

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



THE LAW MAKING PROCESS

One of the core functions of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament is to make laws for the Western Cape Province. A proposed law is known as a Bill and may be introduced by a Provincial Minister, committee or Member of the Provincial Parliament.

A Bill once introduced goes through various stages in the Provincial Parliament before it becomes a law. Each stage (called a reading) must be approved before the Bill can proceed to the next stage. For ordinary Bills there are two stages and for money Bills three stages.

Once introduced, Bills are read a first time and distributed to all Members of the House. The Secretary to the Provincial Parliament publishes the Bill for 21 days in the *Provincial Gazette* for public input. If a Bill is considered urgent, the Premier may direct that the 21 days publication period be reduced. After the 21 days the appropriate standing committee considers the Bill, taking into account all comments received from the public and interested groups. The committee may also call for public hearings to get direct input from the public on the Bill. This ensures careful consideration of the Bill and allows for maximum input and participation by the public.

Having considered the Bill, the committee reports to the House and recommends whether to accept, reject or accept the Bill with amendments thereto.

The next stage (second reading) deals with the objects and principles of the Bill. The Bill is debated in the House. After the second reading the Bill can be referred to the relevant committee for final amendments, if the House requests this. The House may approve the Bill or decide on the Bill via a vote.

A copy of the Bill as passed by the House is sent to the Premier for his/her signature (assent). Once the Premier has assented to a Bill, it becomes an Act of the Province.

The passing of an Ordinary Provincial Bill

