

## The House of Representatives

### Legislative competence: bicameral procedure

### The bicameral procedure

This procedure (also called two-chamber legislative procedure) means that a Bill or Private Member's Bill must be examined and approved by both the House and the Senate. The two houses have equal power with regard to this procedure.

Before the constitutional revision of 1993, all the federal laws were drawn up according to this procedure. It is currently only used in a certain number of cases given in article 77 of the Constitution.

### The compulsory bicameral procedure is used for:

- the declaration of revision of the Constitution, as well as the revision and coordination of the Constitution
- matters that must be regulated by both legislative chambers under the Constitution
- laws to be adopted by a special majority
- laws concerning the institutions and the funding of the German-speaking Community
- laws concerning the funding of political parties and the scrutiny of electoral spending
- laws concerning the organisation of the Senate and the status of Senator.

### The procedure

The principles governing the examination of the Bills and Private Member's Bills in committees and in plenary sessions, and the royal signature and promulgation, are the same as those for the monocameral procedure (see information sheet 11.04) and are thus not explained any further here.

DOC 55 <b>3719/005</b>	DOC 55 <b>3719/005</b>
CHAMBRE DES REPRÉSENTANTS DE BELGIQUE	BELGISCHE KAMER VAN VOLKSVERTEGENWOORDIGERS
2 mai 2024	2 mei 2024
<b>RÉVISION DE LA CONSTITUTION</b>	<b>HERZIENING VAN DE GRONDWET</b>
<b>Projet de révision de l'article 7bis de la Constitution, en vue d'ajouter un alinéa réglant le bien-être des animaux</b>	<b>Ontwerp van herziening van artikel 7bis van de Grondwet, om een lid toe te voegen dat het dierenwelzijn regelt</b>
<b>Texte adopté par la séance plénière et soumis à la sanction royale</b>	<b>Tekst aangenomen door de plenaire vergadering en aan de Koning ter bekrachtiging voorgelegd</b>
<p><b>SÉNAT</b> Documents: 7-481 – 2022/2023: N° 1: Proposition de révision de la constitution de MM. Anceaux, Ben Chikha et Uylendaele, Mme Masai, MM. Conkiers, Vandenhove, Van Goidsenhoven et Dodrimont, Mme D'Hose et M. Daems. N° 2: Rapport. N° 3: Auditions. N° 4: Texte adopté par la commission.  Annales du Sénat: 24 novembre 2023.  <b>CHAMBRE DES REPRÉSENTANTS</b> Documents: Doc 55 3719/ (2023/2024): 001: Projet transmis par le Sénat. 002: Rapport. 003: Texte adopté par la commission. 004: Amendements. 005: Texte adopté par la séance plénière et soumis à la sanction royale.  Voir aussi: Compte rendu intégral: 25 avril et 2 mai 2024.</p>	<p><b>SENAAT</b> Stukken: 7-481 – 2022/2023: Nr. 1: Voorstel van herziening van de grondwet van de heren Anceaux, Ben Chikha en Uylendaele, mevrouw Masai, de heren Conkiers, Vandenhove, Van Goidsenhoven en Dodrimont, mevrouw D'Hose en de heer Daems. Nr. 2: Verslag. Nr. 3: Hoorzittingen. Nr. 4: Tekst aangenomen door de commissie.  Handelingen van de Senaat: 24 november 2023.  <b>KAMER VAN VOLKSVERTEGENWOORDIGERS</b> Stukken: Doc 55 3719/ (2023/2024): 001: Ontwerp overgezonden door de Senaat. 002: Verslag. 003: Tekst aangenomen door de commissie. 004: Amendementen. 005: Tekst aangenomen door de plenaire vergadering en aan de Koning ter bekrachtiging voorgelegd.  Zie ook: Integraal verslag: 25 april en 2 mei 2024.</p>
CHAMBRE • 6 <sup>e</sup> SESSION DE LA 55 <sup>e</sup> LÉGISLATURE	KAMER • 6 <sup>e</sup> ZITTING VAN DE 55 <sup>e</sup> ZITTINGSPERIODE
2023 2024	12168

**1**

**Initiative**

A legislative initiative in bicameral matters may be taken by the members of the House(1), the senators or even the federal government (= the King)(2)

(1) Private Member's Bill

(2) A Bill

**2**

**Submission**

**The Bills and Private Member's Bills may be submitted either to the House or to the Senate**

**3**

**Examination  
1<sup>st</sup> chamber**

**Examination by the chamber where the Bill or Private Member's Bill has been submitted first**  
This is either the House of Representatives or the Senate depending on the case. The Bill or Private Member's Bill is examined, perhaps amended and adopted within the competent committee. The same then happens in the plenary session.

**4**

**Sending**

**The adopted text is sent to the second chamber**  
This is the House of Representatives or the Senate depending on the case. A Private Member's Bill adopted by one of the chambers becomes a Bill.

**6**

**(Referral)**

**Possibly: referral to the first chamber**  
If the second chamber amends the Bill, it is referred to the first chamber. The first chamber may accept the amendments and adopt the Bill. If the Bill is amended again by the first chamber, it must be referred to the second chamber again. The Bill may then be referred indefinitely from one chamber to the other until the House and the Senate agree on the text.

**5**

**Examination  
2<sup>nd</sup> chamber**

**Examination by the second chamber**  
The Bill, as adopted by the first chamber, is examined, if necessary amended and adopted within the competent committee. The same then happens in the plenary session.

**7**

**Royal signature**

Royal signature and promulgation by the King

**8**

**Publication**

Publication in the Moniteur belge (Official State Journal)

Steps 7 and 8 of the procedure are the same as in the monocameral procedure (see information sheet 11.04).