



View of the Capitol in Spring from Capitol Avenue

Welcome!

Legislative Basics

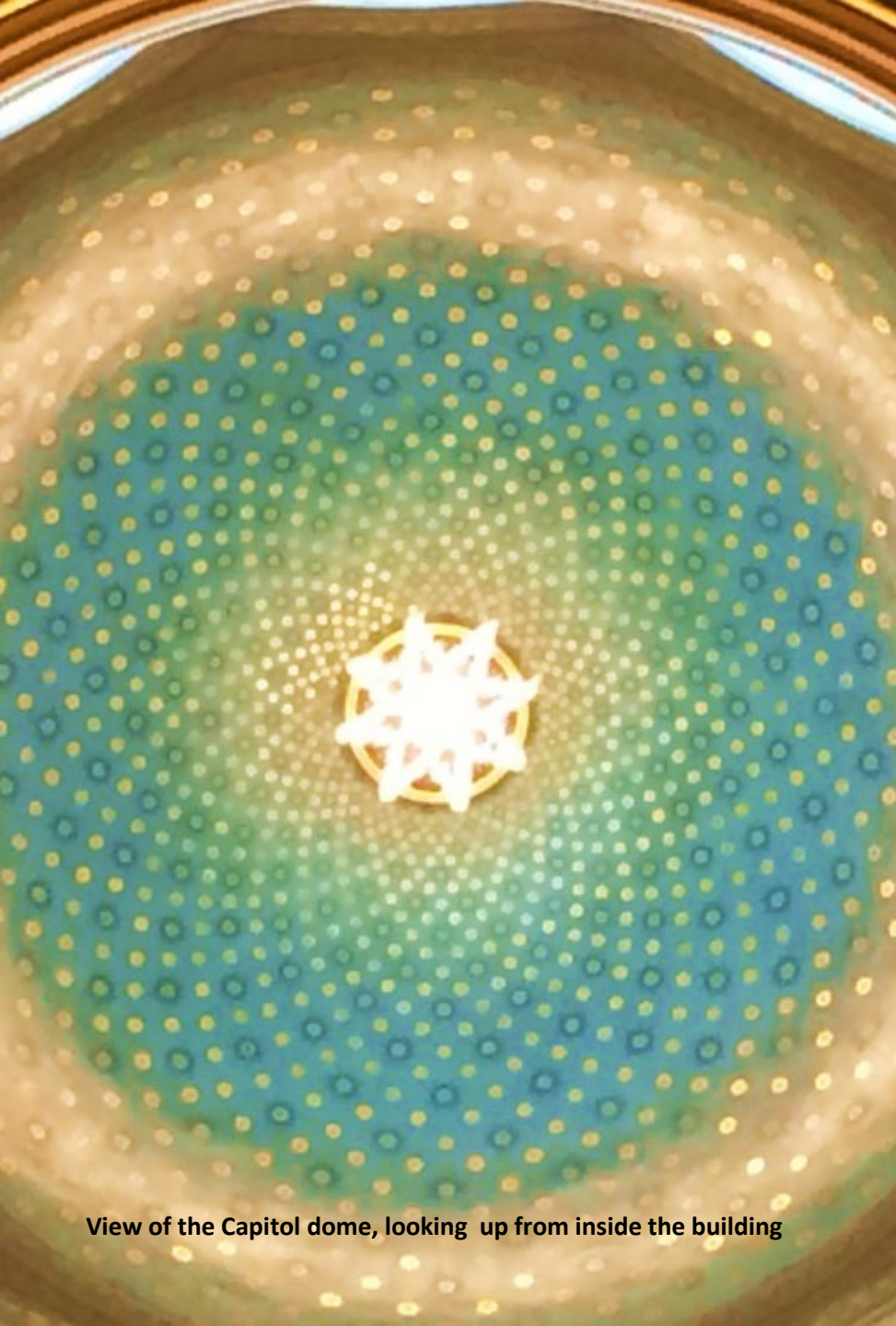


Ground Rules

- Practice loving kindness.
- Make yourself known!
- Show yourself.
- Take pictures of content!

BE KIND





View of the Capitol dome, looking up from inside the building

Today's Agenda

- Idea to Legislation
- Role of the Nonpartisan Offices
- The Committee Process
- House and Senate Floor Action
- Governor's Action



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

1. The Office of Legislative Research can provide cost estimates on legislation.
2. All CGA committees are joint committees.
3. Legislators can testify at public hearings.



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

4. Proposed bills can be ready for action within the first month of session.
5. Legislation is ready for floor action immediately following committee deadlines.
6. The Governor has deadlines for signing or vetoing a bill.



The Genius of Connecticut looking up to the Capitol Dome from inside.

Ideas for Legislation

- Ideas for legislation can come from a variety of sources.
- One example – a conversation with a constituent regarding bullying of her child.
- Nonpartisan staff can assist with creating legislation from that conversation.



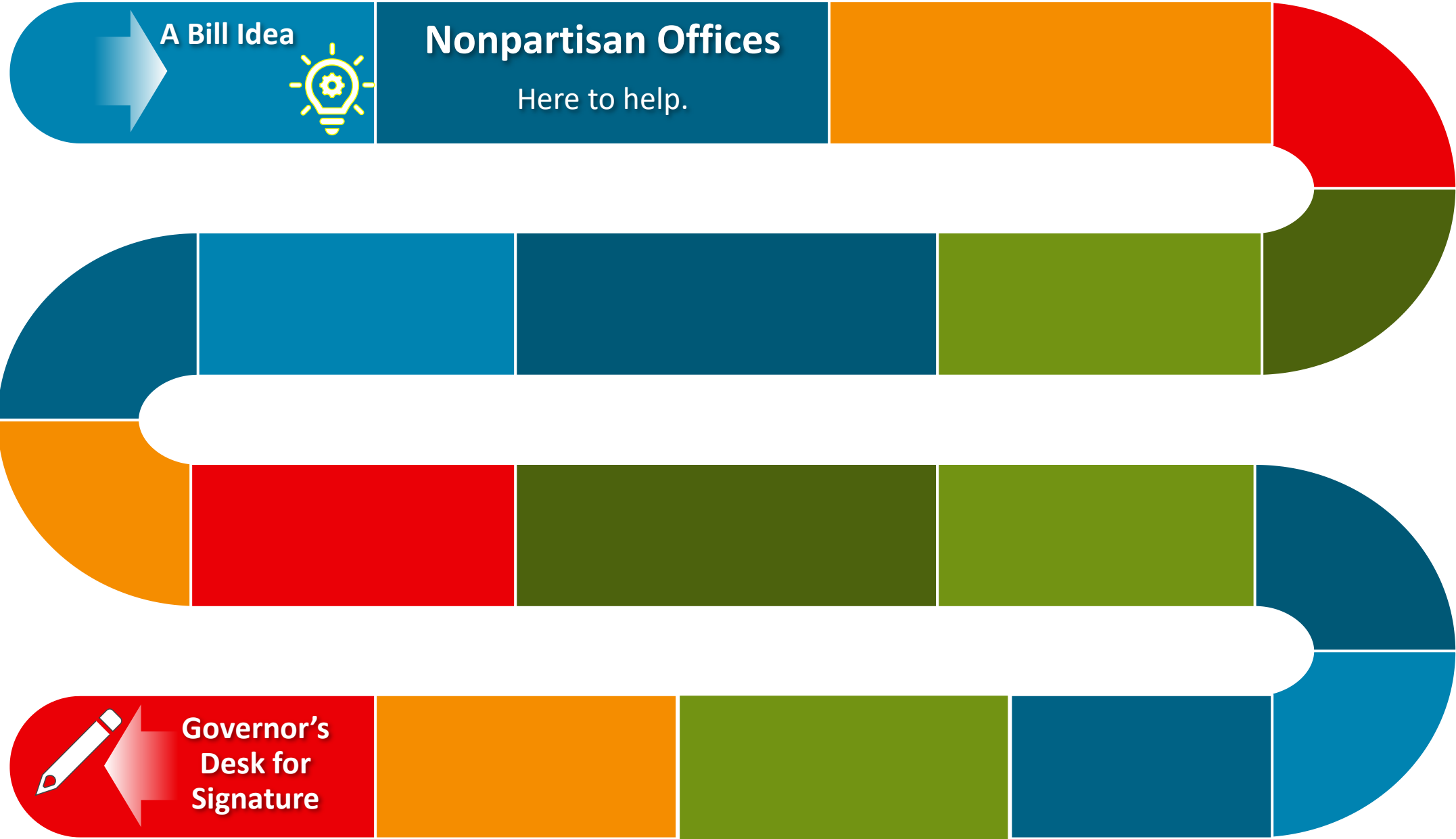


Cutter was the CGA's first K-9 Officer. He retired in September 2022.

Investigation

How would the proposal work?

- History – Has it been considered in prior sessions?
- Options – Is there more than one approach?
- Cost – What is the fiscal impact on state and towns?



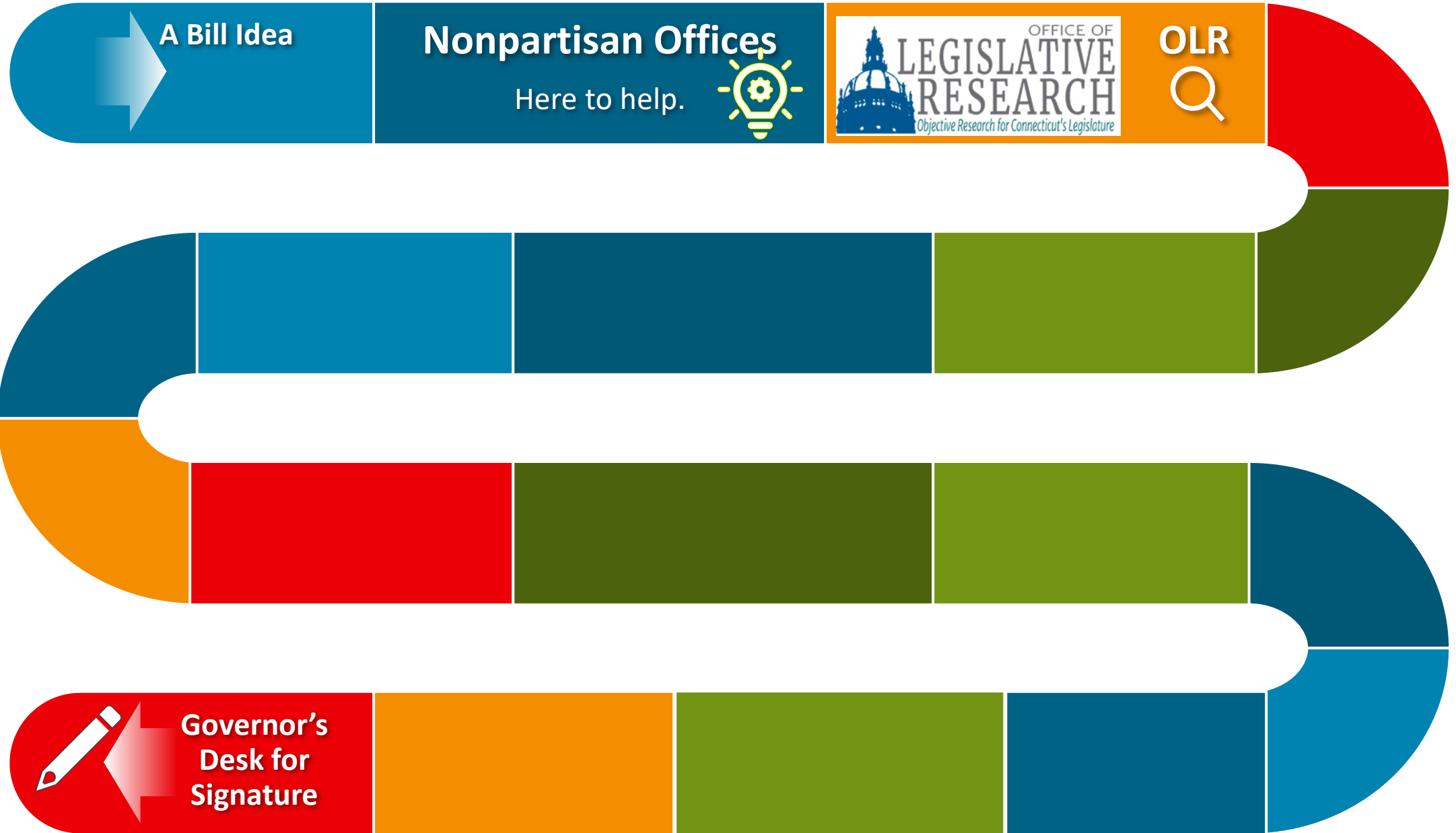


Early morning sunrise over the Capitol.

Research/Background

The Office of Legislative Research can assist with finding the answers to these questions:

- Do other states have similar programs?
- Have similar bills been introduced in previous sessions?
- Is there more than one approach to creating a program?





CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State Capitol | Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1562



Quick Bill Search



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Friday, November 30, 2018

SITE SEARCH



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**LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH**
Objective Research for Connecticut's Legislature

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About OLR

The Office of Legislative Research is the Connecticut General Assembly's nonpartisan research office.

Publications

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Tweets by @CT_OLR



eResponse

You asked for information regarding the bond covenant for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) pension obligation bonds issued pursuant to [PA 07-186](#). This response provides a summary of the covenant for those bonds and a letter from the bond counsel.

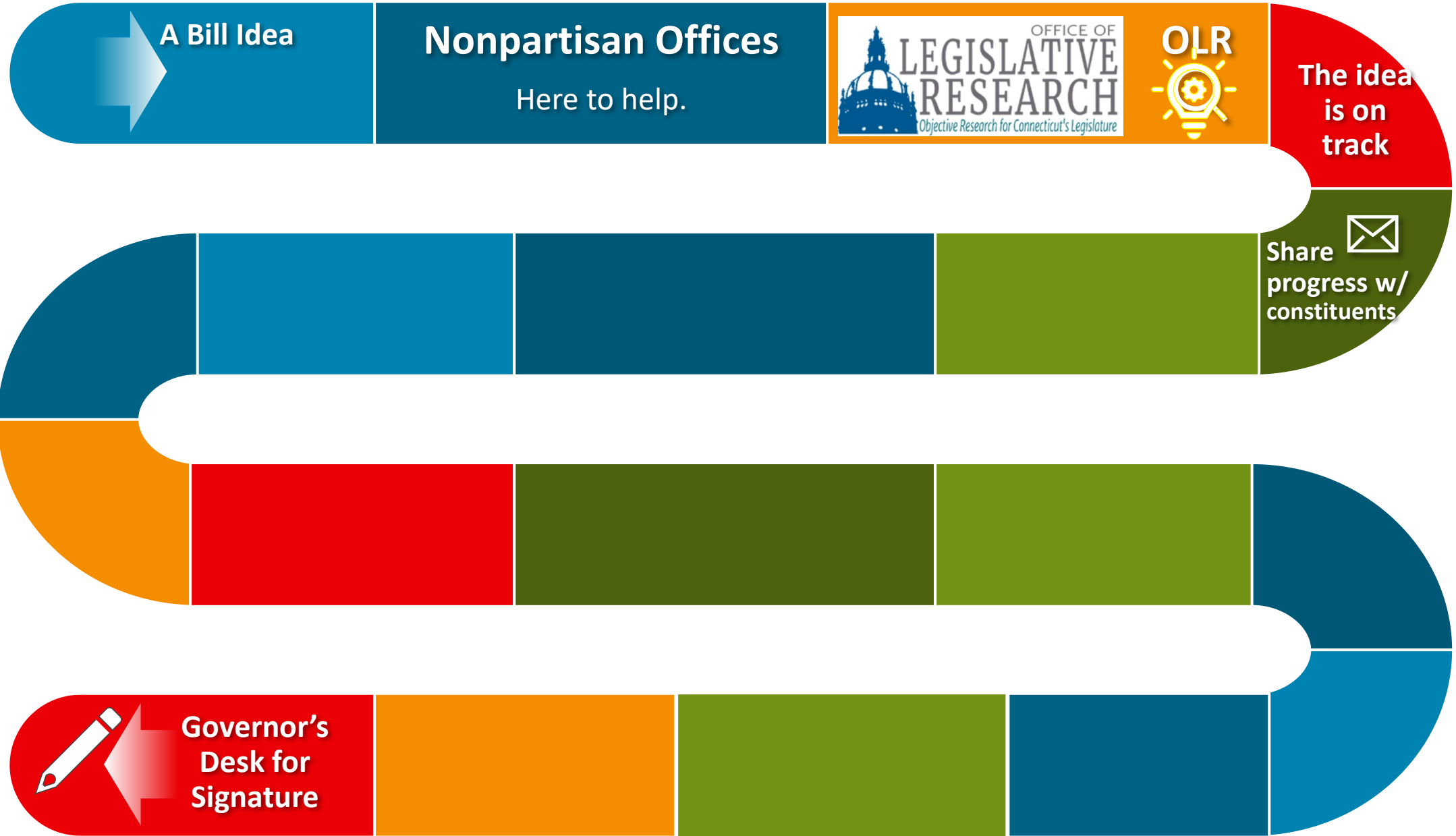
Please see the attached letter for the legal opinion from the bond counsel; its appendix includes the bond covenant language (PA 07-186, § 8, codified as CGS § [10-183qq\(h\)](#)).

Below is our summary of the opinion and the covenant. We also include links to (1) a recent Pension Sustainability Commission meeting, which includes a discussion of recently considered ideas for reducing the unfunded TRS liability, such as transferring state assets to the TRS and (2) the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth report that describes the potential of contributing Connecticut Lottery funds to the TRS. The Office of Legislative Research is not authorized to provide legal opinions and this document should not be treated as one.

Background

PA 07-186 authorized the sale of state general obligation bonds to fund \$2 billion of the unfunded TRS liability. The act specifies that for each year in which the bonds are outstanding, the state will automatically appropriate the annually required contribution (ARC) to the TRS. The act also promises bondholders that the state will not diminish the ARC until the bonds are paid off except under limited circumstances (described below).

In the attached August 26, 2016, letter to state Treasurer Denise Nappier, the legal counsel for the TRS bonds outlined the state's responsibilities to



A Bill Idea

Nonpartisan Offices

Here to help.



The idea
is on
track

Share
progress w/
constituents

Governor's
Desk for
Signature

Feeding Black Bears on Private Property

By: Kristen Miller, Senior Legislative Attorney
November 14, 2018 | 2018-R-0274

Issue

Does New Jersey, New York, or any New England state have a law that prohibits feeding black bears on private property?

(This report updates information provided in OLR Report [2012-R-0351](#). It does not discuss laws on baiting bears for hunting or similar purposes.)

Summary

New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont have laws or regulations that prohibit feeding black bears on private property. They differ though as to whether the ban extends to activities that unintentionally attract or feed black bears. Maine law authorizes the inland fisheries and wildlife commissioner to establish rules prohibiting black bear feeding, but he has not done so. Connecticut and Massachusetts have no laws imposing such restrictions.

Each state that bans feeding bears on private property prohibits intentionally doing so, as shown in Attachment 1. This generally refers to using, giving, placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering edible material to attract a bear to feed on it. Some states exempt from the ban activities such as state-approved scientific research or bona fide agricultural practices. Penalties vary by state, but may include such things as fines upwards of \$1,000 per violation, prison time, or suspension of fish and wildlife license privileges. New Hampshire's and New Jersey's laws require a warning to be issued before penalties apply.



Tulips indicate Spring near the Legislative Office Building (LOB).

What Does it Cost?

- What are the potential state costs and/or municipal costs of legislative proposals?
- Are there ways for the State to raise money to pay for the program?
- The Office of Fiscal Analysis can assist with determining the fiscal impact of the proposal.



A Bill Idea

Nonpartisan Offices

Here to help.



OLR
Q

The idea
is on
track



Share
progress w/
constituents

Office of Fiscal Analysis
OFA

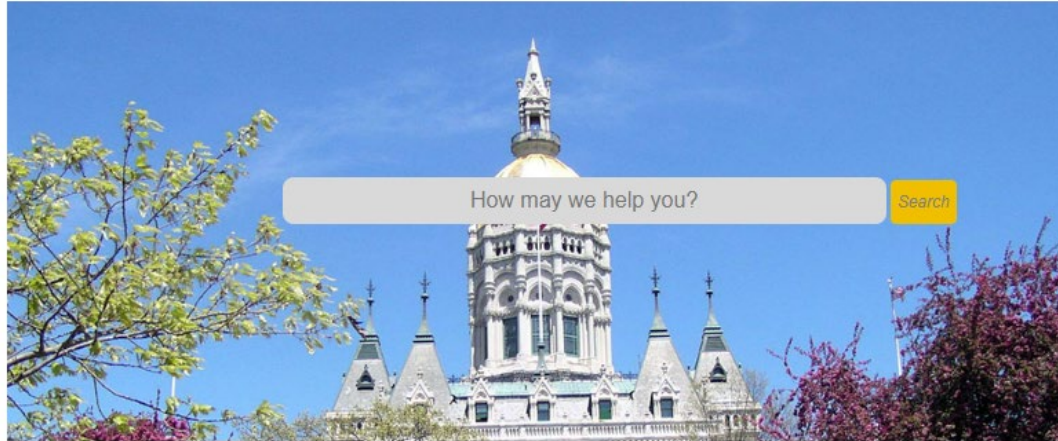


Governor's
Desk for
Signature



Connecticut General Assembly's

Office of Fiscal Analysis

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How may we help you?

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FY 23 Budget Revisions

*Governor's Budget Documents
Appropriations Budget Sheets
Final Budget*

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*Monthly Projections
Consensus Revenue Estimates
FAC and Overtime Reports*

Appropriations and Spending

*Budget Books
Current Budget Status Reports
The State Budget Process*

Finance Revenue and Bonding

*Consensus Revenue Report
Committee Budget Proposal*

Municipal Information

*Town Grants
Grant Data and Information*

Budget Books

Index of State Agency Budgets

Featured Reports

- FY 23 Connecticut Budget Revisions
- Fiscal Note for FY 23 Budget Revisions (HB 5506)
- Fiscal Accountability Report FY 22 - FY 26

What's New

- OFA Analysis and Summary of Governor's FFY 23 Federal Block Grant Allocation Plans
- Review of Regulation Review Committee Agenda Items for September 27, 2022 Meeting

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200

Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-523

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	Up to \$200,000	Up to \$200,000
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

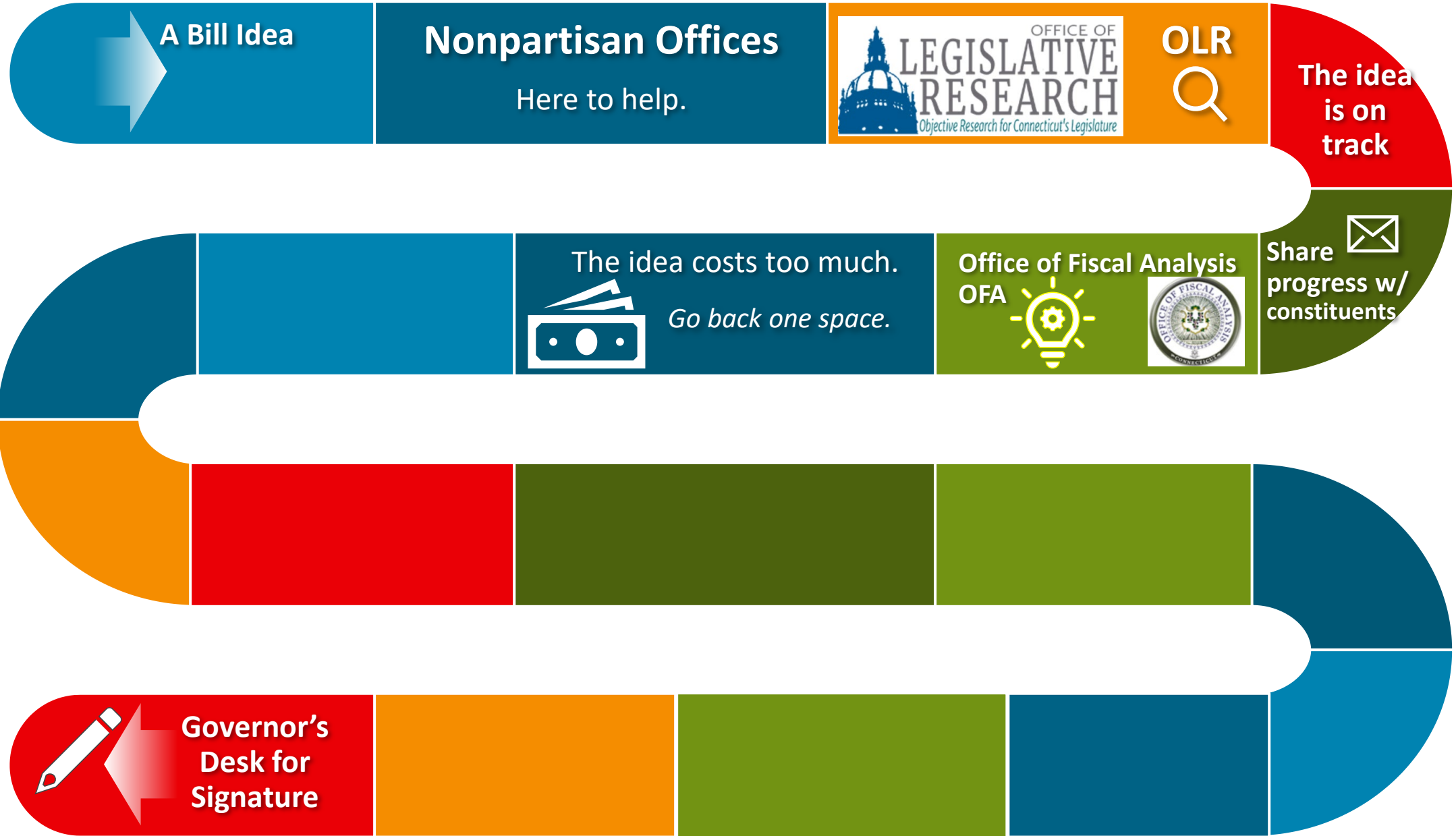
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

There is a cost of up to \$200,000 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) resulting from the bill, which requires the agency to develop and enforce a registry of animal abuse offenders. It is expected that DESPP would hire a third party contractor to develop and maintain such a registry. For comparison, DESPP pays annual licensing and maintenance fees totaling approximately \$150,000 for the state sex offender registry. Any such information technology costs would vary based how much of the development and ongoing maintenance of the registry was handled by a third-party or internal IT staff.

Also, it is expected there would be costs associated with the enforcement of individuals on the registry and administrative costs related to processing of forms and fingerprints required by the bill.

Primary Analyst: AN

Contributing Analyst(s): PR



OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Connecticut General Assembly

Room 5200, Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106 - (860) 240-0200

E-Mail: ofa@cga.ct.gov

www.cga.ct.gov/ofa

TO:

FROM: Christina Gellman
Principal Budget

SUBJECT: Teachers' Retiree Health Insurance

You asked about recent changes to the Teachers' Retiree Health Insurance plan and the following information is provided in response to your inquiry.

Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB) Retiree Health Insurance Plan

- The legislature flat funded the teachers' retirement health plan in FY 16, FY 17 and FY 18 instead of providing the one-third of the TRB retiree health plan cost. This resulted in a state share of approximately 16% in FY 17 and an anticipated share of 12% in FY 18.
- The TRB account that funds the state contribution to the TRB Retiree Health Insurance Plan is the retiree health service cost account. The Revised FY 19 Budget (PA 18 - 81, section 22) transfers \$16.1 million from the Budget Reserve Fund to the retired teachers' health insurance premium account. This transfer, when combined with the FY 19 appropriation in the retirees health service cost account of \$14.6 million, provides a state contribution totaling \$30.7 million for the TRB retiree health plan. This reflects approximately 33% of the TRB retiree health basic plan estimated expenditure for FY 19 under the Medicare Advantage Plan.

Impact to Retired Teachers

- In order to control TRB retiree health insurance plan costs, the TRB voted to change the FY 19 base plan to Anthem Medicare Advantage, effective July 1, 2018. Retired teachers currently pay \$156 per member per month for the TRB health plan (Stirling Benefits) plus dental, vision and hearing (DVH). For FY 19, the per member per month cost to retirees is \$134 for the Anthem Medicare Advantage plan and \$259 for Stirling Benefits, both including DVH. Here is a link to information about the changes in the TRB retiree health plan on the TRB website.

I hope that you find this information helpful. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further assistance.



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

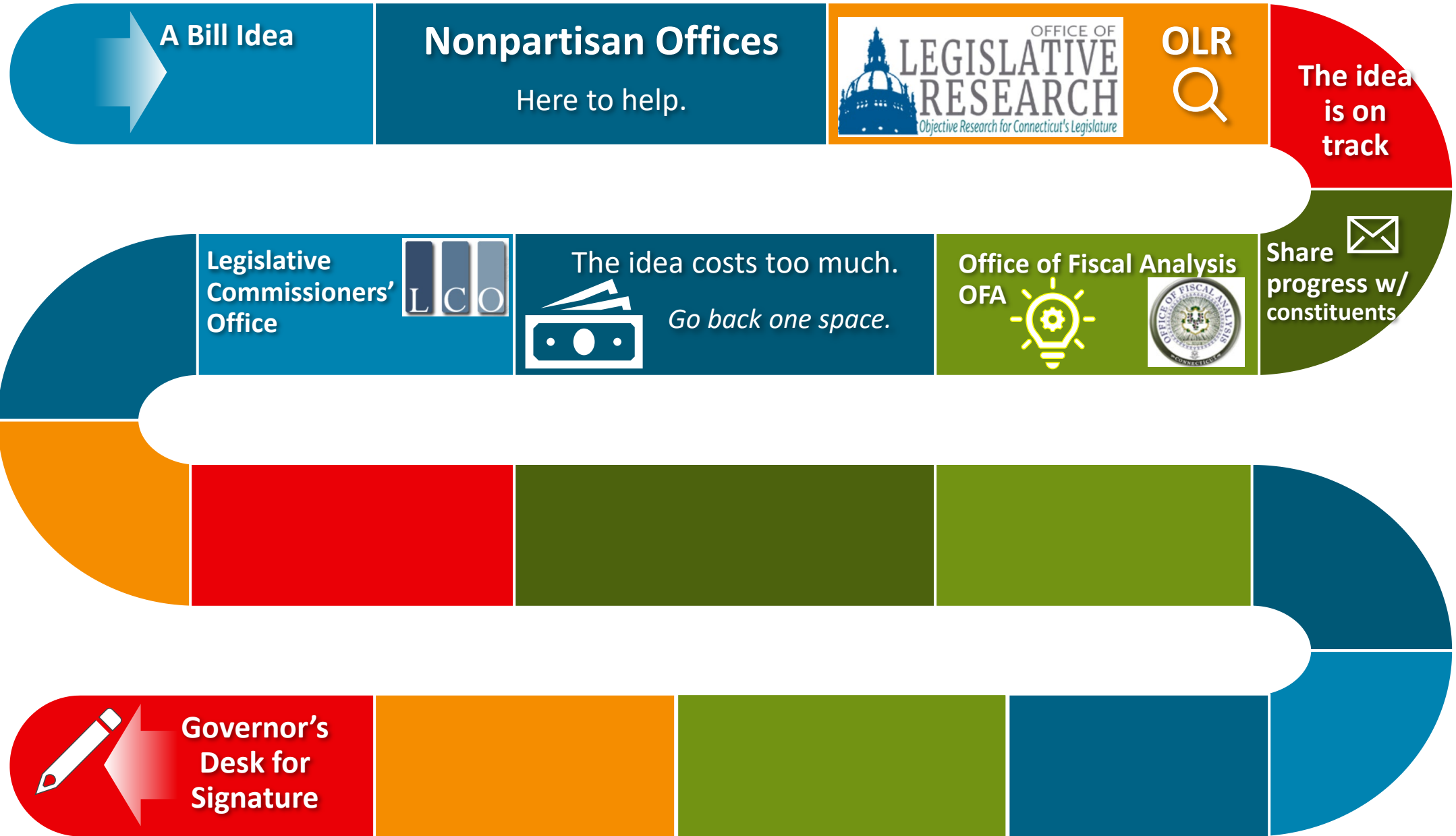
1. The Office of Legislative Research can provide cost estimates on legislation.

False – Cost estimates are determined by the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Getting A Bill Written

- Once a legislator completes their “homework” they are ready to submit a proposed bill request.
- The proposed bill will be written by attorneys in the Legislative Commissioners’ Office (LCO).

A view of the Capitol at night from inside the Legislative Office Building.





LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
of the Connecticut General Assembly

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ABOUT LCO



GENERAL STATUTES & PUBLIC ACTS



2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



FORMS & RESOURCES



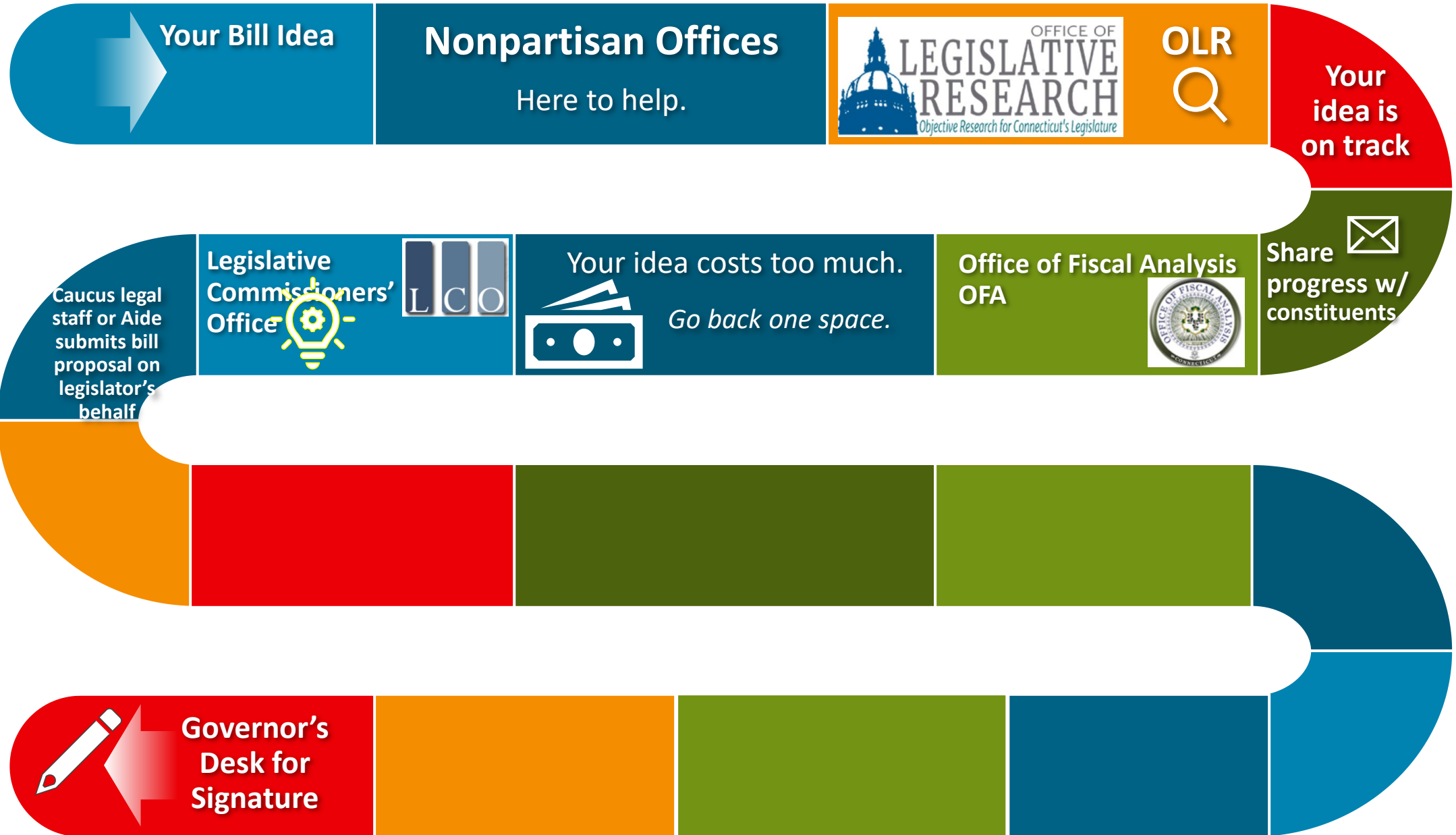
Welcome

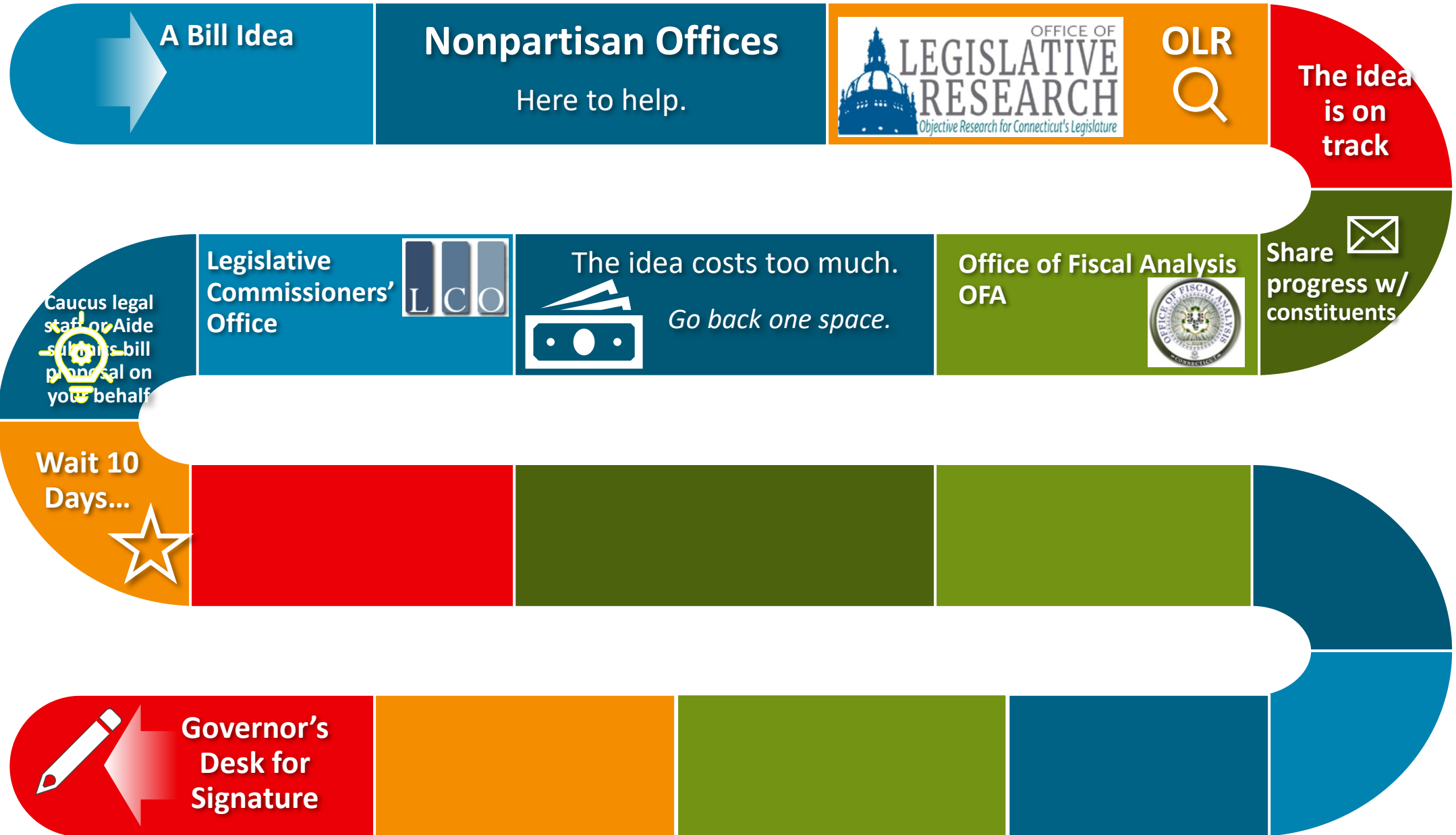
TO THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S NONPARTISAN LEGAL OFFICE

An Overview

Attorneys in the Legislative Commissioners' Office (LCO) provide nonpartisan legal counsel to the members of the Connecticut General Assembly and their staff. Our position as nonpartisan professionals affords us unique insight into the mechanics of the legislative process. We are acutely aware of the often competing goals and interests of our clients. As a result, we adhere to strict standards of confidentiality while producing accurate, legally sound work in a timely manner.


The Legislative Commissioners -- one a democrat and one a republican -- are appointed by the General Assembly for staggered four-year terms. A nonpartisan director manages the day-to-day operations of LCO, and all LCO attorneys and permanent staff are nonpartisan.





Proposed Bill

- The proposed bill is sent to the legislator for their review and signature.
- The proposed bill is then filed with the either the House or Senate Clerk to be assigned a bill number and copies printed.
- The bill is then referred to a committee.



The state seal can be seen on the atrium window of the second floor in the LOB and on the state flag just outside.



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Proposed Bill No. 5425¹

LCO No. 157

Referred to Committee on

Introduced by:

REP. SMITHY, 152nd Dist.

SEN. DOE, 37th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING BULLYING BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS.

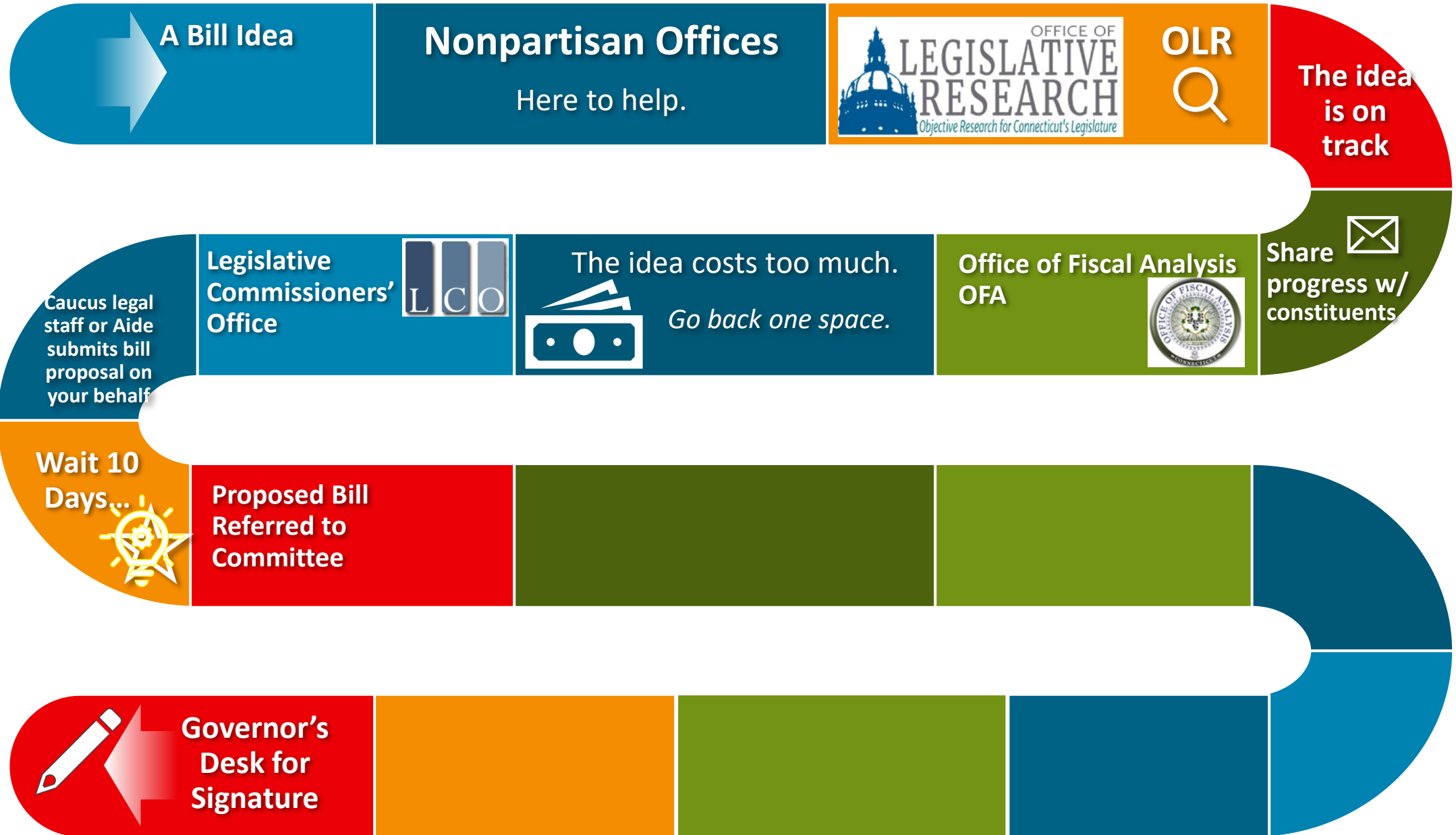
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That title 10 of the general statutes be amended to provide that all
- 2 Connecticut public school teachers and administrators be required to
- 3 take courses on the prevention of bullying in schools.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide a safe learning environment for children in public schools.

¹ This proposed bill was created for the benefit of the New Legislator Orientation.





Committee Process

- There are 22 Joint Standing Committees, comprised of Senators and Representatives.
- Committees are constituted for a two-year period in the Joint Rules.
- The Joint Rules prescribes deadlines for various committee actions.

On the third floor, the Skywalk connects the Legislative Office Building (LOB) to the Legislative Office Garage (LOG).

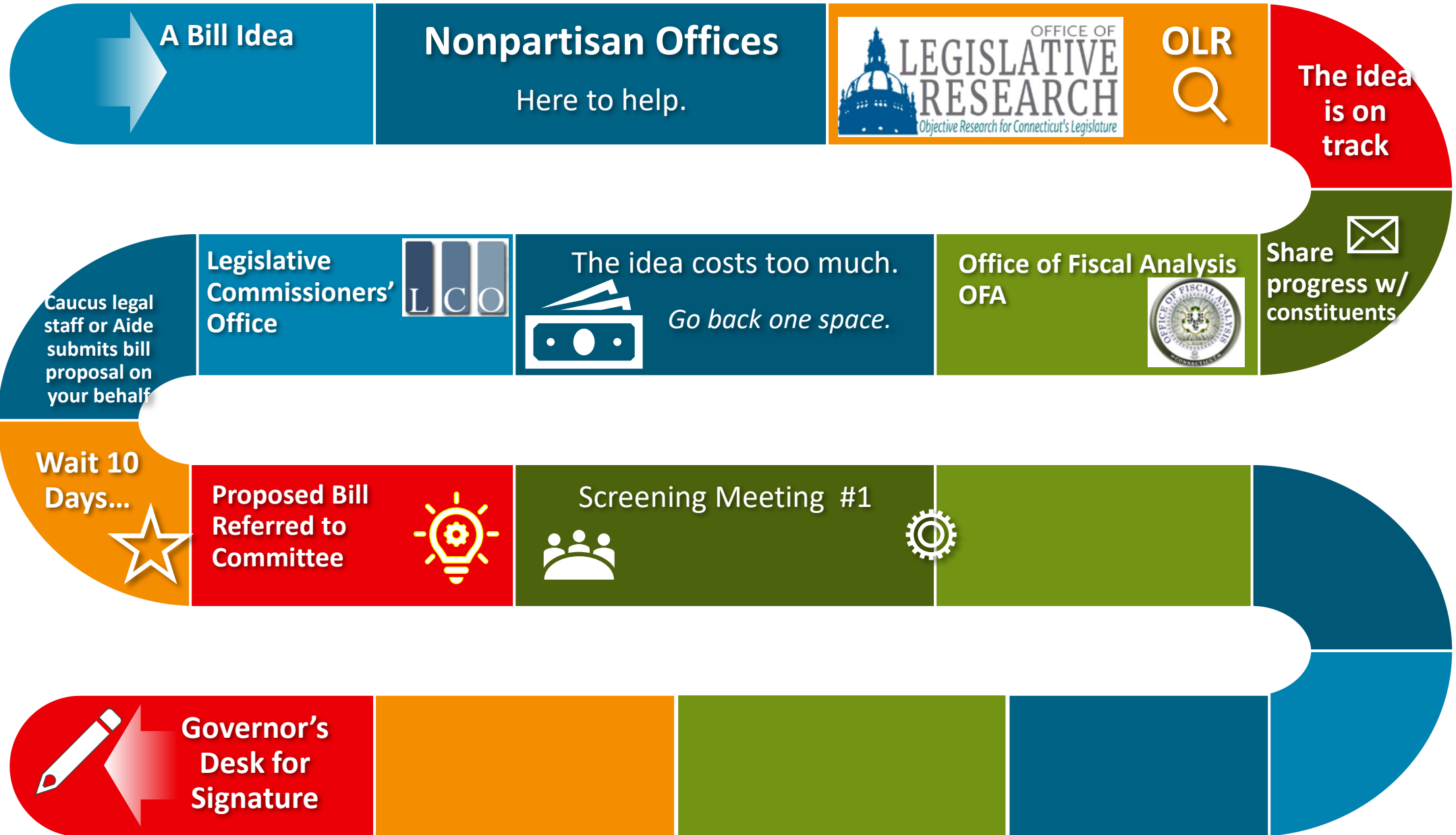


Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

2. All CGA committees are joint committees.

False – the House Select Committee on Connecticut's Sustainable and Renewable Energy has been established for the 2023 session.

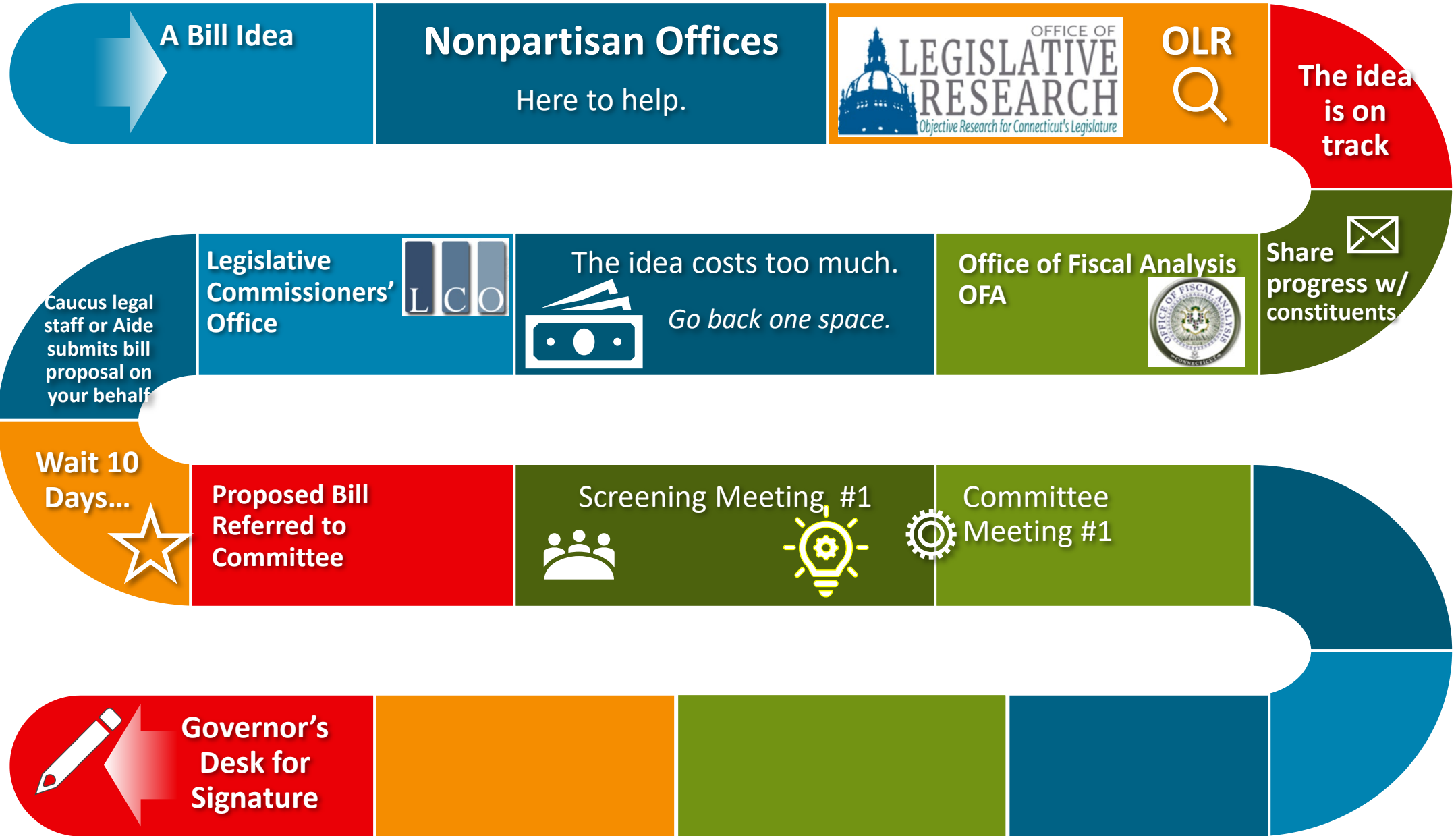




The back entrance to the LOB may only be accessed by legislators and staff. It is a convenient walkway to and from the Capitol.

Step 1: Screening

- A private process to determine which bills will be considered by the committee.
- Committee leaders set the committee priorities, which bills will be heard in public hearings, and which bills will be acted upon by the full committee.
- The players:
 - Committee Co-Chairpersons
 - Ranking Members
 - LCO Attorney
 - OLR Staff
 - Committee Clerk or Administrator
 - OFA Staff





The grounds of the Capitol complex are well-maintained.

Step 2: First Committee Meeting

The first committee meeting is held to move legislation to a public hearing.

- A bill is placed on a committee meeting agenda.
- The committee discusses the bill and the proposed action.
- The committee votes on the proposed action.



K-9 Officer Bocci joined the SCPD in March of 2022.

Types of Action on Proposed Bills

Draft:

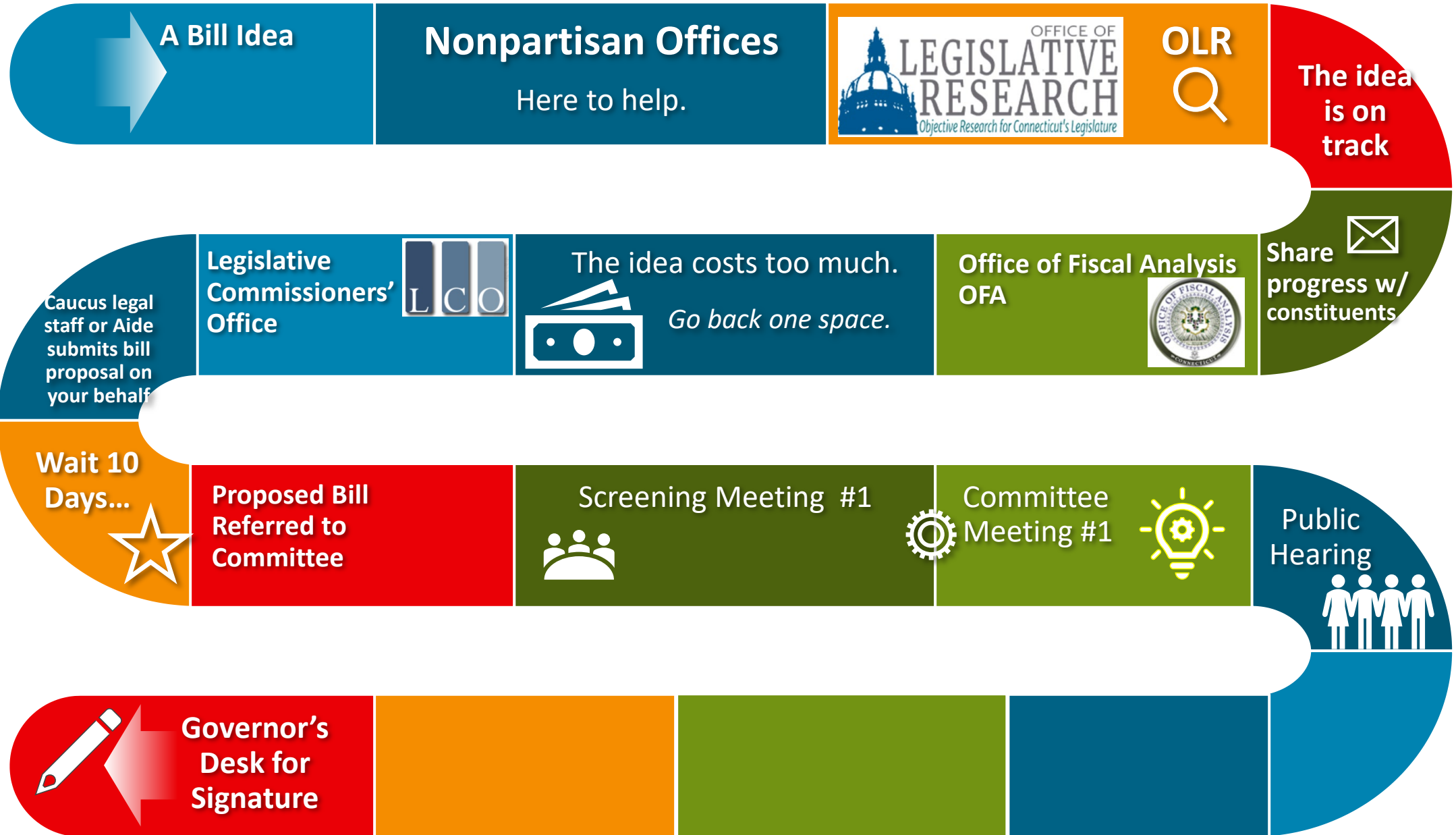
The Committee requests that LCO write the proposed bill in formal statutory language. The bill becomes a committee bill and retains the same bill number.

Reserve for Subject Matter Public Hearing:

The proposed bill, as written, is scheduled for a public hearing to help the Committee learn more about the subject and purpose of the bill. They are also postponing a decision on fully drafting the bill as a committee bill.

Change of Reference:

The Committee refers (sends) the proposed bill to another committee.





Step 3: Public Hearing

- Bill is placed on a public hearing agenda.
- Bill is posted in the Legislative Bulletin for the public hearing.
 - 5 calendar days notice is required.
- Public Hearing is held to receive input from:
 - Public
 - State Agencies
 - Legislators

A view of the seat where public testimony may be given.



Hearing rooms can be found on the first two floors of the LOB.

Public Hearing Procedures

- The first hour is usually reserved for Legislators (who are **not** members of the Committee), State Agency Representatives, and Chief Elected Municipal Officials.
- Public testimony is usually timed for 3 minutes.
- Written testimony is highly encouraged.

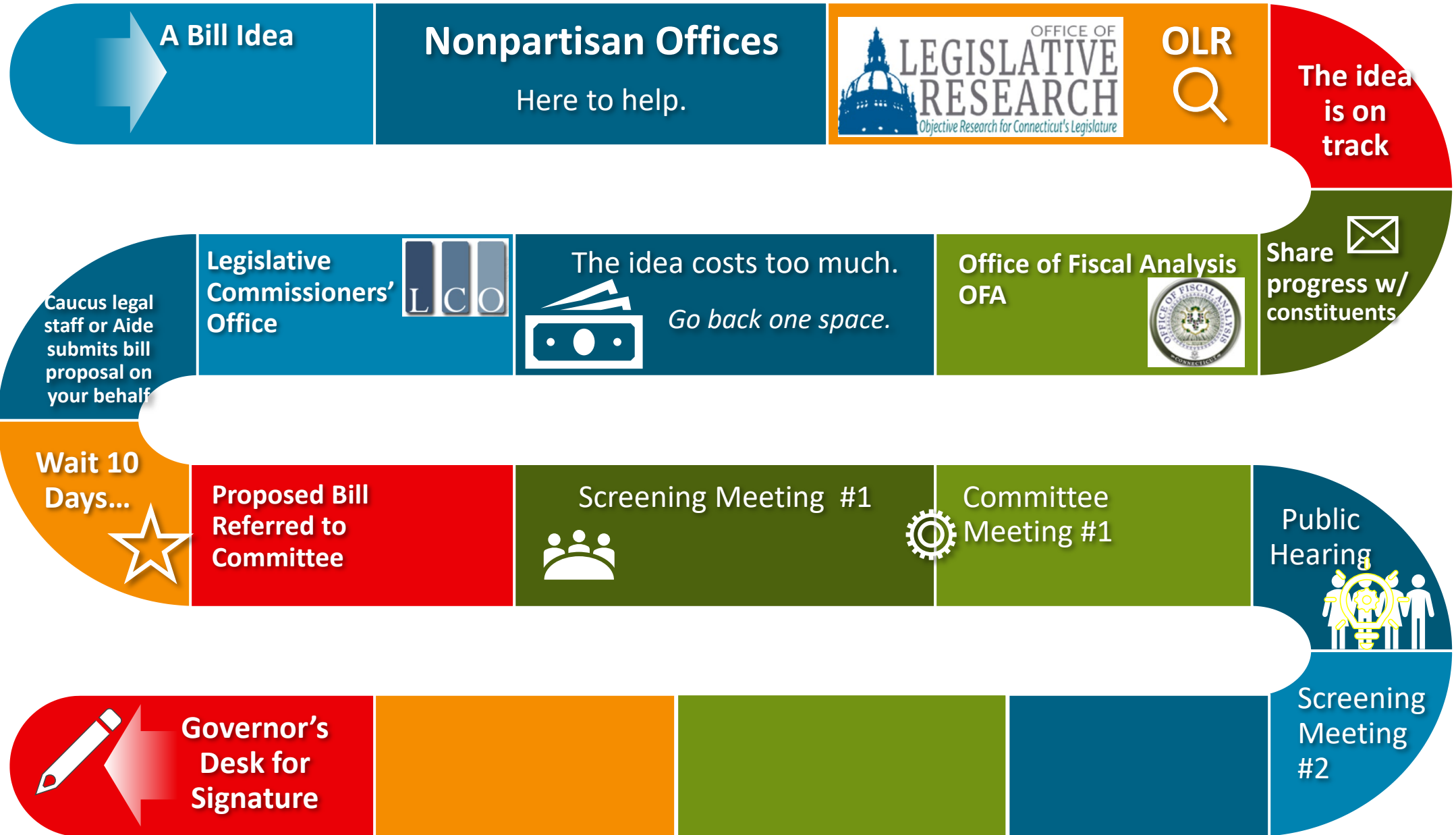


Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

3. Legislators can testify at public hearings.

True – Legislators can testify before any legislative committee except the committees on which they serve.





Capitol architect Richard Mitchell Upjohn designed eagles for the building's four gables

Step 5: Screening Again

- Screening members review input on bills, including:
 - State Agency reaction
 - Public input during hearings
 - Lobbyist meetings
 - Communication from constituents/interest groups
 - Legislators
- Review content of bills for possible language changes.
- Determine recommended action.





Step 6: JF Meeting

- The bill is listed on a committee meeting agenda (posted by 6 pm the day before the meeting).
- Committee members debate the content and merits of the bill.
- Committee members vote on the bill.
- Final action must occur before 5:00 pm on the Committee's Joint Favorable (JF) Deadline.



Potential Final Action on Bills

Joint Favorable (“JF”):

The bill, with no changes, is recommended for passage by the full House and Senate.

Joint Favorable Change of Reference:

The bill as written is recommended for passage, but first must be considered by (“is referred to”) another committee with jurisdiction on the bill.

Joint Favorable Substitute (“JFS”):

The bill is passed favorably from the committee with either technical or substantive changes to make it recommended for passage by the full House and Senate.

Consent Calendar:

A group of bills voted on, without debate, by a single roll call vote. A single member may have a bill removed from the consent calendar merely by asking.

This 3-D marble pattern on the floor of the LOB creates a wonderful optical illusion.



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

4. Proposed bills can be ready for action within the first month of session.

False – Proposed bills must be:

- Referred to a committee
- Screened by committee leaders
- Drafted by the committee
- Heard in a public hearing
- Screened again
- Reported favorably (JF'd) by the committee



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

Preparing for Floor Action

- Bill gets reviewed for the File Copy.
- File copy consists of:
 - Language of the bill – Legislative Commissioners' Office
 - Fiscal Note (what the bill will cost) – Office of Fiscal Analysis
 - Bill Summary (what the bill does) – Office of Legislative Research

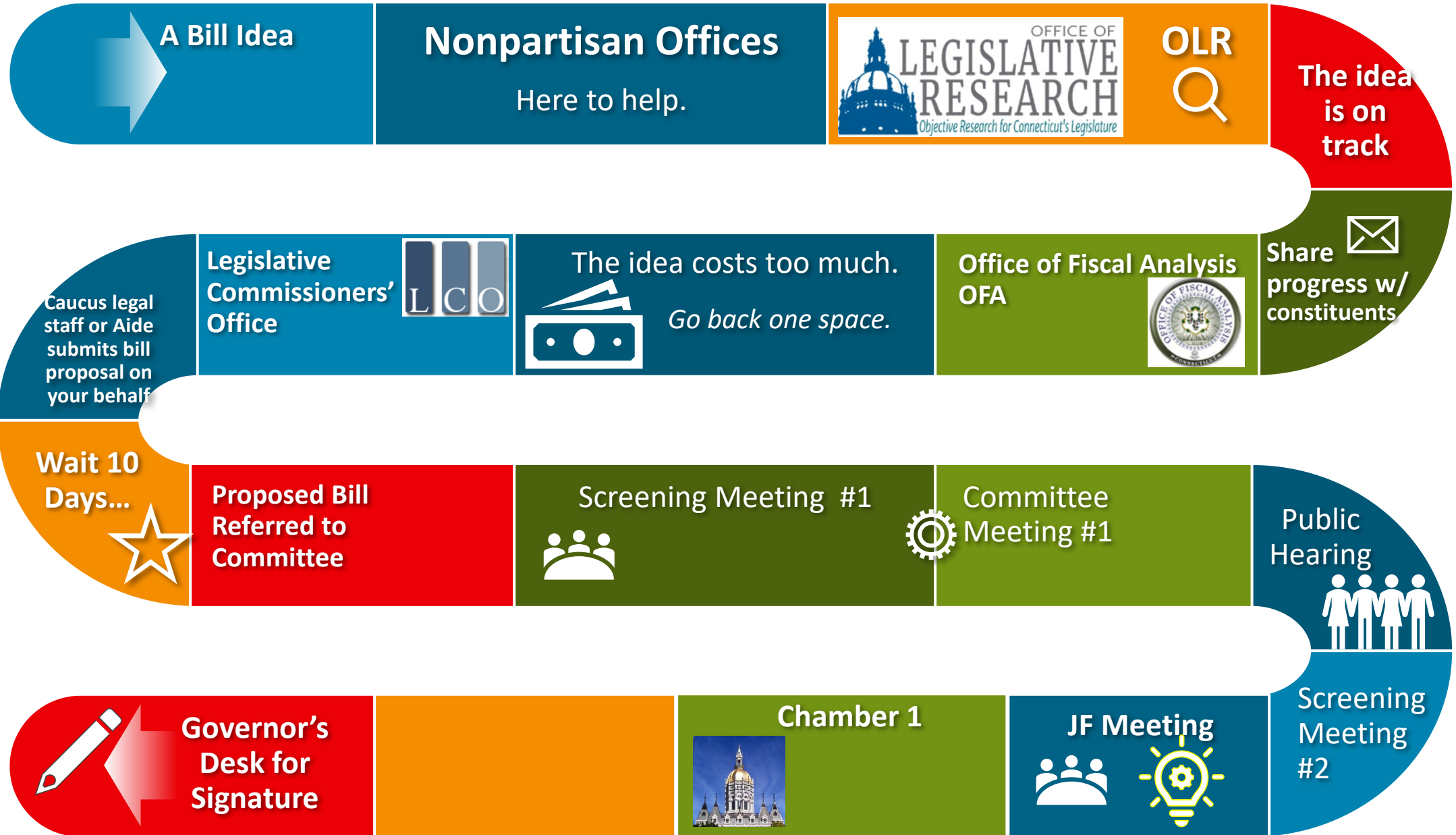
LCO is located on the fifth floor of the Legislative Office Building.



The Genius of Connecticut located on the first floor of the Capitol.

Preparing for Floor Action

- The bill is delivered by LCO to the appropriate Clerk's Office.
- The bill is assigned a file number (different from the bill number).
- The bill is assigned a calendar number and is placed on the chamber's calendar under "Reports of Committees" by title, file number, and bill number.



House and Senate Screening

Each Caucus has a screening committee.

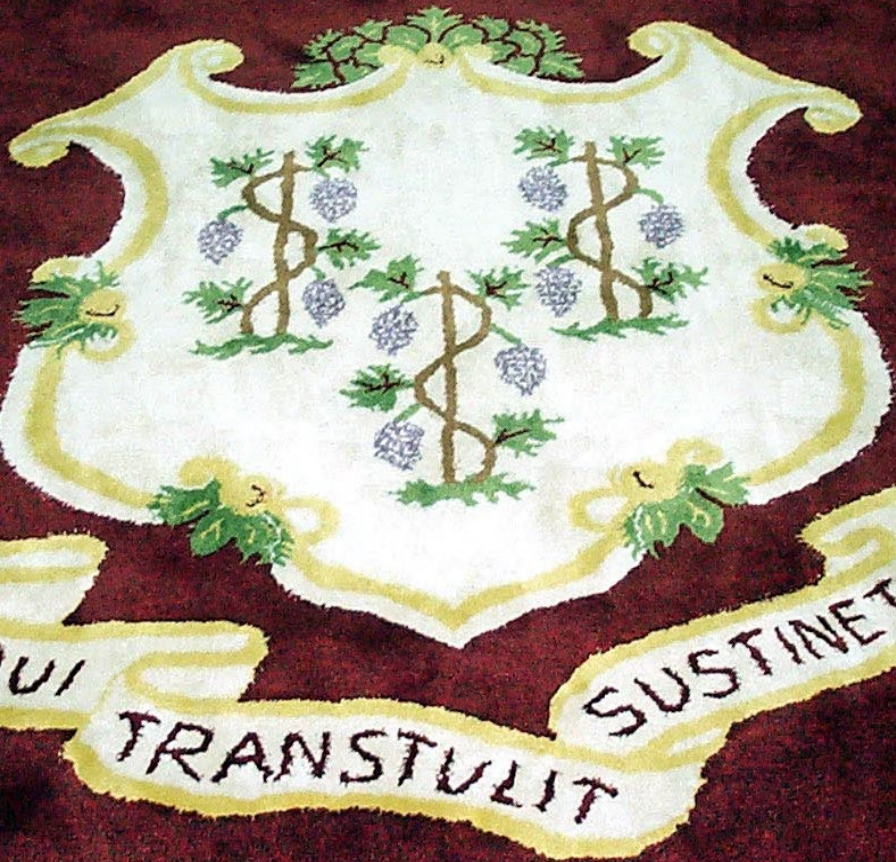
Screening Committee Members:

- Screening Chairs (Legislators)
- Caucus Attorneys
- Policy Staff
- Chief of Staff

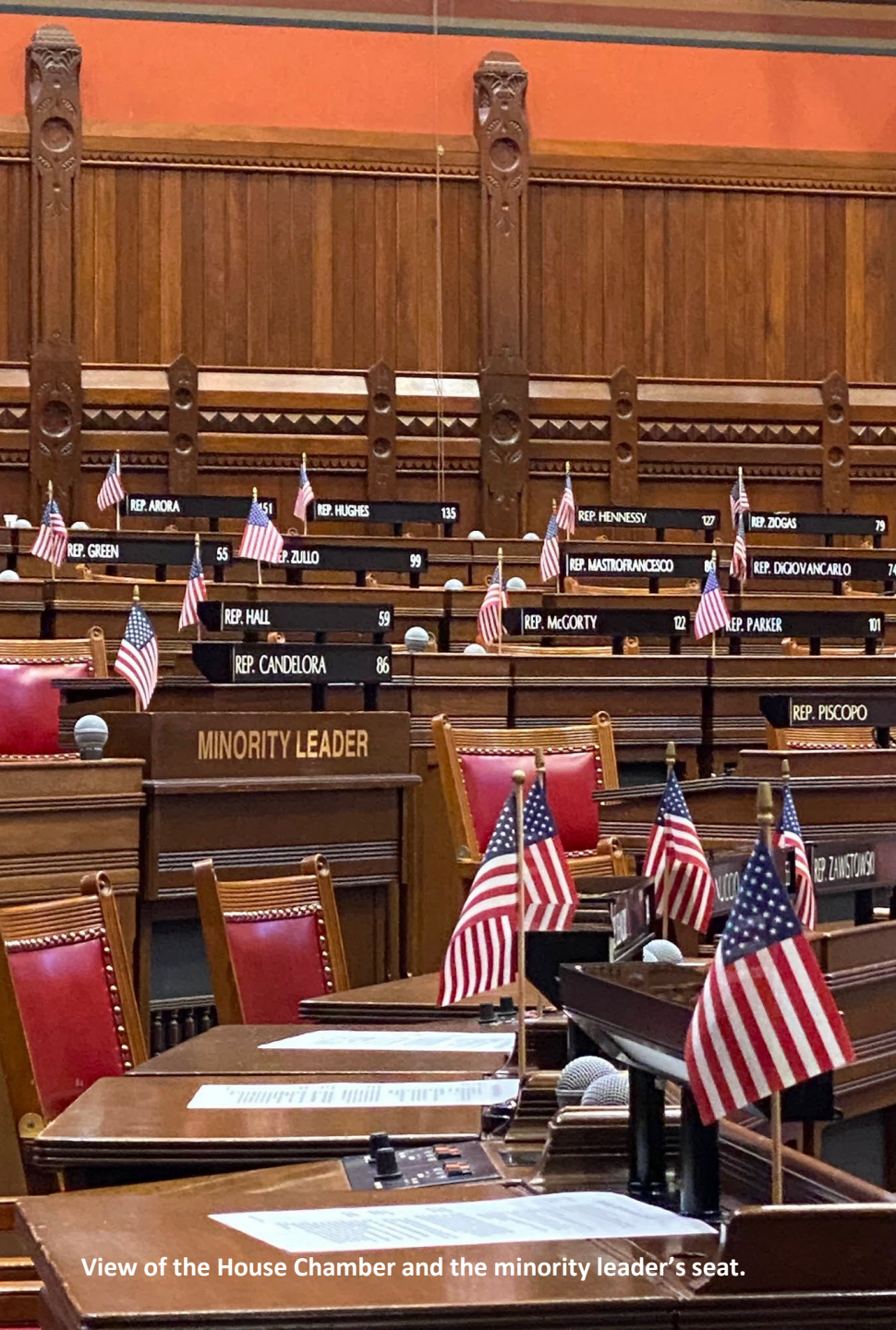
Discussion Points:

- Merits of the bill
- Language
- Changes needed
- Political concerns

- Screening Chairs share decisions within their respective chambers.
- Decisions are reflected on daily House Go List or Senate Calendar markings.



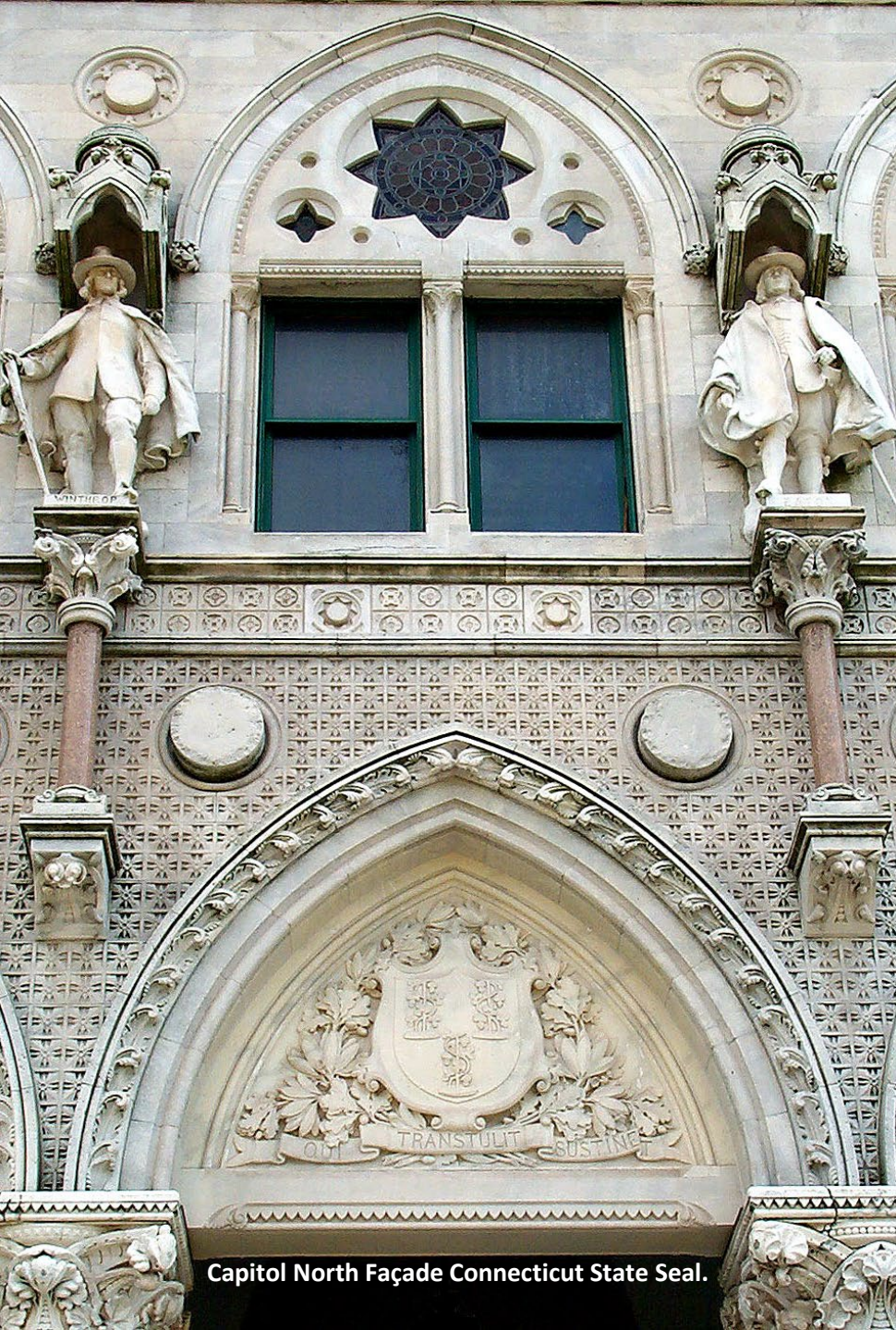
Members and visitors are careful to walk around the state seal on the floor of the Senate (never on it).



View of the House Chamber and the minority leader's seat.

House (Chamber 1) Action

- House and Senate chambers advance bills using “Stars” (X).
- First calendar appearance – no “stars”.
- Second calendar appearance – Single Starred (1 “X”).
- Third calendar appearance – Double Starred (2 “X’s”).
- Bill is ready for action.
- House will place the bill on the “Go List” when leadership is ready to debate and vote on the bill.



Capitol North Façade Connecticut State Seal.

State of Connecticut



House of Representatives

CALENDAR

Cal. No.

Title

File No.

FAVORABLE REPORTS

0032

[Substitute for House Bill No. 5155.](#) AN ACT CONCERNING
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE DURING PERIODS OF
EMERGENCY OR DISASTER.
Committee Reports: PH

25

X 0031

[House Bill No. 5067.](#) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE AMSTON LAKE
HEBRON TAX DISTRICT AND THE AMSTON LAKE LEBANON TAX
DISTRICT TO MERGE INTO THE AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT.
Committee Reports: PD

23

XX 0227



[Substitute for House Bill No. 5425.](#) AN ACT CONCERNING
BULLYING BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS.
Committee Reports: KID, ED, APP

379



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

5. Legislation is ready for floor action immediately following committee deadlines.

False:

- A file copy is prepared.
- The bill is “tabled for the calendar”.
- The bill is screened.
- The bill must be “double starred” for action.



Looking up from the 3rd floor outside the Senate.

Floor Action

- Members will debate the bill.
- Amendments (changes) may be offered to:
 - Make technical changes.
 - Add, delete or change certain provisions of the bill.
 - Make wholesale changes (referred to as a “strike all” amendment).



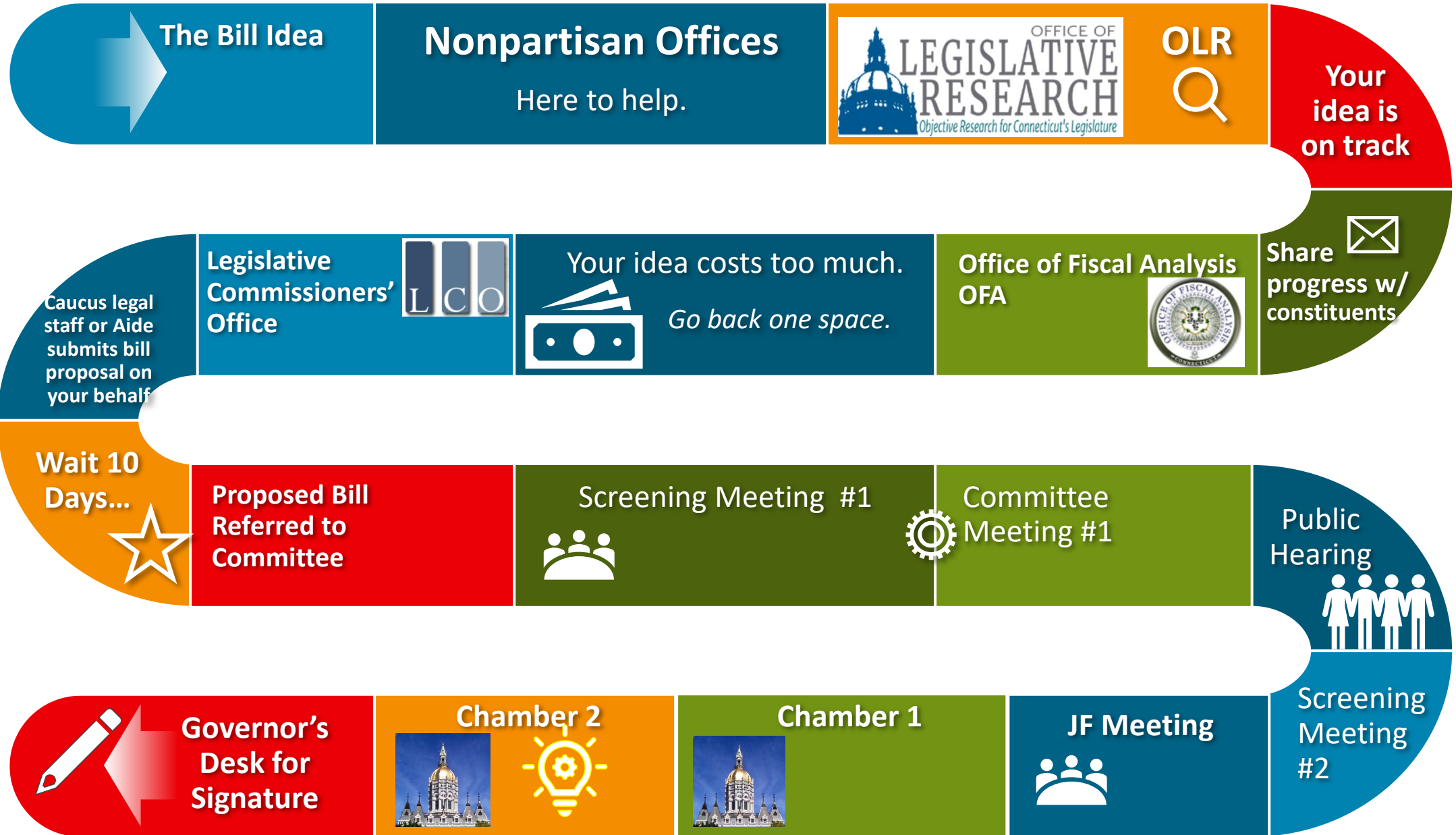


Senate (Chamber 2) Action

- House Clerk will transmit the bill to the Senate Clerk's Office.
- Senate Clerk will place the bill on the Senate Calendar.
- Bill needs to be “double starred” for action.
- Senate Majority Leader will announce the calendar markings each day to indicate which bills are ready for action.

The 8-Pointed Star is represented in the Senate's stained-glass windows.

Photo credit: Brian Kutner





Governor's Action

- The Governor has 5 days, during session, to act (sign or veto) the bill.
- The Governor has 15 days, after session is adjourned, to act on the bill.
- If the Governor does not act within the timeframes, the bill becomes law.



Outside view of the Capitol from the LOB walkway.

True or False?

6. The Governor has deadlines for signing or vetoing a bill.

True:

- 5 days during session
- 15 days after session is adjourned



Here to Answer Your Questions:

- Office of Legislative Management (OLM) x0100
- Office of Legislative Research (OLR) x8400
- Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) x0200
- Legislative Commissioners' Office (LCO) x8410

Eagle Landing is the focal point as you enter the Legislative Office Building.

