

# Legislative Process in California



**By Jennifer Thompson, MSW**

# Outline of Presentation

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1. Legislative Process
2. Impacting Public Policy
3. Budget Process



# Legislative Process



# The California Legislature

- State Senate (40 members)
- State Assembly (80 members)
- Two-year legislative sessions
  - Odd-numbered year is first year of session.
  - Bills must meet certain legislative deadlines to move forward.

# Key Legislative Terms

- **SB:** Senate Bill
- **AB:** Assembly Bill
- **Amendment:** Proposal to change the text of a bill after it has been introduced.
- **Appropriation:** Amount of money made available for an expenditure by a specific entity for a specific purpose.
- **Chaptered bill:** Bill that has been approved by Legislature, signed by Governor, then assigned a “chapter” number in California’s statutes for that year.

# Idea to Bill to Law

- Idea
- Drafting
- Introduction
  - Bill receives number
- Rules committee of the house: Assigned to the appropriate policy committee for its first hearing.
  - 23 policy committees in Senate
  - 31 policy committees in Assembly
- If requires the expenditure of funds must also be heard in the fiscal committees, Senate Appropriations and Assembly Appropriations.

# Legislative Process

- Committee action
  - Pass
  - Amend
  - Hold
  - Kill
- Floor debate and vote
- Required Votes:
  - Most bills require 21 votes in the Senate and 41 votes in the Assembly (Majority).
  - Bills that require an appropriation, or that take effect immediately, require 27 votes in the Senate and 54 votes in the Assembly to be passed (2/3).
- Move to the other House.

# Resolving differences

*If Assembly and Senate pass different versions of bill, differences must be reconciled. This can be done by*

- **Concurrence**
  - One house agrees to other house's version.
- **Conference committee**
  - Both houses must approve any compromise bill.
- **If approved by Legislature, bill goes to Governor.**

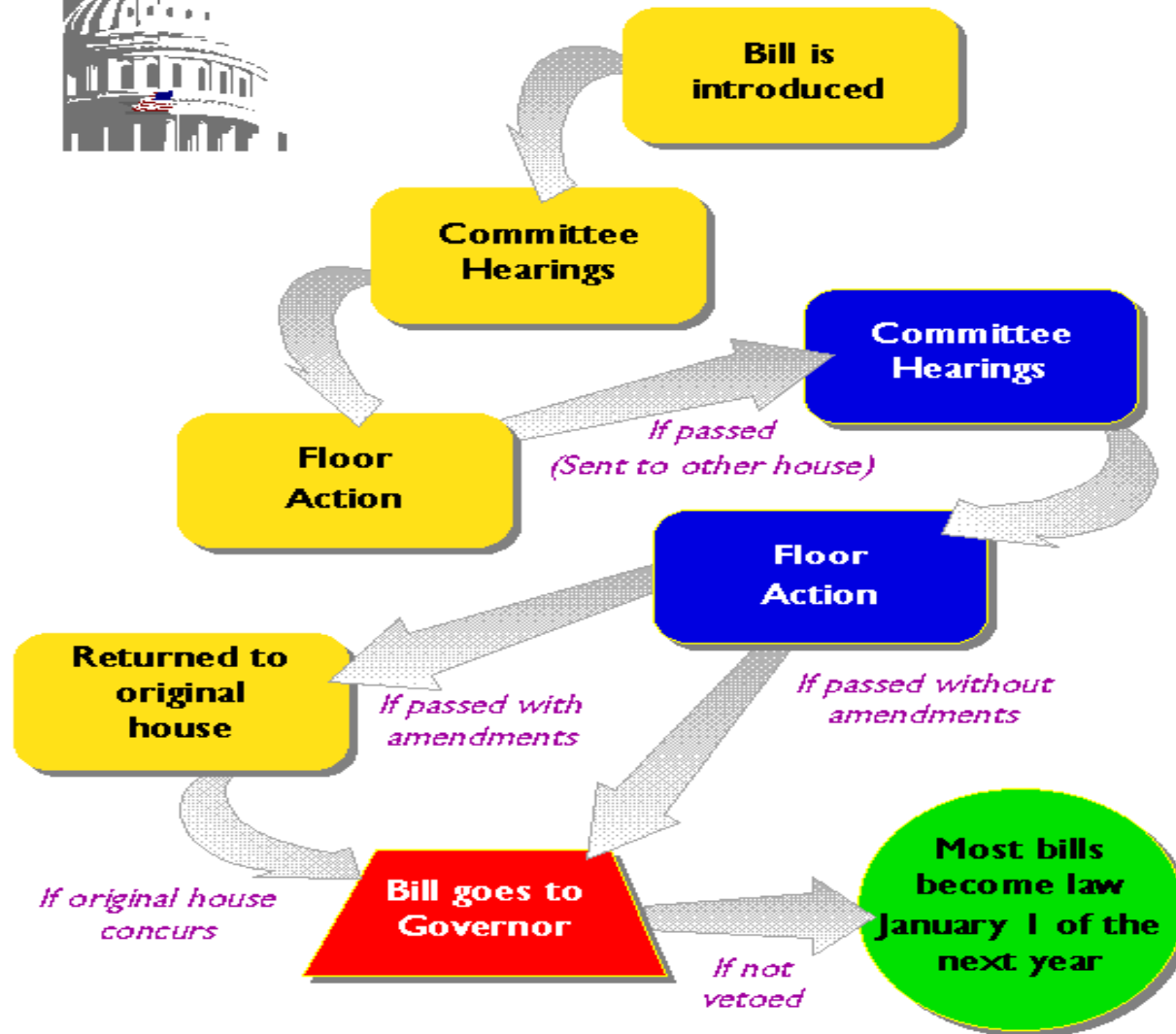


# Action by Governor

- Governor acts (within 12 days of receiving bill).
  - Signs bill *or*
  - Allows it to become law without signature
    - *Bill is “chaptered.”*
  - Vetoes bill
    - *Bill returns to Legislature for possible override. (Requires two-thirds vote in each house.)*
  - Blue line or line item veto



## How a Bill Becomes a Law

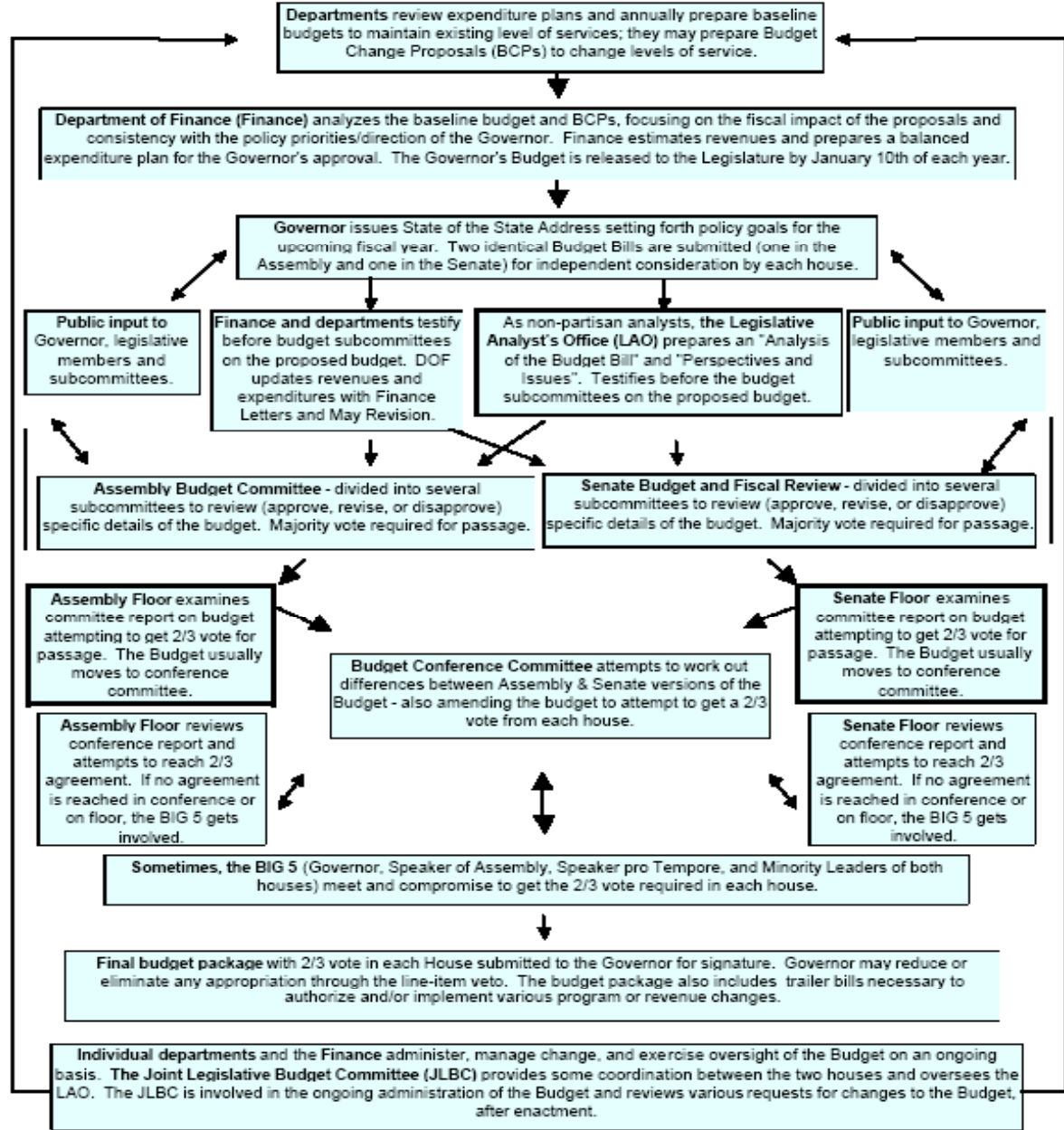




# Budget Process



# THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS





# Impacting Public Policy



# LOBBYING

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



# How Can We Affect Public Policy?

- Sponsor a bill.
- Seek amendment to a bill.
- Advocate for or against a bill.
- Follow up after enactment of a bill to assure that appropriate regulations are in place.
- Seeking increased funding for a program through the budget.
- Grassroots advocacy on bills and budget including letter writing campaigns and use of media.

# Key Web Sites for Advocacy

- Official California legislative information — <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>
  - Links to important information about legislation and legislative process.
  - Search for California bills at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.
  - “Subscribe” to bills you want to track.
  - Budget Bill is also available via the leginfo website.