How Our Laws Are Made in Rhode Island

1. Bills Created
   - Citizens, elected officials, experts, and the executive branch

2. Bill Introduced
   - In one House body (House and/or Senate) and assigned to a committee

3. Bills Debated and Amended
   - In committees (House and/or Senate), meetings, and hearings

4. Budget Work
   - Bills debated and amended in the other House (House and/or Senate), meetings, hearings

5. Committee Work
   - Bills voted out of committee

6. Bills Debated and Amended
   - In the other House (House and/or Senate), meetings, hearings

7. Budget Work
   - Bills approved by House and Senate

8. Bills Voted Out of Committee
   - Bills introduced (in one House body - House and/or Senate) and assigned to a committee

9. Bills Approved by House and Senate
   - Final approval by the governor (or disapprove)

10. Final Approval
    - Bill becomes law

11. Bill Becomes Law

In Rhode Island, our regular legislative session opens in early January, and the deadline to introduce bills in the House or Senate is mid-February. The hearing deadline for both the House and Senate is mid-April and the session ends in late June. These dates are subject to change, please visit the RI General Assembly’s website for up-to-date information.