

Bill v. Resolution: What the People Need to Know
 NCICL
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Bills and resolutions differ in terms of both substance and procedure. Below is a table highlighting the major differences between a “bill” and a “resolution”.

	Bill	Resolution
<u>Procedure at General Assembly</u>		
Must pass both chambers?	Yes	No, unless a joint resolution
May pass only Senate to be effective?	No	Yes, unless a joint resolution
May pass only House to be effective?	No	Yes, unless a joint resolution
<u>Involvement of Governor</u>		
Presented to Governor for approval?	Yes	No
Becomes law when signed by Governor?	Yes ¹	No
May be vetoed by Governor?	Yes ²	No
<u>Effectiveness and Use</u>		
Must be signed by Governor to become effective?	Yes ³	No
Continues until repealed or amended by law?	Yes	No, a resolution has no life after the term of the session in which it is adopted.
Uses?	Create laws Appropriate funds Raise revenue ⁴	Adjourn General Assembly Honor persons, often deceased persons Create study commissions

¹ A Bill not signed or vetoed within 10 days becomes law as if signed by the Governor. Art. II § 22(7)

² Certain types of bills may not be vetoed by the Governor. See Art. II § 22 (2)-(6).

³ See footnote 1 above. Also, vetoed bills may become law if the General Assembly overrides the veto with a three-fifths majority. Art. II § 22(1).

⁴ Revenue bills must satisfy additional requirements pursuant to Art. II § 23.