

# KNOW THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & PLAYERS

State legislatures generally follow the federal model for considering legislation:

- 1** A bill is introduced in at least one chamber of the legislature.
- 2** It is then assigned to the committee(s) that oversees the issue addressed by the bill.
- 3** Sometimes, a committee refers a bill to a subcommittee for deeper consideration.
- 4** The committee decides whether to approve, amend, defeat, or table a bill.
- 5** If the bill goes forward (in either its original or amended form), the full chamber considers it.
- 6** If both chambers approve the bill, a conference committee works out any differences.
- 7** If both chambers approve the final bill, it goes to the executive (i.e., Governor or President) for signature or veto.

>> **Once a bill becomes a law**, the executive branch implements it. Nonprofits have additional opportunities to influence how legislation is implemented through administrative advocacy. Remember, for nonprofits that take the 501(h) election, efforts to influence regulations do not constitute lobbying.

In addition to learning the rules and processes for the legislative body that your nonprofit intends to lobby, be aware of the key players in the process:

- **Committee chairs and members**
- **Political caucus leaders**
- **Legislative staff**
- **Government agency staff**