

Legislation

The aim of this section is to provide an overview of legislation procedures in the UK.

Government Bills

The Queen's speech, at the State Opening of Parliament, details the Government's legislative agenda for the year. The process of passing a Public Bill is demonstrated on the following page. The first reading of the Bill can be heard by either the House of Commons or the House of Lords, although Bills which require more debate are primarily introduced in the House of commons.

Private Bills

These Bills very rarely become law and are less likely to be introduced in the House of Commons. Private Bills can be introduced by any of the following:

- A ballot open to all back bench MPs at the start of each session allows the opportunity to introduce a Bill. The first 20 names chosen can then present the Bill on a Friday during the session.
- An MP can choose to introduce a Bill by the "ten minute rule" which allows the MP to introduce the subject matter and for other MPs to oppose it.
- A petition by a person or organisation can be made to Parliament.

The process of passing a private Bill is very similar to the Government Bill process.