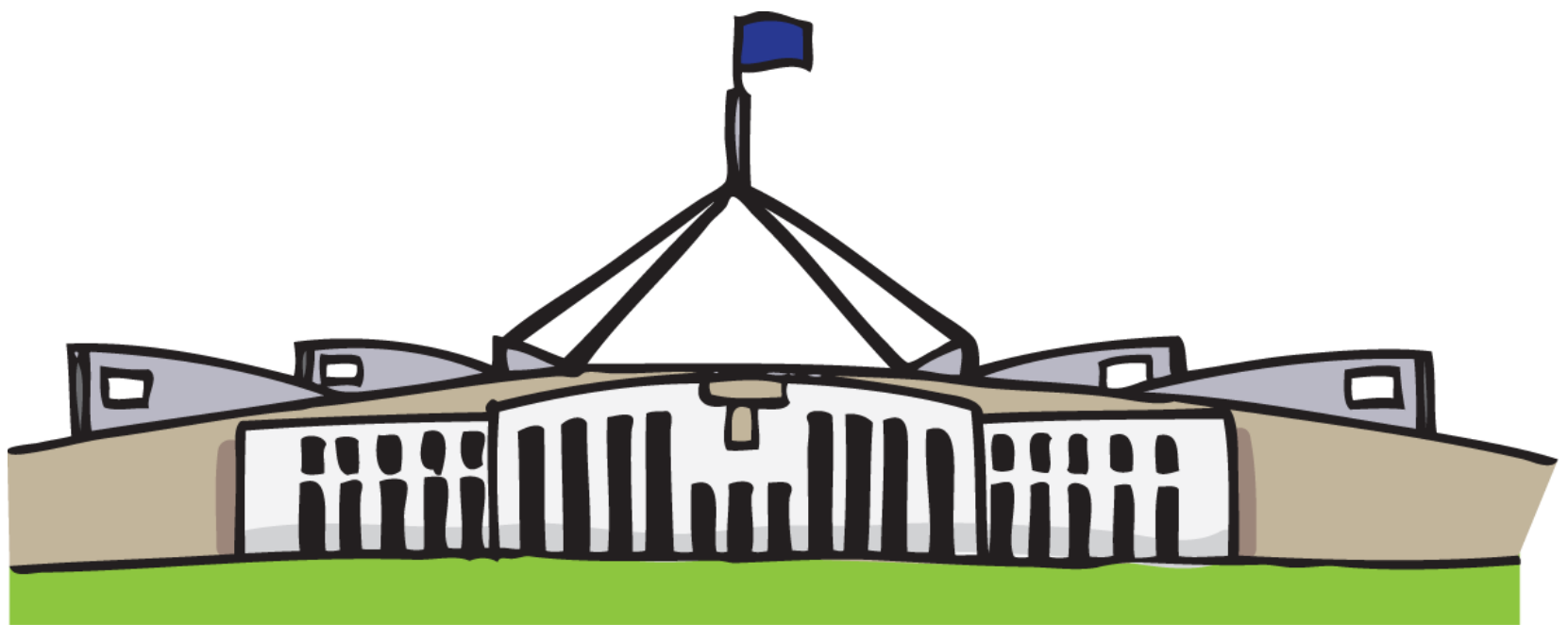


PASSING A BILL

The Parliament of Australia has the power to make laws for the whole nation. To become a law, a bill must go through several stages of debate and decision-making.

All bills must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and be signed by the Governor-General.

Most bills start in the House of Representatives, although they can also be introduced in the Senate.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st READING

The bill is introduced to the House of Representatives.

2nd READING

Members debate and vote on the main idea of the bill.

House Committee

Public inquiry into the bill and reporting back to the house.

Consideration in Detail

Members discuss the bill in detail, including any changes to the bill.

3rd READING

Members vote on the bill in its final form.

BILL IS PASSED

The bill is passed in the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate.

SENATE

1st READING

The bill is introduced to the Senate.

2nd READING

Senators debate and vote on the main idea of the bill.

Senate Committee

Public inquiry into the bill and reporting back to the house.

Committee of the Whole

Senators discuss the bill in detail, including any changes to the bill.

3rd READING

Senators vote on the bill in its final form.

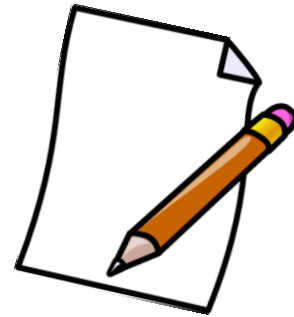
BILL IS PASSED

The bill is passed in the Senate.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

**ROYAL ASSENT
BY THE
GOVERNOR
GENERAL**

The Governor-General signs the bill.



**BILL BECOMES
AN ACT OF
PARLIAMENT**

The bill becomes a law for Australia.



ORIGIN OF BILLS

Bills may originate in different ways:

- Government departments make many suggestions for bills.
- Community groups, businesses or lobby groups may be interested in changing or improving a specific area of Australian law.
- Political parties have their own policy ideas about how Australia should be governed
- Sometimes the Parliament sets up a parliamentary committee to examine a current issue.