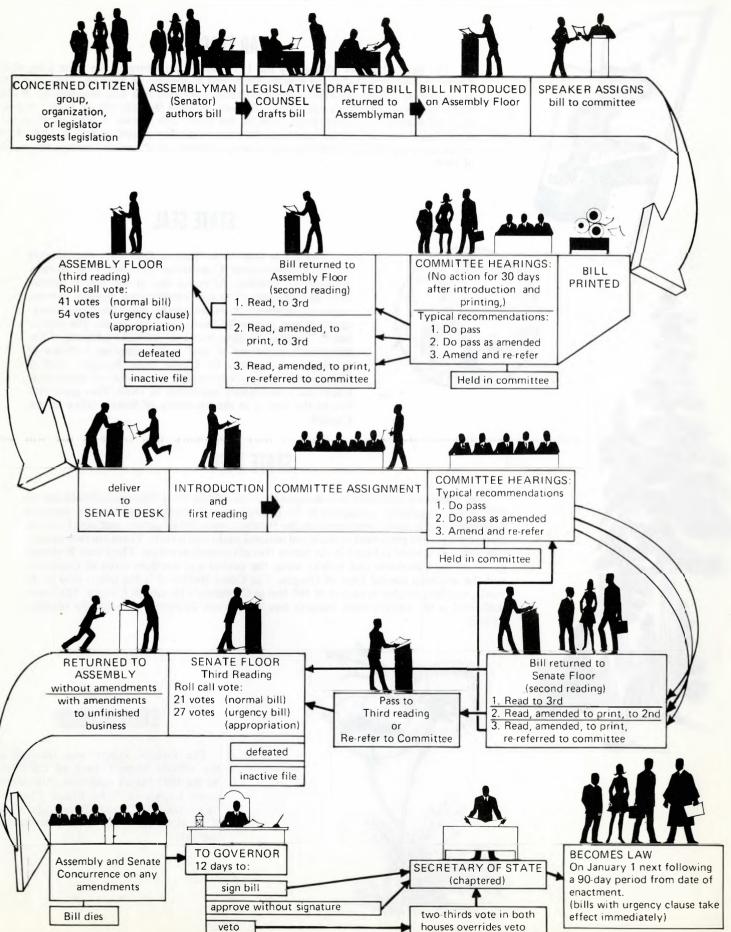
A Bill is Born

Compliments of Assemblyman J. K. "KEN" MAC DONALD



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The Bear Flag was adopted by the 1911 State Legislature as the State Flag of California. It is patterned after the historic flag raised at Sonoma on June 14, 1846, by a group of American settlers in revolt against Mexican rule. The flag was designed by William Todd on a piece of unbleached cotton. The star imitated the lone star of Texas. A grizzly bear represented the many bears seen in the state. The words "California Republic" were placed beneath the star and bear. The Bear Flag was placed on July 9, 1846, by the American Flag. The original flag was destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

STATE SEAL

The Great Seal of the State of California was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1849. The Roman Goddess of Wisdom, Minerva, has at her feet a grizzly bear and clusters of grapes representing wildlife and agricultural richness. A miner works near the busy Sacramento River, below the Sierra Nevada peaks. The Greek motto "Eureka" (I have found it) probably refers to either the miner's discovery of gold or the expected entrance of California as a state of the Union. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars representing the number of states with California's anticipated admission in 1850. This glass replica of the seal is in the Secretary of State's office in the Capitol.

STATE TREE

The California Redwood was designated as the official State Tree of California by the 1937 State Legislature. Common in the geologic past throughout much of the northern hemisphere, it is now found only on the Pacific Coast. Many groves and stands of the towering trees are preserved in State and national parks and forests. There are two species. The Sierra Redwood is found in the Sierra Nevada mountain region. The Coast Redwood grows in the mountains and valleys along the central and northern coast of California and the southern coastal edge of Oregon. The Coast Redwood is the tallest tree in the world, reaching heights in excess of 360 feet in California's Humboldt County. The Sierra Redwood is the world's most massive tree, with trunk diameters occasionally reaching 35 feet.



STATE FLOWER

The Golden Poppy was selected as the official State Flower of California by the 1903 State Legislature. Also sometimes known as "The Flame Flower," "La Amapola," and "Copa de Oro" (Cup of Gold), it grows wild throughout the state.