

AMENDING BILLS BEFORE THE HOUSE.

House bills are open to amendment on the second reading, and Senate bills on the third.

When a bill is before the House for amendment it is read by sections, and amendments are only in order to the section under consideration. After that is passed, it can be returned to and amended as a whole.

An amendment submitted should be plainly written, and endorsed with the name of the member submitting it, indicating the section and the line to be amended, thus :

In section —, line —, after the word “—,” insert the words “—;” or, in section —, line —, strike out the words “—,” and insert the words “—;” or, in section —, strike out all after the word “—,” and insert “—.”

When an amendment has been submitted to a section under consideration, it is competent for any member to submit an amendment to the amendment, but there the amendments must cease until the latter has been disposed of.

When, however, an amendment has been submitted, the intention of which is to strike out the entire section, it is competent for a member to submit an amendment to the section, and another amendment to that amendment. When the two latter are disposed of, other amendments in the same degree can be proposed. The question on the motion to strike out being postponed until the friends of the measure have an opportunity of making it acceptable by amendments.

PREAMBLES AND TITLES.

After the bill has been considered the preamble comes up for adoption, and the vote is taken on the whole by yeas and nays. The title is then open to amendment.