

# HEALTH POLICY NEWS YOU CAN USE

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## PRIMER ON CONCURRENCE, DISPUTE, AND CONFERENCE

### **CONCURRENCE, DISPUTE, AND CONFERENCE**

If a bill was amended in the opposite house from which it was originally introduced, the house of origin has to decide whether it will concur with the amendments or not. This step must happen before a bill can be sent to the Governor's desk for signature. Leadership in each chamber decides which bills returned from the opposite house will be discussed and then places them on the concurrence calendar.

There are three potential paths for bills that go into concurrence:

**CONCURRENCE:** If the house of origin concurs with the amendments, the bill has passed the legislature and it will head to the Governor.

**DISPUTE:** If the house of origin disagrees with the amendment(s) from the opposite house, they can ask the opposite house to recede from the amendments. If the opposite house recedes, the bill has passed the legislature and it will head to the Governor.

**CONFERENCE:** If the two houses cannot resolve their differences, they can ask for a conference committee. Members from each house are selected to meet to discuss the differences. If they agree on what is to be done, the conference committee makes a report. Both houses must adopt the conference report for the bill to pass the legislature. If one house does not adopt the conference report (either by vote or inaction), the bill has not passed.

*Our thanks to Carrie Glover for this educational piece.*