

The House of Representatives

Legislative competence: optional bicameral procedure

The optional bicameral procedure (article 78 of the Constitution)

In the framework of this procedure (also called the optional two-chamber legislative procedure) the House decides and the Senate intervenes as a “chamber of consideration and reflection”. The Senate may “evoke” the Bills submitted to the House of Representatives, i.e. read them, examine and amend them. The House of Representatives has the last word and may adopt or reject the amendments made by the Senate. The evocation and examination by the Senate are subject to strict time limits. The parliamentary conciliation committee, consisting of deputies and senators with parity of representation, may extend or reduce the time limits in question⁽¹⁾.

Application of the optional bicameral procedure

The matters in which this procedure applies are explicitly listed in the Constitution. It concerns, insofar as the compulsory bicameral procedure⁽²⁾, meant by article 77 of the Constitution, is not applied:

- laws enacted pursuant to laws subject to a special majority
- the institutional legislation concerning the structure and the functioning of the State (art. 78, paragraph 1, 2° of the Constitution)
- laws adopted pursuant to article 169 of the Constitution in order to guarantee compliance with international or supranational obligations
- laws relating to the Council of State and the federal administrative jurisdictions.

<p>DOC 55 3951/005</p> <p>CHAMBRE DES REPRÉSENTANTS DE BELGIQUE</p> <p>22 mai 2024</p> <p>PROJET DE LOI</p> <p>modifiant la loi relative à l'assurance obligatoire soins de santé et indemnités coordonnée le 14 juillet 1994, en ce qui concerne les litiges relatifs aux décisions-cadres concernant l'accès rapide ou précoce</p> <p>Projet non évoqué par le Sénat et soumis à la sanction royale</p>	<p>DOC 55 3951/005</p> <p>BELGISCHE KAMER VAN VOLKSVERTEGENWOORDIGERS</p> <p>22 mei 2024</p> <p>WETSONTWERP</p> <p>tot wijziging van de wet betreffende de verplichte verzekering voor geneeskundige verzorging en uitkeringen, gecoördineerd op 14 juli 1994, wat betreft geschillen met betrekking tot kaderbeslissingen tot snelle of vroege toegang</p> <p>Ontwerp niet geëvoceerd door de Senaat en aan de Koning ter bekrachtiging voorgelegd</p>	
<p>CHAMBRE DES REPRÉSENTANTS Documents: Doc 55 3951/ (2023/2024): 001: Projet de loi. 002: Rapport. 003: Texte adopté par la commission. 004: Texte adopté par la séance plénière et transmis au Sénat.</p> <p>Voir aussi: Compte rendu intégral: 2 mai 2024.</p> <p>SÉNAT Document: 7-547/ (2023/2024): N° 1: Projet non évoqué par le Sénat.</p> <p>CHAMBRE DES REPRÉSENTANTS Document: Doc 55 3951/ (2023/2024): 005: Projet non évoqué par le Sénat et soumis à la sanction royale.</p>	<p>KAMER VAN VOLKSVERTEGENWOORDIGERS Stukken: Doc 55 3951/ (2023/2024): 001: Wetsontwerp. 002: Verslag. 003: Tekst aangenomen door de commissie. 004: Tekst aangenomen door de plenaire vergadering en overgezonden aan de Senaat.</p> <p>Zie ook: Integraal verslag: 2 mei 2024.</p> <p>SENAAT Stuk: 7-547/ (2023/2024): Nr. 1: Ontwerp niet geëvoceerd door de Senaat.</p> <p>KAMER VAN VOLKSVERTEGENWOORDIGERS Stuk: Doc 55 3951/ (2023/2024): 005: Ontwerp niet geëvoceerd door de Senaat en aan de Koning ter bekrachtiging voorgelegd.</p>	
<p>CHAMBRE - 64^e SESSION DE LA 55^e LÉGISLATURE</p>	<p>2023 2024</p>	<p>KAMER - 64^e ZITTING VAN DE 55^e ZITTINGSPERIODE</p>

(1) See information sheet 11.07

(2) See information sheet 11.05

The procedure⁽³⁾

In this procedure, the senators have no right of initiative

1

Initiative

The members of the House of Representatives (through Private Member's Bills), and the King i.e. the federal government (through Bills) may take a legislative initiative.

2

Submission

The Private Member's Bills from members of the House of Representatives are submitted to the House. The government Bills are always submitted to the House of Representatives.

3

Examination

House of Representatives: first examination
The Bill or Private Member's Bill is examined, perhaps amended and voted on within the competent committee and then in the plenary session.

4

Sending

The adopted Bill is sent to the Senate
The senators must decide within a period of 15 days of receipt of the bill, whether they wish to "evoke" it or not, i.e. examine it. Evocation is only possible at the request of the majority of the senators (= at least 31 senators), with at least one-third of the members of each linguistic group.

If the Bill is not evoked (on time) by the Senate, it is immediately submitted for Royal signature and promulgated by the King (step 8).

5

Examination

Examination by the Senate
The Senate has a period of 30 days to examine the evoked Bill. If the Senate does not amend the text or if it allows the examination period to lapse without making a decision, the Bill is immediately submitted for Royal signature by the House of Representatives (step 8).

6

Referral

Referral to the House of Representatives
If the Senate amends the Bill, it is referred back to the House.

7

Examination

House of Representatives: second (definitive) examination
The House has the last word. Whatever the decision of the House may be (agree with the amendments of the Senate, reject the amendments of the Senate, new amendments), it concerns a final decision: that means the end of the parliamentary procedure.
The House sends the text it adopted to the King for Royal signature and promulgation.

8

Royal signature

Royal signature and promulgation

9

Publication

Publication in the Moniteur belge (Official State Journal)

(3) We refer to information sheet 11.04 for the general aspects concerning the treatment of Bills and Private Member's Bills in the committees and the plenary meeting in each chamber.