

ADVOCATING FOR IMPACT TRAINING

Our Vision: A future where Colorado women and girls of every background and identity prosper.

Our Mission: Catalyzing community to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

Since our founding in 1987 we have been the only statewide community foundation focused on advancing and accelerating economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families. Over 70,000 gifts from generous donors have fueled our work, which includes more than 30 research reports, the passage of nearly 50 pieces of legislation, and grants totaling more than \$18 million to nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado. As a 501c3, nonpartisan public foundation, we work in communities throughout the state with individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations and elected officials who are committed to ensuring all women in Colorado, regardless of background or identity, can achieve economic security.

WHY ADVOCACY?

Advocacy simply means public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. Our goal is to work with you to develop different ways for you to be an effective advocate for public policies that would benefit women and families in Colorado.

At The Women's Foundation, we believe public policy is a powerful tool for change and our work to improve systems through legislation is most effective when informed and supported by diverse community members from across Colorado. WFCO shapes public policy in several ways: through our staff and contract lobbyist's direct engagement with legislators and the administration at the State Capitol, grant-making to policy and advocacy organizations aligned with our mission, and by supporting your action on key issues impacting Colorado women.

QUICK GUIDE TO THE 2019 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- The House has 65 members: 41 Democrats, 24 Republicans
- The Senate has 35 members: 20 Democrats, 15 Republicans
- Speaker of the House: Alec Garnett, Democrat, Denver
- Senate President: Leroy Garcia, Democrat, Pueblo

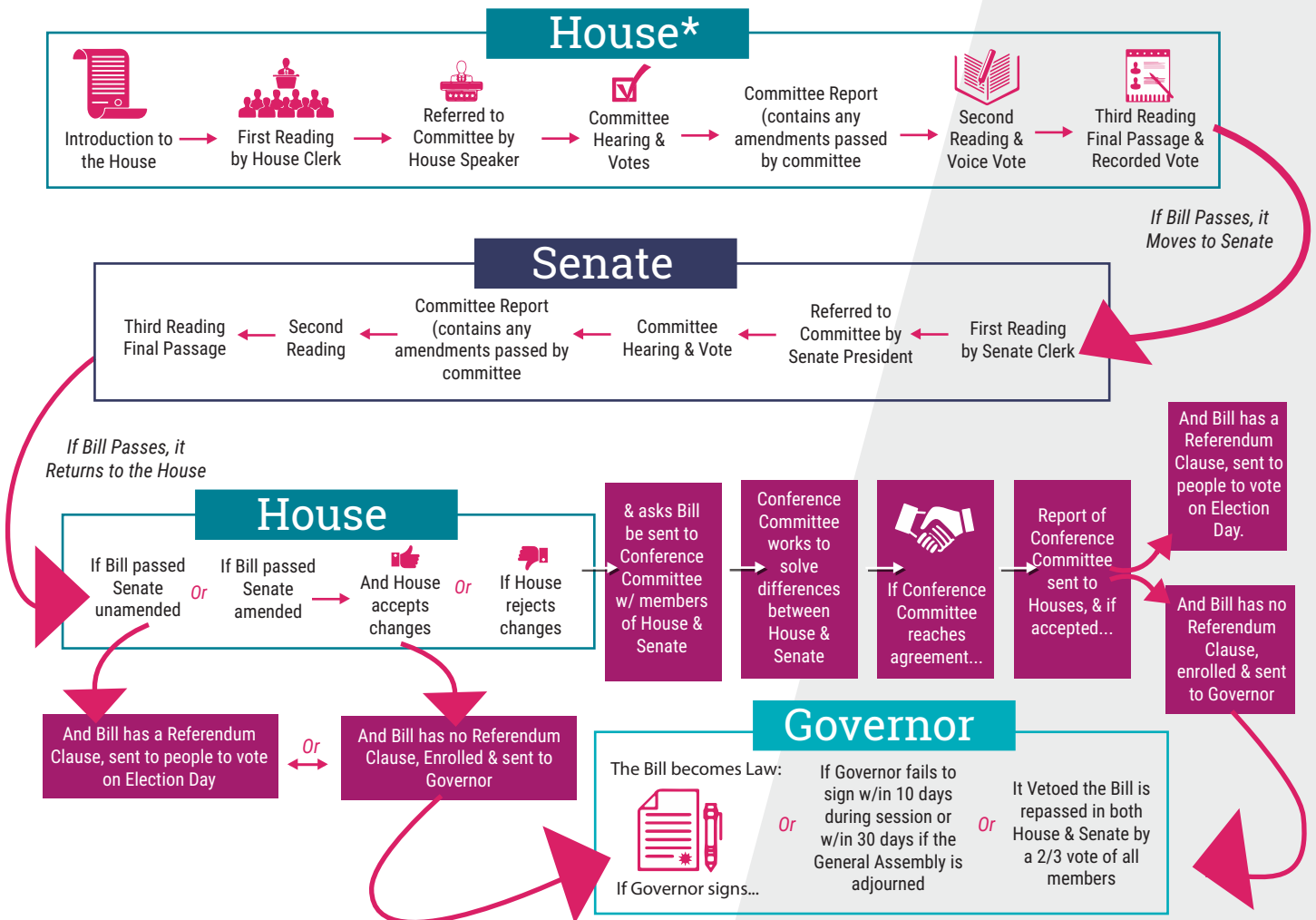
The Colorado General Assembly convenes annually for 120 days, from early January to early May.

HOW A BILL BECOMES COLORADO LAW

A bill can originate in either the House or the Senate but must ultimately be approved by both chambers to become law. In the House, the Speaker of the House refers all bills to committees and the Senate President oversees referrals in the Senate.

Once a bill is referred to a committee, the committee chair schedules the bill for a hearing. In Colorado every bill has at least one public committee hearing and community members can testify in support or opposition. In committee hearings, committee members vote on whether the bill will continue to move forward. A committee may amend the bill, recommend it for passage, refer the bill to another committee for further consideration, lay it over for consideration later in the session, or postpone it indefinitely (which essentially “kills” the bill).

If a bill makes it through its assigned committees it then goes to “the Committee of the Whole” or the floor of the chamber to be discussed by the entire body for a “second reading”. If passed on the second reading, the bill is then discussed on a “third reading”, which must take place on a separate calendar day from second reading. Once the bill passes the third reading in its originating chamber, it begins the same process in the other chamber. If it passes both chambers, it then goes to the Governor for signature or veto.



*If Senate Bill, a similar process will follow beginning in the Senate
 ** Adapted from Office of Legislature Legal Services, Colorado General Assembly 2001 document