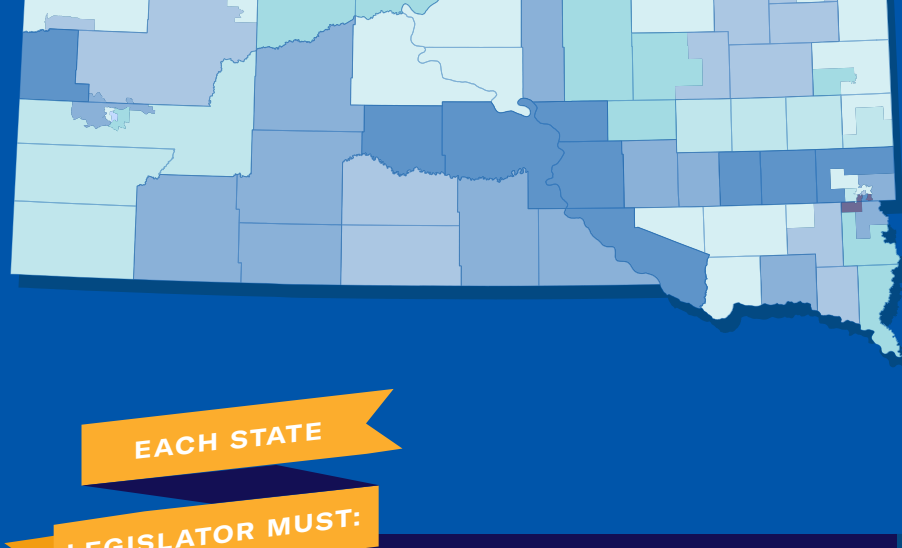


MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A Guide to the South Dakota Legislature

HOW THE LEGISLATURE WORKS



35
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

District boundaries change with the U.S. Census



EACH STATE

LEGISLATOR MUST:

- ✓ be at least twenty-one years of age,
- ✓ a United States citizen,
- ✓ a resident of the state for the two years just prior to election,
- ✓ and a qualified elector* in the legislative district from which elected

***A QUALIFIED ELECTOR...** means any person who has resided in their district for at least thirty (30) days preceding the election at which he or she desires to vote, and who is registered as required by law.



SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTS

35
SENATORS

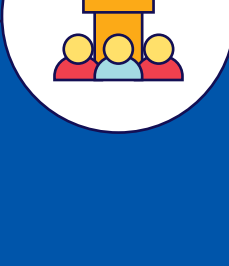
AND 70
REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

DEBATING THE
MERITS OF BILLS



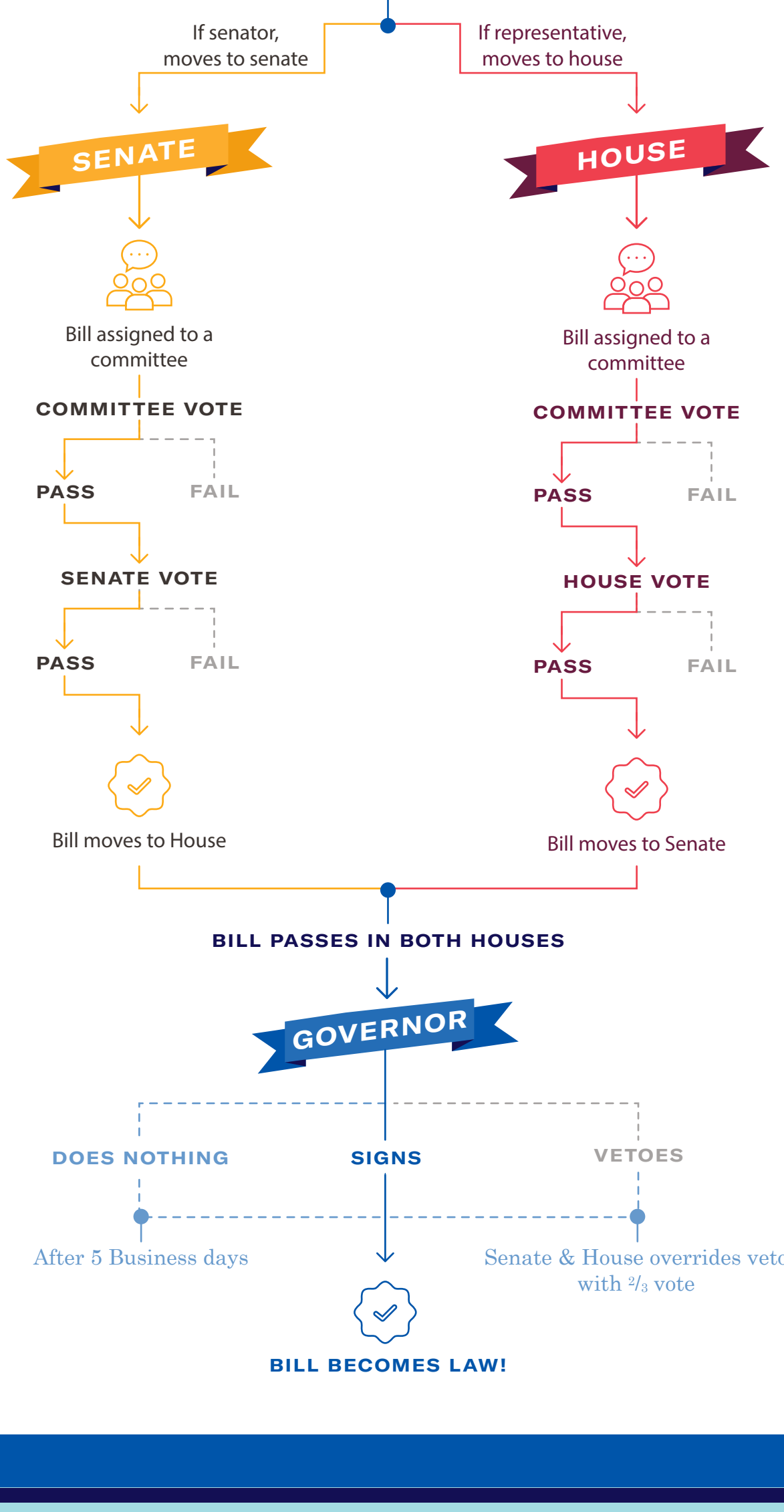
DRAFTING AND
INTRODUCING BILLS



VOTING TO
PASS OR KILL BILLS

ALL LEGISLATORS SERVE 2 YR TERMS

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



ELECTED OFFICIALS



CONSTITUENTS

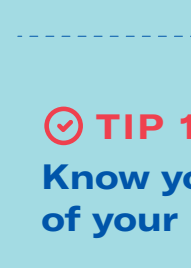
If legislators don't hear from you, they assume you approve of their actions.



FIRST THINGS FIRST,
RESEARCH YOUR LEGISLATOR

WWW.SDLEGISLATURE.GOV

WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR



CALL THEM OR WRITE THEM



TIP 1
Know your district and name of your legislator

TIP 2
Plan out what you will say

TIP 3
Remember to mention the bill number (if there is one) and why you are calling or writing

TIP 4
Make it short and sweet and get to your point quickly

TIP 5
Tell a personal story they can connect to

TIP 6
Problem, solution, action (ie. "Vote yes on HB xxxx!")



MEET THEM IN PERSON



STEP ONE
Schedule your meeting



STEP TWO
Be flexible and patient



STEP THREE
Prepare and educate yourself and establish a clear goal



STEP FOUR
Follow up and say thank you!



CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS
EARLY AND OFTEN

IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SPREAD THE WORD

Talk with friends and family on social media or in person. Don't be afraid to talk politics, it's important.



WRITE AN OP-ED



JOIN A CAUSE OR ORGANIZATION

ATTEND LEGISLATIVE COFFEES OR CRACKER BARRELS



PUBLIC MARCH OR PROTEST

WHY IS SHARING YOUR STORY IMPORTANT?

START IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

PERSONAL STORIES
MAKE AN IMPACT

OPEN THE DOOR
TO LASTING CHANGE

SHOWING UP IS VITAL. NO MATTER HOW YOU DO IT.

Your efforts, stories, and voices are what will chip away at the boulder of inequality.