waived for revenue bills. In the House, the requirement for readings on separate days can be waived for certain revenue bills that increase fees.

Table 08-5.91 When a Bill Is Required to Be Read in Full

State (1)	Never	On first reading	On second reading	On third reading	On final passage	On consideration of a conference committee report	At the request of a member	Other
Alabama				B				2
Alaska								3
Arizona								4
Arkansas	B							
California	H							5
Colorado			H	H				
Connecticut		S						
Delaware	H							
Florida								6
Georgia							H	7
Hawaii	B							
Idaho		B	B	B	B			8
Illinois								9
Indiana	H							
Iowa	H							10
Kansas	B							
Kentucky	H						S	
Louisiana	B							
Maine								
Maryland	S							
Massachusetts	S						B	11
Michigan							S	
Minnesota	B							
Mississippi					S		H	
Missouri	B							
Montana	B							
Nebraska					S		S	
Nevada							S	12
New Hampshire	H							
New Jersey	S							
New Mexico					H			13
New York	S							
North Carolina	H						S	
North Dakota								14



Table 08-5.91 When a Bill Is Required to Be Read in Full, cont'd.

State	Never	On first reading	On second reading	On third reading	On final passage	On consideration of a conference committee report	At the request of a member	Other
Ohio	B							
Oklahoma	H						S	
Oregon				H	S			
Pennsylvania	S							15
Rhode Island							H	
South Carolina								16
South Dakota							B	
Tennessee							S	
Texas	H						S	
Utah	S						H	
Vermont	B							17
Virginia	B							
Washington			S	S			S	18
West Virginia				H			B	
Wisconsin	B							
Wyoming	H						S	19
Puerto Rico		S				S		20

**Table 08-5.91 When a Bill Is Required to Be Read in Full, cont'd.****Key:**

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama. In the Senate, a bill is read in full upon signing by the Senate president and House speaker, unless the full reading is dispensed with a vote of three-fifths of the members present.
3. Alaska. In both chambers, a bill is read in full upon a vote of the majority of the full Senate or House.
4. Arizona. In the Senate, resolutions and memorials adopted on unanimous consent are read in full. In the House, bills, resolutions or memorials are to be read by sections on three different days unless, in the case of emergency, two-thirds of the House deem it expedient to dispense with this requirement. On the first day of each legislative session, the House adopts a provision establishing that the bill number and short title (the reference title) are read on first and second readings of bills and that the bill number and legal title are read on third reading and final passage of bills.
5. California. In the Senate, a bill is read in full whenever it is amended and during the engrossing and enrolling process.
6. Florida. In both chambers, a bill is read in full upon the request of one-third of the members present.
7. Georgia. In both chambers, a bill is read in full when ordered by the presiding officer or upon a majority vote of the members.
8. Idaho. In the Senate, a unanimous consent request to dispense with the reading typically is made and granted.
9. Illinois. In the both chambers, the only items read in full are joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution.
10. Iowa. In the Senate, the only items read in full are joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution.
11. Massachusetts. In the House, a bill is read in full at the request of a member if the document is not available in printed or photocopied form.
12. Nevada. In the Assembly, a bill is read in full when ordered by the speaker or upon a majority vote of the members.

**Table 08-5.91 When a Bill Is Required to Be Read in Full, cont'd.**

13. New Mexico. In the Senate, a bill is read in full when there is opposition to unanimous consent request to suspend the rules and dispense with the reading.
14. North Dakota. In both chambers, a bill is read in full upon the request of one-fifth of the members present.
15. Pennsylvania. In the Senate, a bill is read in full upon written request of 25 percent of the members. In the House, a bill is read in full upon request of 25 percent of the members elected.
16. South Carolina. In both chambers and only at second reading, a bill is read in full upon the request of a member.
17. Vermont. In the Senate, a bill is read in full on second or third reading at the direction of the Senate president or upon order of the Senate.
18. Washington. In the House, a bill is read in full upon the demand of a majority of the members present.
19. Wyoming. In the Senate, a bill is read in full during committee of the whole.
20. Puerto Rico. In the Senate, a bill is read in full when the body convenes in "Total Commission."

**Table 08-5.92 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on First Reading?**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and title in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Alabama				B			S	
Alaska				B				
Arizona			B			H		2
Arkansas				B				
California				S			B	
Colorado				H				
Connecticut								
Delaware								3
Florida						S		4
Georgia	S			H				
Hawaii								5
Idaho				B			S	
Illinois				B				
Indiana								6
Iowa				B			S	
Kansas				B				
Kentucky				H				
Louisiana		S		H				
Maine								
Maryland			S					
Massachusetts						B		
Michigan				S				
Minnesota	H			S			B	7
Mississippi			S					8
Missouri		S			H			9
Montana				B				
Nebraska				S				
Nevada			S	H				
New Hampshire					H			10
New Jersey				S				
New Mexico				S				
New York					S			11
North Carolina				B				
North Dakota		B						

**Table 08-5.92 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on First Reading?, cont'd.**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and title in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Ohio		S	H					
Oklahoma	S			H				12
Oregon			B			S		13
Pennsylvania	B							
Rhode Island							H	
South Carolina		H		S				
South Dakota			B					
Tennessee	H						H	14
Texas				B				
Utah			H	S				
Vermont		H	S					
Virginia			H					15
Washington			S					16
West Virginia			H	S				
Wisconsin							B	
Wyoming				B				
Puerto Rico								

**Table 08-5.92 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on First Reading?, cont'd.**

**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Arizona. In the House, the bill number and title are printed in the appropriate calendar.
3. Delaware. In the House, printing and publishing the "prefile," which includes the bill number, author and title.
4. Florida. In the House, the bill number and author are printed in the journal.
5. Hawaii. In the House, a motion is made to pass the measure by bill number.
6. Indiana. In the House, a list of bills is prepared and distributed; the list includes the bill numbers, authors, titles and committee referrals. "Reading" means announcing the list number and noting its distribution. Each list also is printed in the journal.
7. Minnesota. In both chambers, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
8. Mississippi. In the House, the bill number and title are printed in the appropriate calendar.
9. Missouri. In the House, the bill number is printed in the appropriate calendar.
10. New Hampshire. In the House, the clerk keeps a list of the bill numbers and titles. A motion that the bills be read according to the list in the possession of the clerk is made.
11. New York. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
12. Oklahoma. In the House, at the beginning of session when more than 1,000 bills are to be read for the first or second time, the majority leader makes a motion that the bills be considered read pursuant to the list provided to the members.
13. Oregon. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
14. Tennessee. In the Senate, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
15. Virginia. In the Senate, the bill number and title are printed in the appropriate calendar. In the House, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
16. Washington. In the House, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.

**Table 08-5.93 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Second Reading?**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and author in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Alabama	S			H		S		2
Alaska				B				
Arizona			B			H		3
Arkansas	H			S				
California								4
Colorado				H				
Connecticut								
Delaware								5
Florida			S	H				
Georgia	S			H				
Hawaii			S					6
Idaho						S		7
Illinois			B					
Indiana								8
Iowa	H						S	
Kansas								9
Kentucky				H				
Louisiana		S		H				
Maine								
Maryland			S					
Massachusetts		H	S					
Michigan				S				
Minnesota	B				B			10
Mississippi			B					
Missouri		S						
Montana		B		B				11
Nebraska				S				
Nevada			S					12
New Hampshire					H			13
New Jersey			S					
New Mexico				S				
New York					S			
North Carolina			S	H				
North Dakota		B						

**Table 08-5.93 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Second Reading?, cont'd.**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and author in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Ohio			H					14
Oklahoma		S	H					15
Oregon			B		S			16
Pennsylvania	S		H					17
Rhode Island								18
South Carolina	H			S				
South Dakota			B					
Tennessee	H				H			19
Texas			S	H				
Utah			H	S				
Vermont		H	S					
Virginia			H					20
Washington								21
West Virginia			B					
Wisconsin			S	H				
Wyoming		S	H					
Puerto Rico			S					



**Table 08-5.93 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Second Reading?, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
3. Arizona. In the House, the bill number is printed in the appropriate calendar.
4. California. In the Senate, the bill number and title are printed in the journal; during the floor session under the proper order of business, the reading clerk reads the bill number and informs the body whether the bill has amendments. In the Assembly, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar, and the bill number and title are printed in the journal.
5. Delaware. In the House, the bill number and committee vote are read into the record.
6. Hawaii. In the House, a motion is made to pass the measure by bill number.
7. Idaho. In both chambers, the bill number and author are read.
8. Indiana. In the House, the bill number and author are read.
9. Kansas. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar. In the House, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
10. Minnesota. In the Senate, the bill number is printed in the appropriate calendar.
11. Montana. In both chambers, only the title must be read according to rule; in practice, however, the number, title and author are read.
12. Nevada. In the Assembly, the bill number, sponsor, title, enacting clause, and the beginning and ending section numbers of the bill are read.
13. New Hampshire. In the House, the clerk keeps a list of the bill numbers and titles. A motion is made that the bills be read according to the list in the possession of the clerk.
14. Ohio. In the Senate, the reference report is read.
15. Oklahoma. In the House, at the beginning of session when more than 1,000 bills are to be read for the first or second time, the majority leader makes a motion that the bills be considered read pursuant to the list provided to the members.
16. Oregon. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
17. Pennsylvania. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.

**Table 08-5.93 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Second Reading?, cont'd.**

18. Rhode Island. In the House, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
19. Tennessee. In the Senate, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
20. Virginia. In the Senate, the bill number and title are printed in the appropriate calendar.
21. Washington. In the House, the bill number and first and last lines are read.

**Table 08-5.94 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Third Reading?**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and title in the journal	Printing the bill number and author in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Alabama				H			S	H	2
Alaska			B						
Arizona			B			H			3
Arkansas				B					
California				B				S	
Colorado				H					
Connecticut									
Delaware				H					
Florida			S	H					
Georgia				B					4
Hawaii			S						5
Idaho				B	S				
Illinois			B						
Indiana									
Iowa				B					
Kansas	S								
Kentucky				H					
Louisiana		S		H					
Maine									
Maryland			S						
Massachusetts		H	S						
Michigan				S					
Minnesota			B			B			
Mississippi			B						
Missouri		S						H	6
Montana		B		B					
Nebraska									7
Nevada			S						8
New Hampshire			H						
New Jersey				S					
New Mexico									
New York				S	S				
North Carolina			S						
North Dakota									

**Table 08-5.94 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Third Reading?, cont'd.**

State (1)	Reading the bill number	Reading the bill title	Reading the bill number and title	Reading the bill number, title and author	Printing the bill number in the journal	Printing the bill number and title in the journal	Printing the bill number and author in the journal	Printing the bill number, title and author in the journal	Other
Ohio		S	H						
Oklahoma	S			H					
Oregon			B						9
Pennsylvania	S		H						10
Rhode Island	H								
South Carolina	H			S					
South Dakota									
Tennessee	H								11
Texas			S	H					
Utah			H	S					
Vermont		H	S						
Virginia			H						12
Washington									13
West Virginia			B						
Wisconsin			S	H					
Wyoming				B					14
Puerto Rico									

**Table 08-5.94 If not Read in Full, What Constitutes the Reading of a Bill on Third Reading?, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama. In the House, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
3. Arizona. In the House, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
4. Georgia. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
5. Hawaii. In the House, a motion is made to pass the measure by bill number.
6. Missouri. In the House, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
7. Nebraska. In the Senate, the bill number and author are read.
8. Nevada. In the Assembly, the bill number, sponsor, title, enacting clause, and the beginning and ending section numbers of the bill are read.
9. Oregon. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
10. Pennsylvania. In the Senate, the bill number, title and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
11. Tennessee. In the Senate, the bill number and author are printed in the appropriate calendar.
12. Virginia. In the Senate, the bill number and title are printed in the appropriate calendar.
13. Washington. In the House, the last line of the bill is read.
14. Wyoming. In both chambers, the enacting clause also is read.

**Table 08-5.95 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on First Reading**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Other
Alabama	S		
Alaska	B		
Arizona	B		
Arkansas	B		
California			2
Colorado	H		
Connecticut	S		
Delaware	H		
Florida	S	H	
Georgia	H	S	
Hawaii	B		
Idaho	B		
Illinois	B		
Indiana	H		
Iowa	H		3
Kansas	B		
Kentucky	S	H	
Louisiana		B	
Maine			
Maryland		S	4
Massachusetts	B		
Michigan	S		
Minnesota	B		
Mississippi	B		
Missouri	H	S	
Montana	B		
Nebraska			5
Nevada	B		
New Hampshire	H		
New Jersey	S		
New Mexico	S		
New York			
North Carolina		H	6
North Dakota	B		

**Table 08-5.95 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on First Reading, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Other
Ohio	H	S	
Oklahoma	H	S	
Oregon	H		
Pennsylvania	B		
Rhode Island		H	
South Carolina	H	S	
South Dakota	B		
Tennessee			7
Texas	B		
Utah	B		
Vermont	B		
Virginia	S		
Washington	B		
West Virginia	H	S	
Wisconsin	H	S	
Wyoming			8
Puerto Rico	S		

**Table 08-5.95 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks  
Before It Can Be Considered on First Reading, cont'd.**

**Key:**

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

**Note:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. California. In both chambers, a bill must be in print for 30 days before it can be acted upon.
3. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
4. Maryland. In the Senate, the restriction applies only during the first 70 days of the 90-day session.
5. Nebraska. The interpretation of various Nebraska constitutional provisions requires at least seven calendar days from introduction to final passage consideration.
6. North Carolina. In the Senate, a bill receives its first reading on the next legislative day after it is filed, unless the rules are suspended to allow the reading to occur on the same day as filing.
7. Tennessee. In both chambers, bills must be filed no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day preceding the day of introduction.
8. Wyoming. For both chambers, there is no specific time requirement during the first year of the biennium (odd-numbered years). During the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), bills must be on the members' desks for 24 hours before introduction.



**Table 08-5.96 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Second Reading**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Alabama	S		H		
Alaska		B			
Arizona	B				
Arkansas	B				
California					2
Colorado			H		
Connecticut	S				
Delaware		H			
Florida	S	H			
Georgia	B				
Hawaii	B				
Idaho	B				
Illinois	B				
Indiana			H		
Iowa				H	3
Kansas			(4)		
Kentucky	S	H			
Louisiana	S	H			
Maine					
Maryland		S			5
Massachusetts	S	H			
Michigan	S				
Minnesota	B				
Mississippi	B				
Missouri		B			
Montana	B				
Nebraska	S				6
Nevada		B			
New Hampshire	H				
New Jersey		S			
New Mexico	S				
New York					
North Carolina	H				
North Dakota	B				

**Table 08-5.96 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks  
Before It Can Be Considered on Second Reading, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Ohio	H	S			
Oklahoma		B			
Oregon					7
Pennsylvania		S	H		
Rhode Island		H			
South Carolina		H			
South Dakota					8
Tennessee	H	S			
Texas			S		9
Utah		B			
Vermont		B			
Virginia	S				
Washington	H	S			
West Virginia		S			10
Wisconsin	B				
Wyoming		S			11
Puerto Rico	S				

**Table 08-5.96 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks  
Before It Can Be Considered on Second Reading, cont'd.**

**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. California. In the Senate, bills normally are not taken up on the floor when they are on the "second reading" file; bills spend one to two legislative days on the "second reading" file before they move to the "third reading" file. Bills are eligible for floor action when they are on the "third reading" file. However, unanimous consent can be granted to take up a measure on the "second reading" file. In the Assembly, bills without amendments must lie on the members' desks for one day, but amended bills must lie on members' desks for two days.
3. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
4. Kansas. In the House, the two-day requirement applies only to appropriation bills.
5. Maryland. In the Senate, the restriction applies only during the first 70 days of the 90-day session.
6. Nebraska. The interpretation of various Nebraska constitutional provisions requires at least seven calendar days from introduction to final passage consideration.
7. Oregon. In the House, bills that receive a "do pass" recommendation must lie on the members' desks for one day, but amended bills must lie on members' desks for two days.
8. South Dakota. In both chambers, a bill must lie on members' desks for at least one legislative day after it has been reported to the House by the committee to which it was assigned.
9. Texas. In the House, a bill must lie on members' desks for 36 hours.
10. West Virginia. In the House, a bill must be available by 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding its second reading.
11. Wyoming. In the Senate, to advance a bill to its next reading early, the rule requiring a bill to lie on members' desks for one day must be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected. By a majority vote of a quorum, the Senate also can delay a bill's processing by approving a motion to lay back the bill to a designated time and day.

**Table 08-5.97 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Third Reading**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Alabama	S			H	
Alaska		B			2
Arizona	B				
Arkansas		B			
California	S	H			
Colorado		H			
Connecticut				S	
Delaware		H			
Florida	S	H			
Georgia	H				3
Hawaii			B		
Idaho	B				
Illinois	B				
Indiana					
Iowa	H				4
Kansas					
Kentucky	S	H			
Louisiana	S	H			5
Maine					
Maryland		S			6
Massachusetts	B				
Michigan					7
Minnesota		B			
Mississippi	S	H			
Missouri	H	S			
Montana		B			
Nebraska					8
Nevada		B			
New Hampshire	H				
New Jersey		S			
New Mexico	S				
New York					
North Carolina	H				
North Dakota					

**Table 08-5.97 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Third Reading, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Ohio	H	S			
Oklahoma		B	H		
Oregon		B			
Pennsylvania		S		H	
Rhode Island		H			
South Carolina	H				
South Dakota					
Tennessee	H		S		
Texas		B			
Utah		B			
Vermont		B			
Virginia	S				
Washington	H	S			
West Virginia		B			
Wisconsin	B				
Wyoming		S			9
Puerto Rico					

**Table 08-5.97 Time that a Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks  
Before It Can Be Considered on Third Reading, cont'd.**

**Key:**

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

**Notes:**

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alaska. In both chambers, the rules require that a bill's three readings occur on three separate days; however, a bill can be advanced from second to third reading on the same day by a three-fourths vote of the full chamber.
3. Georgia. In the Senate, bills must be on members' desks by the time at which the body convenes.
4. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
5. Louisiana. In the House, the general appropriation bill must lie on members' desks for three days.
6. Maryland. In the Senate, the restriction applies only during the first 70 days of the 90-day session.
7. Michigan. In the Senate, bills must lie on members' desks for five days.
8. Nebraska. The interpretation of various Nebraska constitutional provisions requires at least seven calendar days from introduction to final passage consideration.
9. Wyoming. In the Senate, to advance a bill to its next reading early, the rule requiring a bill to lie on members' desks for one day must be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected. By a majority vote of a quorum, the Senate also can delay a bill's processing by approving a motion to hold the bill to a designated day and time.

**Table 08-5.98 Time that a Typical Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Other
Alabama	B			
Alaska	B			
Arizona	B			
Arkansas	S			
California		B		2
Colorado		H		
Connecticut	S			
Delaware	H			
Florida	S			
Georgia	B			
Hawaii	B			
Idaho	B			
Illinois				3
Indiana				4
Iowa	H			5
Kansas	S	H		6
Kentucky	B			
Louisiana	S	H		
Maine				
Maryland	S			
Massachusetts	B			
Michigan		S		
Minnesota	B			
Mississippi	B			
Missouri	B			
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada	B			
New Hampshire	H			
New Jersey	S			
New Mexico				
New York	S			
North Carolina	B			
North Dakota	B			

**Table 08-5.98 Time that a Typical Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Other
Ohio		B		
Oklahoma			H	
Oregon		B		
Pennsylvania	S	H		
Rhode Island				
South Carolina		H		
South Dakota	B			
Tennessee		B		
Texas		H	(7)	
Utah		(8)		
Vermont		B		
Virginia	S			
Washington	B			
West Virginia	B			
Wisconsin	B			
Wyoming	S			
Puerto Rico	S			



**Table 08-5.98 Time that a Typical Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. California. In the Senate, the printed legislative counsel digest also must be on file before a concurrence item is taken up.
3. Illinois. In both chambers, a bill must lie on members' desks for one hour before concurrence is taken up.
4. Indiana. In the House, the motion to concur and a summary of the bill must be on members' desks two hours before action is taken.
5. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
6. Kansas. In the House, by practice, a bill's number and title must appear in the calendar under motions to concur/not concur before it can be voted upon.
7. Texas. In the Senate, the two-day requirement is shortened to 24 hours during the last 72 hours of regular session or during a special session.
8. Utah. In both chambers, the one-day requirement is removed during the last few days of session.

**Table 08-5.99 Time that a Budget or Tax Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Alabama	B				
Alaska		B			
Arizona	B				
Arkansas	S				
California	S	H			
Colorado		H			
Connecticut	S				
Delaware	H				
Florida	S				
Georgia	B				
Hawaii	B				
Idaho	B				
Illinois					2
Indiana					3
Iowa	H				4
Kansas	S	H			5
Kentucky	H				
Louisiana	S		H		
Maine					
Maryland	S				
Massachusetts	B				
Michigan		S			
Minnesota	B				
Mississippi	B				
Missouri	B				
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada	B				
New Hampshire	(6)				
New Jersey	S				
New Mexico					
New York	S				
North Carolina	B				
North Dakota	B				

**Table 08-5.99 Time that a Budget or Tax Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Ohio		H			
Oklahoma			H		
Oregon		B			
Pennsylvania	S	H			
Rhode Island					
South Carolina		H			
South Dakota	B				
Tennessee		B			
Texas		H	(7)		
Utah	S	H			
Vermont		B			
Virginia	S				
Washington	B				
West Virginia	B				
Wisconsin	B				
Wyoming	S				
Puerto Rico	S				

**Table 08-5.99 Time that a Budget or Tax Bill Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered on Concurrence, cont'd.**

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Illinois. In both chambers, a bill must lie on members' desks for one hour before concurrence is taken up.
3. Indiana. In the House, the motion to concur and a summary of the bill must be on members' desks two hours before action is taken.
4. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
5. Kansas. In the House, by practice, a bill's number and title must appear in the calendar under motions to concur/not concur before it can be voted upon.
6. New Hampshire. In the House, a briefing on Senate amendments to the budget is required, however.
7. Texas. In the Senate, the two-day requirement is shortened to 24 hours during the last 72 hours of regular session or during a special session.

**Table 08-5.100 Time that a Conference Report Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Alabama	B				
Alaska	(2)				
Arizona	B				
Arkansas	S				
California		H	S		3
Colorado		(4)			
Connecticut	S				
Delaware					
Florida					5
Georgia					6
Hawaii			S		
Idaho	B				
Illinois		(7)			7
Indiana		H			
Iowa	H				8
Kansas					9
Kentucky	H	S			
Louisiana	S	H			
Maine					
Maryland	S				
Massachusetts	S				10
Michigan		S			
Minnesota					11
Mississippi	S	H			
Missouri	H	S			
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada	B				
New Hampshire		H			
New Jersey	S				
New Mexico					
New York	S				
North Carolina	S	H			
North Dakota	B				

**Table 08-5.100 Time that a Conference Report Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered, cont'd.**

State (1)	No specific time requirement	One day	Two days	Three days	Other
Ohio		B			
Oklahoma			H		
Oregon		B			
Pennsylvania		H			12
Rhode Island					
South Carolina	H	S			
South Dakota	B				
Tennessee	H	S			
Texas		H	(13)		
Utah	B				
Vermont		B			
Virginia	S				
Washington		B			
West Virginia	S	H			
Wisconsin	B				
Wyoming	S				
Puerto Rico	S				

**Table 08-5.100 Time that a Conference Report Must Lie on Members' Desks Before It Can Be Considered, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maine Senate and House, Maryland House, Michigan House, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Assembly, Rhode Island Senate, American Samoa Senate and House, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico House and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alaska. In both chambers, a conference report for an appropriation bill, however, must lie on members' desks for one day.
3. California. In the Senate, a conference report must be in print for two days prior to its consideration.
4. Colorado. In the House, the one-day requirement is suspended during the last three days of session.
5. Florida. In the Senate, a conference report must lie on members' desks for 12 hours during regular session or two hours during a special session.
6. Georgia. In both chambers, a conference report must lie on members' desks for one hour.
7. Illinois. In the Senate, a conference report must lie on members' desks for one hour before it is taken up. In the House, the one-day requirement is reduced to one hour beginning on the 29<sup>th</sup> day prior to scheduled adjournment.
8. Iowa. In the Senate, the timing for bills to be printed in the calendar varies from one to three days, depending upon the type of bill; however, the majority leader frequently asks unanimous consent to call up bills early.
9. Kansas. In the both chambers, conference committee reports must be on members' desks for 30 minutes prior to consideration.
10. Massachusetts. In the House, a conference report must be filed in the office of the clerk and made available by 8:00 p.m. on the day preceding consideration, and on the day of consideration, the report cannot be taken up until 1:00 p.m.
11. Minnesota. In both chambers, conference reports must lie on members' desks for 12 hours; this requirement is suspended during the last four days of session, however.
12. Pennsylvania. In the Senate, conference reports must lie on members' desks for six hours.
13. Texas. In the Senate, the two-day requirement is shortened to 24 hours during the last 72 hours of regular session or during a special session.

