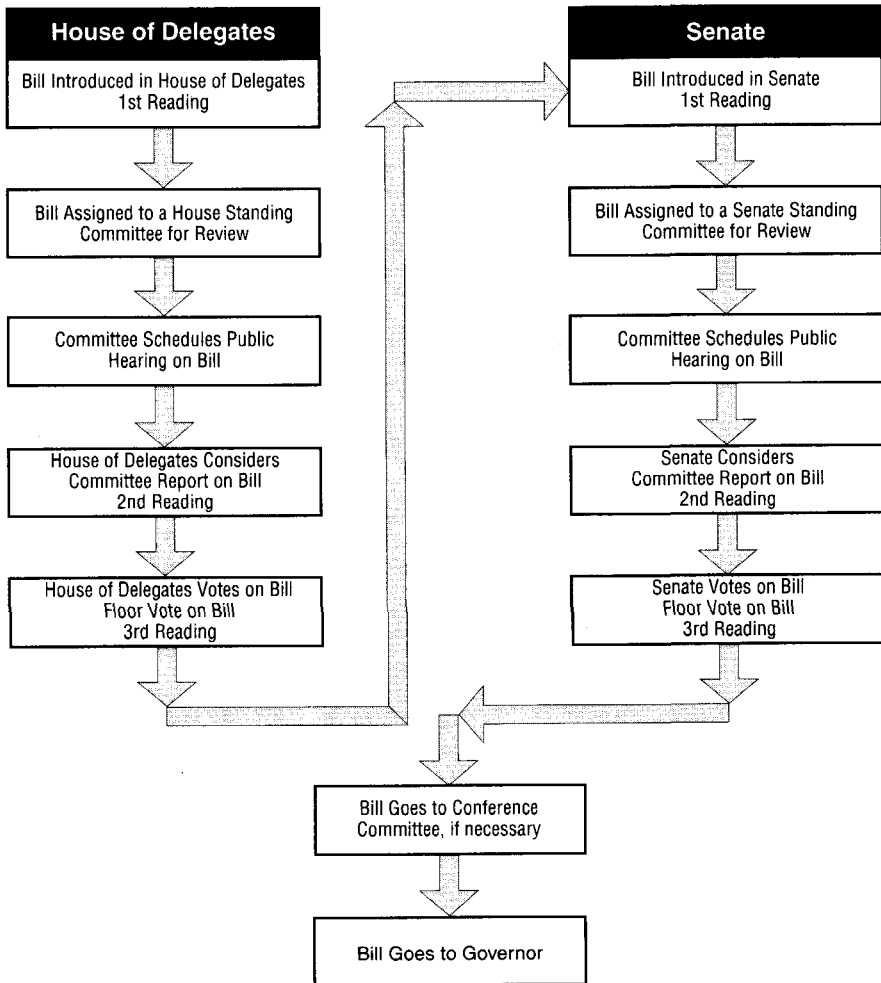


THE PROGRESS OF A HOUSE OF DELEGATES BILL



through the legislative process within the 90-day session. Therefore, legislators often try to introduce their bills as early as possible. A bill filed with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House prior to the first day of a regular session is called a prefiled bill. Such a bill is introduced (i.e., read across the floor) and assigned to a standing committee on the opening day of a session, thus obtaining a head start advantage. In 1993, some 175 Senate bills and 127 House bills were prefiled.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

In addition to bills, legislators introduce joint resolutions. Substantive in nature, a joint resolution expresses the will, opinion, or public policy of the General Assembly (Senate Rule 25; House Rule 25). They are subject to the same legislative process

as are bills, must be passed by both houses, but after passage are not codified in the *Annotated Code*. Joint resolutions that pass both houses are numbered and printed in the Session Laws for that year. The Governor does not veto joint resolutions and may or may not sign them.

Certain issues are required by law or the Constitution to be introduced in the form of a joint resolution and such joint resolutions have the force and effect of law. Examples include salary recommendations from the General Assembly Compensation Commission, the Governor's Salary Commission, and the Judicial Compensation Commission; reapportionment plans for General Assembly membership required after every decennial census; and amendments to the U.S. Constitution submitted for ratification.