HOW AN MNA BILL BECOMES LAW

WHAT IS A BILL?

A bill is a document based on an idea that someone has. It can direct state government agencies to do things like increase spending on healthcare or change policy regarding how many patients a nurse can care for at one time. It can influence corporate behavior by requiring data transparency and financial accountability with taxpayer money, or by directing government agencies to investigate claims of malpractice.

THE BASICS

The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Governor must agree to a bill in which the language is exactly the same in order for it to become law.

WHAT IMPACTS THE **PROCESS?**

Various outside factors may impact the legislative process. Things like politics, election years, budget deficits, emergencies, and natural disasters may make it harder for legislation to pass.

WHY NURSE VOICES ARE **IMPORTANT**

One way we can try to mitigate the unpredictable is to ensure that nurse voices are front and center in the process. Your stories create political pressure on elected officials and ensure that nurse issues are included in discussions about changes to Minnesota's healthcare system.

YOUR BILL STARTS HERE

First, a bill needs 3 things:

1. A lead author

2. To be written in statutory language 3. An introduction in the House and the Senate

The bill begins to work its way through the appropriate House and Senate Committees.

A bill now can be changed in different

ways through amendments that delete,

change, or add new parts.

Once the bill is heard by all necessary

committees it's referred to the House

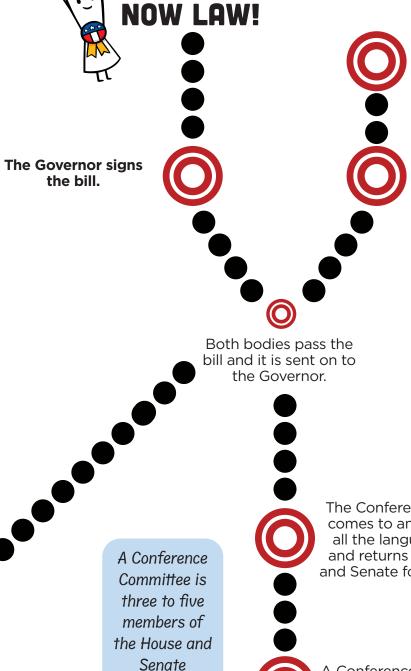
or Senate floor.

If the passed bills are the same..

House and Senate Committees are made up of elected legislators who vet the bill and hear from stakeholders and members of the public.

Nurses should stories now!

start sharing their



Your bill is

The Conference Committee comes to an agreement on all the language in the bill and returns it to the House and Senate for Final Passage.

Your bill does not

become law.

The Governor vetoes

the bill.

The legislature

can vote

to override a

Governor's veto

but that rarely

happens.

A Conference Committee is appointed to work out the differences.

> If the passed bills are different...

The majority caucus schedules a bill for the entire body to vote on. The bill can also be amended in each body, and they each can pass different versions of the same bill.