

**1. WHAT ARE THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH REGARDS TO PASSAGE OF BILLS?**

In the second House, a bill passes through all the three stages, that is, first reading, second reading and third reading.

When a bill passed by the legislative assembly and transmitted to the legislative council, the latter has four alternatives before it.

It may pass the bill as sent by the assembly without amendments

It may pass the bill with amendments and return it to the assembly for reconsideration

It may reject the bill altogether, and

It may not take up action and this keeps the bill pending

In case the bill is passed without amendments or the assembly accepts the amendments suggested by the council, the bill is deemed to have been passed by the both the Houses and sent to Governor for his assent.

If the assembly rejects the amendments suggested by the Council or the Council rejects the bill altogether or the Council does not take any action for three months, then the assembly may pass the bill again and transmit the same to the council. If the Council rejects the bill again or passes the bill with amendments not acceptable to the assembly or does not pass the bill within one month, then the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the original form in which it was passed in the assembly.

In case of Money bill which can be introduced in the Assembly only, the Council can only make recommendations and must return the bill to the Assembly within 14 days.

In fine, the Assembly enjoys the ultimate power of passing an ordinary bill.

The council can retain the bill for a maximum period of four months.

There is no provision of joint sitting in case of deadlock between the two Houses.

