

NH Legislative Process

The background of the slide is a photograph of the New Hampshire State Capitol building. The building features a prominent golden dome topped with a statue of Liberty. To the left of the dome, an American flag and the New Hampshire state flag are flying on tall poles. The sky is a mix of light blue and soft orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The building's facade is light-colored with arched windows.

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The New Hampshire Legislative Branch

- The new Hampshire Legislative Branch consists of 424 members (400 House, and 24 Senate).
- NH has the 3rd largest English speaking body of government in the world.
- Each official is elected every 2 years.

NH House of Representatives 2002 - 2018



NH State Senate 2002-2018





The New Hampshire Executive Branch

Governor Chris Sununu

- **The NH Governor is elected every 2 years and oversees the state agencies as well as the legislative body.**

NH Executive Council

- **NH has 5 Executive Council Districts to represent the State.**
- **The role of the Executive Council is to approve of State contracts and the Governors appointments to serve on commissions, boards, department heads and judges.**

Legislation Introduction (House)

- **Tuesday September 08, 2020 – Friday November 20, 2019**
 - **An LSR is a pre-filed bill, at which point only titles are available until complete drafting has taken place and the House member signs off on the language.**

Legislation Introduction (Senate)

- **October 16, 2020 – December 15, 2020**

- **The Senate has the ability to submit “confidential” LSRs at which point not even a title is available for viewing.**



House and Senate Hearings

- **Public hearings**

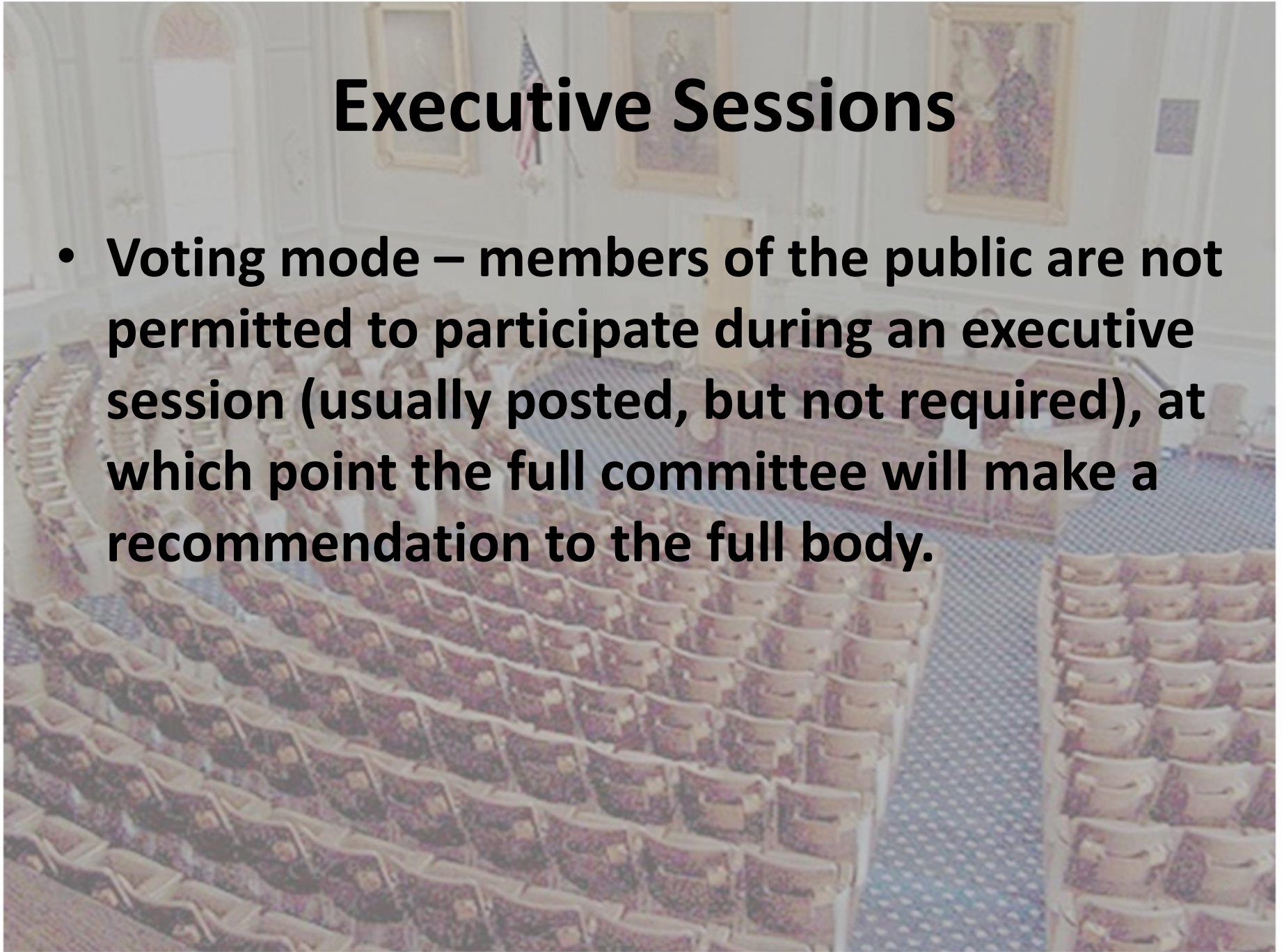
- **House – if wishing to testify, fill out a “pink card” and submit to the Chair. Also available is the ability to sign in to “Support” or “Oppose” the bill without wishing to comment on the record.**
- **Senate – Sign-in sheet with the ability to indicate “support” or “opposition” and note if you would like to speak or not.**

Subcommittee Work Sessions

- **House Only – The House will have the ability to assign subcommittees to further work on legislation before the committee votes it out of committee.**
- **While the Senate does not have formal subcommittees, the Chair may ask stakeholders to work on the language and provide a member with the proper amendment.**

Executive Sessions

- **Voting mode – members of the public are not permitted to participate during an executive session (usually posted, but not required), at which point the full committee will make a recommendation to the full body.**



Committee Recommendations

- **Ought to Pass**
 - The Committee recommends the bill be passed in its current form without amendment.
- **Ought to Pass with Amendment**
 - The Committee recommends the bill be passed with an amendment.
- **Inexpedient to Legislate**
 - The Committee recommends the bill be killed
- **Retain (1st year)/Interim Study (2nd Year)**
 - The Committee recommends the bill be held for further work over the summer with a recommendation to the full house in the Fall whether to adopt or kill the bill; or in the 2nd year if future legislation should be filed or not.

Floor Votes

- **Consent Calendar**
 - If the full committee is in agreement on the recommendation, they can put the bill on the consent calendar (in the Senate, all 5 committee members need to be in agreement and present voting)
- **Regular Calendar**
 - Usually some disagreement among committee members and members will discuss the merits of the bill on the floor



Second Committee

- **Finance**

- If the bill has a fiscal note attached and involves spending of some form, the bill will go to Finance as a second committee.

- **Ways and Means**

- If the bill has a fiscal note and impacts revenues to the State, the bill will go to Ways and Means as a second committee.

Crossover

- **Mid-way through the Legislative Session, a date will be set at which point all the bills in their originating body must be sent to the other body for work (ie. Senate bills must be sent to the House and vice versa)**
- **Crossover has been scheduled for Thursday April 01, 2021.**

Committees of Conference

- If the House and Senate each adopt a different version of a bill, they have three options at their disposal:
 - Concur
 - Non-Concur and request a Committee of Conference
 - Non-Concur

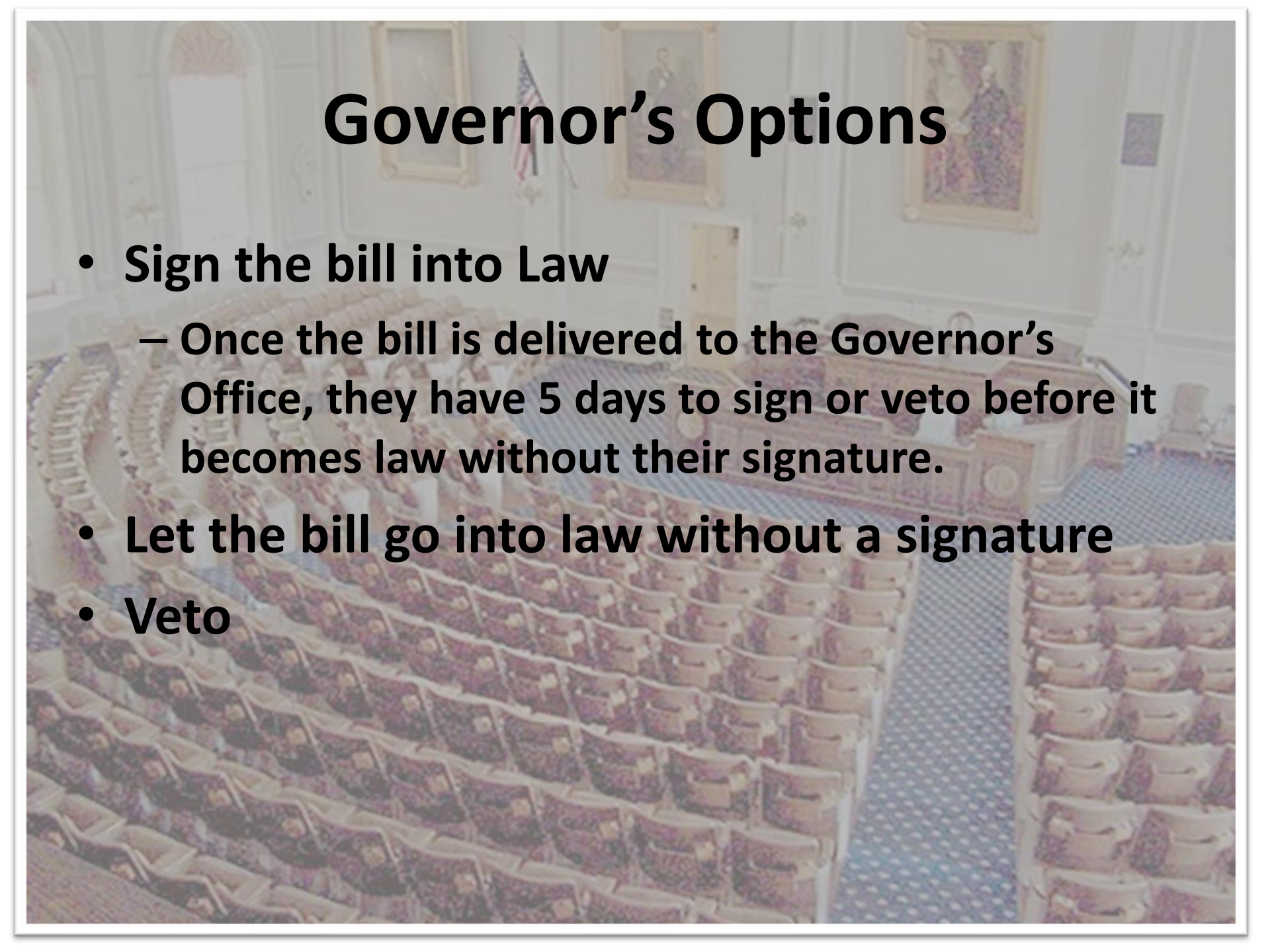
Committees of Conference

- **Non-Concur and Request a Committee of Conference**
 - If either body requests a committee of conference, the other body may accede or refuse to accede.
 - If the bills goes to a committee of conference, each body must defend their body's position and accept either body's version or work out a compromise.

Bill Passage

- **Enrolled Bills Process**
 - If both bodies agree to a version of the bill, it will then enter the enrolled bill process by which it is reviewed to ensure that the version is located in the right section of law and does not include any spelling or grammatical mistakes.
- **Governor's signature**
 - Once the bill has finished the enrolled bills process, the Secretary of State will deliver it to the Governor for his signature.

Governor's Options



- **Sign the bill into Law**
 - Once the bill is delivered to the Governor's Office, they have 5 days to sign or veto before it becomes law without their signature.
- **Let the bill go into law without a signature**
- **Veto**



Veto

- If the bill is vetoed by the Governor, it needs $\frac{2}{3}$ of each body to vote to override the veto.
- 267 of the 400 House Members.
- 16 of the 24 Senate Members.

Re-Refer/Retain or Interim Study

- If a bill is re-referred or retained to committee (1st Year), they will work on it over the summer and make a recommendation to the full body when they meet again in the Fall.
- If a bill is Interim Study (2nd Year), the committee will meet to discuss the bill and make a recommendation that it be recommended for future legislation or not recommended for future legislation.



Resources

- <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>
- At the General Court Website, you can search for bills by the bill number, title, and even enter specific words in an advanced search to find any legislation from the current session or previous sessions.

The background image shows the interior of a legislative chamber, likely the New Hampshire State House. It features rows of wooden chairs with patterned upholstery, an American flag on a stand, and framed portraits on the walls. The room is well-lit and has a formal, historical appearance.

Lobbying

- Lobbyists in New Hampshire are required by law to register on behalf of their clients, submit quarterly reports, and wear an orange badge while conducting business at the state house.
- Lobbyists are educators, working with organizations and businesses to provide information to elected officials.

Lobbying

- Critical for legislators to hear from their constituents on proposed legislation.
- Written testimony vs. Public testimony.
- Call, write, email or testify in person.
- Resource:

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/default.aspx>



RULES

- **Rules are developed within each department to ensure compliance with and further define relevant laws.**
- **Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR).**
- **Members of the House and Senate to vote on adoption of rules.**
- **Rules involve a drafting, public hearing by specific department , and vote by JLCAR.**