

# **Welcome to Navigating the Legislative Process: *How to Make Your Voice Heard***



# Introductions

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# Legislative Engagement

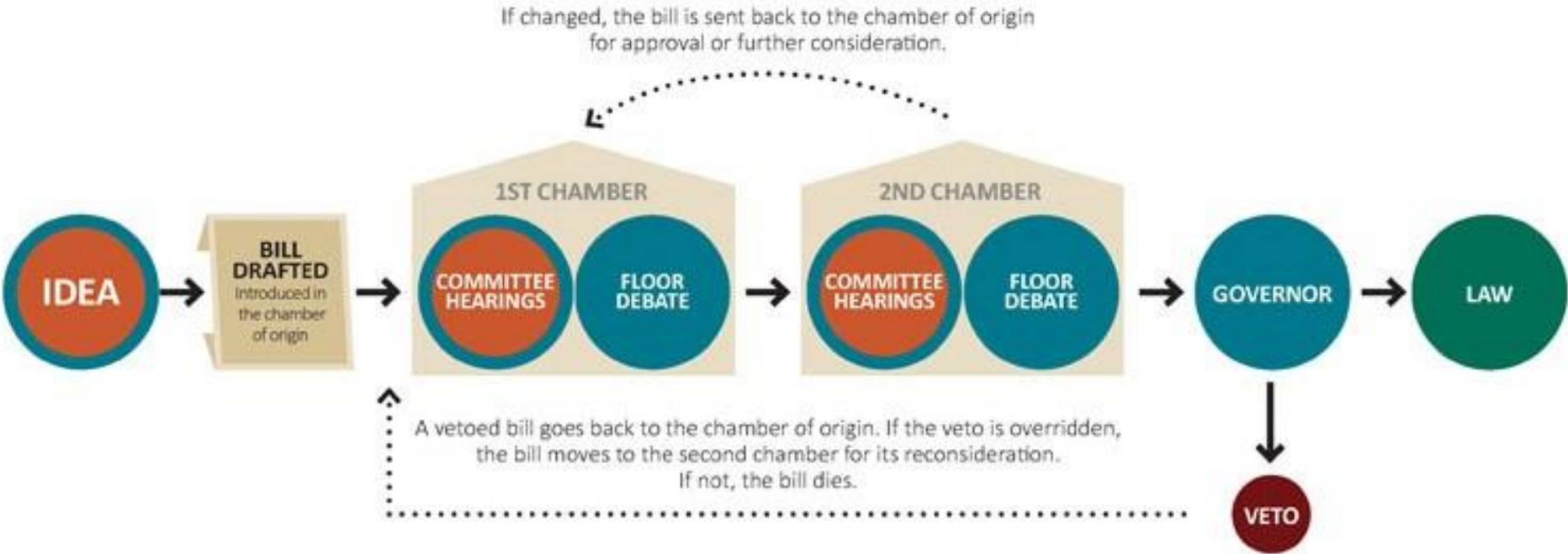
**Part 1 Overview of the Legislative Process**

**Part 2 How to Get Involved**

**Part 3 Discussion of AB 435 (Mullin)**



# Overview of the Legislative Process



# How to Get Involved

- Submit a letter of support
- Attend a Committee hearing
- Provide Committee testimony
- Contact your legislators

# Submit Letter of Support

Send a letter of support to:

The Honorable Kevin Mullin  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

# Attend a Committee Hearing

- This bill will be heard in Assembly Business and Professions Committee <https://abp.assembly.ca.gov> in March or April
- This bill will be heard in Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee <https://sbp.senate.ca.gov> in June or July

# Provide Committee Testimony

- Visit [www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents) or [www.senate.ca.gov/calendar](http://www.senate.ca.gov/calendar) for information how to watch the Committee hearing
- See the Legislature Public Comment System document provided for instructions on how to comment using the telephone system



# Contact Your Legislators

- Visit <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov> and use your address to find your Assembly Member and Senator
- Navigate to the website for your Assembly Member or Senator
- Their website will include information on various ways to contact them

# Discussion of AB 435 (Mullin)

- AB 435 (Mullin) will require hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists to provide consumers with a written notice if the hearing aid being purchased uses proprietary or locked programming software.
- AB 435 **does not** prohibit the use of proprietary or locked hearing aid software.

# Why is this Legislation Important?

- Current hearing aids are digital and require programming via specific software platforms to optimize the acoustical fit for each individual patient.
- Some hearing aid brands such as Audibel, Miracle-Ear, Beltone, NuEar, and Costco use proprietary or locked programming software that is only available to dispensing outlets and businesses that sell those brands.

# Why is this Legislation Important?

- As the consumer's go into different settings or the user's hearing capabilities change, the hearing aids settings will need to be programmed or adjusted for optimal use.
- If the consumer cannot return to the specific retail chain where the locked hearing aid was purchased, they may need to purchase a new hearing aid or have to live without full function of the hearing aid.

# Why is this Legislation Important?

Consumers can be harmed when they unknowingly purchase hearing aids that cannot be serviced or programmed in a wide geographic location.

# How will this legislation help?

- The consumer will be provided a written notification in 12-point font prior to the sale if the hearing aid has proprietary or locked programming software.
- The written notice must be signed by the consumer prior to the sale

# How Can YOU Help?

- Encourage the Hearing Loss Association of America, California State Association to adopt a support position on this bill
- Participate in Committee hearings and voice your support for this bill
- Contact your legislators to share your support for this important consumer protection measure



# *Questions?*

