The Legislative Process

Legislation is introduced at the Legislative Meeting or Committee of the Whole Meeting, or by filing with the Council Secretary.

Council Chairman Assigns it to appropriate committee(s).

Committee considers legislation; if committee takes no action in Council Period, legislation dies. Committee may hold a public hearing or roundtable. Committee may report it out of committee.

Committee of the Whole reviews legislation and agendizes it for regular session.

Council may override Mayor's veto with a two-thirds majority vote within 30 days.

Mayor has ten days to: sign bill – bill becomes an act;
Take no action – bill becomes an act; veto bill and return it to the Council.

Second reading: legislation must not be substantially altered at this consideration. Council takes second vote: Majority no – fails; Majority yes – passes, and is enrolled.

First reading: Council considers amendments, takes first vote: Majority no legislation– fails; Majority yes – legislation passes, and is engrossed Council Chairman transmits act to Congress.

Congress reviews act for 30 days, except criminal acts which are reviewed for 60 days: May take no action – act becomes law: May pass a joint resolution by both houses disapproving act that must be signed by the President.