

PRIVATE MEMBER BILL

A Bill introduced by the a National Assembly Member. The bill is sponsored by a Member of Parliament. This bill is different from Government Bills and Committee Bill. it deals with social, legal, or governance issues of national importance.



- The bill is initiated by a member of the National Assembly
- The bill requires clearance from the Office of the Clerk and drafted by Legislative Drafters from the National Assembly
- The bill is gazetted for the public at least 14 days before the First Reading or 100 days if it is a Constitutional bill as well as publish in at least one widely circulated newspaper.
- The bill is Tabled in Plenary by the Member introducing the bill (First Reading)
- The rest of the stages of the bill are the same as Government and Committee Bills.

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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA

The Lawmaking Process



THE PROCESSES OF A BILL IN PARLIAMENT

The National Assembly of The Gambia is an organ of state established under section 87 of the 1997 Constitution. The National Assembly is precisely vested with the responsibility of making, amending and repealing laws.

The National Assembly does the enactment of laws through passage of bills subject to assent by the President as guaranteed by section 100(3) of the 1997 Constitution.



WHAT IS A BILL?

A bill is a proposed law formally introduced in the National Assembly for debate, amendment, and approval before being sent to the President for assent to become an Act of Parliament.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



By virtue of section 101(1) of the 1997 Constitution and Order 62 & 79 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, a bill can be introduced in the National Assembly from three relevant authorities. Subject to the provision of this section, a Bill is introduced to the National Assembly by a member of the Cabinet, Committee or Member of the National Assembly for debate and consideration

GOVERNMENT BILL

A bill introduced to Parliament by the President, Vice President or a Minister. The Bill is a government sponsored and reflects governments legislative agenda or policies.

Gazette: The Bill is first approved by Cabinet and published in the Gazette at least 14 days before tabling in the National Assembly or at least 100 days if it is a constitutional Bill.

First Reading : A Minister introduces the Bill to Parliament for the short title of the bill to be read.

Second Reading : After the First Reading Honorable Members debate on the Merits and Principles of the Bill. After debates, the bill is committed to the relevant Committee for further scrutiny and report back to Plenary depending on the vote.

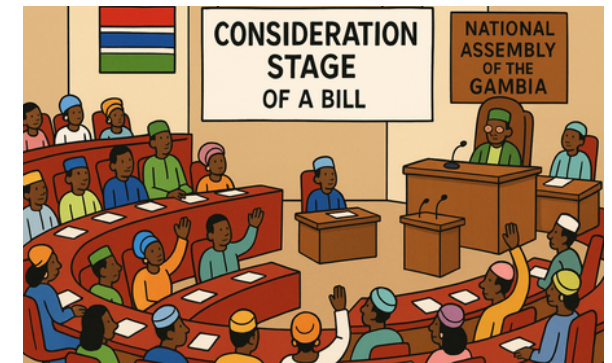
Consideration Stage: During the second reading stage, Honorable members will scrutinise the bill clause-by-clause and vote on all necessary amendments.

Third Reading: The sponsor of the bill would have incorporated all the necessary amendments made during the consideration stage. The person in charge of the Bill will move a motion for the Bill to be read a third time and pass.

Assent: When a Bill is passed at the National Assembly it is then sent to the President for assent. by virtue of Standing Order 100(3), the president has 30 days to sign or veto.

COMMITTEE BILL

A Bill introduced by a Committee of the National Assembly. The bill is a Committee sponsored bill which outlines policies or legislation's relevant to the committees mandate or public interest.



- The Bill is initiated by a Committee of The National Assembly
- The Bill is drafted by Legal Drafters of the National Assembly
- Requires approval from the National Assembly before introduction to plenary.
- After the adoption of the Bill by the Committee the Bill is Gazetted at least 14 days before Introduction or 100 days, if it is a Constitutional Bill as well as publish in a widely circulated newspaper.
- The bill is tabled by the Chairperson or any member of the Committee (First Reading)

After the First reading the bill follows the same Parliamentary procedures of the Government Bill