



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **There shall be a Scottish Parliament: Laws**

The Scottish Parliament makes laws by passing bills.

Public bills can be introduced by:

- The Scottish Government
- MSPs
- Committees

A bill usually follows a 3-stage process.

At stage 1, committees consider the overall purpose of the bill and normally ask members of the public for their views. The Parliament then debates and decides whether the bills should continue. If not agreed to, the bill falls.

At stage 2, a committee considers the bill in detail and decides on proposed changes (amendments). Any MSP can lodge an amendment and have it discussed by the committee.

At stage 3, the Parliament considers further changes to the bill and votes on whether or not to pass the bill. If not passed, the bill falls.

If the bill is passed, there is then a 4-week period when legal challenges to the bill can be made. It is then submitted to the monarch for Royal Assent and becomes an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

Find out more at [www.parliament.scot](http://www.parliament.scot) or email [info@parliament.scot](mailto:info@parliament.scot)