How a Law is Made in Victoria

**Initiation**
- Legislative Assembly: Minister/Member without notice.
- Legislative Council: Minister/Member with notice.
- Appropriation Bill: Minister on receipt of message from the Governor.
- Private Member’s Bill: Government Backbencher, Opposition, Non-Government or Independent members. Such Bills cannot include an Appropriation provision.

**First Reading**
- Formal motion to bring in Bill – a request of, and approval from, the House to proceed.
- Listed for Second Reading on a future day, the exception being Appropriation or Supply Bills which may be read on the same day.

**Second Reading**
- A statement of the Bill’s compatibility with the Charter of Human Right and Responsibilities Act 2006 is tabled by the minister or member.
- Minister’s (or Private Member’s) Second Reading speech; copies of the Bill, usually with explanatory notes, circulated to all members; if Bill involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, a message from the Governor is required.
- Bill debated in principle – that is, the general propositions of the Bill, but not the detail in the clauses, are debated.

**Consideration in Detail** (Optional, may be dispensed with if the House unanimously agrees).
- Bill examined in detail, clause by clause; relevant amendments may be made. In the Legislative Council, this is called the ‘Committee of the Whole’ stage.

**Third Reading**
- Further debate, if necessary.

**Bill Passes House**

**Second House**

**Procedure**
A similar scrutiny procedure to that used in the House of origin is adopted. If a Bill passes with amendments, those amendments are transmitted by message to the house of origin, and further messages flow between the two Houses accepting, rejecting or proposing modifications to the amendments. Each House must agree to any amendments in an identical form before a Bill can become law.

**Approval**
When a Bill has passed both Houses and any amendments have been agreed to by each, it will be prepared for Royal Assent.

**Law Now Applies**