

Resource 2—Legislative process in the ACT—From a bill to an act

Policy Development—Prior to the parliamentary process

Policy development can originate in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

- party policy and new policy ideas;
- election commitments;
- community pressure; and
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and inter-governmental agreements.

Legislation (Government and Private Members' Bills)

1. The party approves a policy position to allow for legislation to be developed.
2. Instructions forwarded to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to prepare a draft Bill.
3. The party considers the draft and any changes are incorporated into a final Bill which is approved for tabling in Assembly.

Parliamentary Process

Presentation

- Minister/member presents the Bill along with an explanatory statement (all Bills) and Human Rights Act compatibility statement (only for Government Bills);
- Minister/member moves that 'the Bill be agreed to in principle', makes presentation speech; and
- debate is adjourned, Bill is automatically referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny role).

Agreement in principle

- In-principle debate on Bill resumes (any member can speak during the debate);
- the minister/member who presented the Bill closes the debate; and
- Bill is agreed to 'in principle'.

Detail stage

- Bill considered in detail including clauses, schedules and title; and
- amendments moved and considered.

Agreement/Negated

- final question, no debate allowed – 'that this Bill be agreed to' or 'this Bill, as amended, be agreed to'.

A Bill to an Act—After the parliamentary process

1. The Act is prepared and certified by the Clerk as a 'true copy' as passed in the Legislative Assembly for the ACT.
2. Sent to Parliamentary Counsel's Office by the Speaker with a letter asking that it be notified on the [ACT Legislation Register](#).