

Modernising conservation land management

Public consultation

November 2024 – February 2025



New Zealand Government



Concessions allow a range of activities on public conservation land

Concessions



Aircraft



Visitor accommodation



Guiding



Infrastructure and utilities



Grazing



Research

Around 3 in 10 applications have been on hand for more than a year

< 3 months

~25%

3 to 6 months

~25%

6 to 12 months

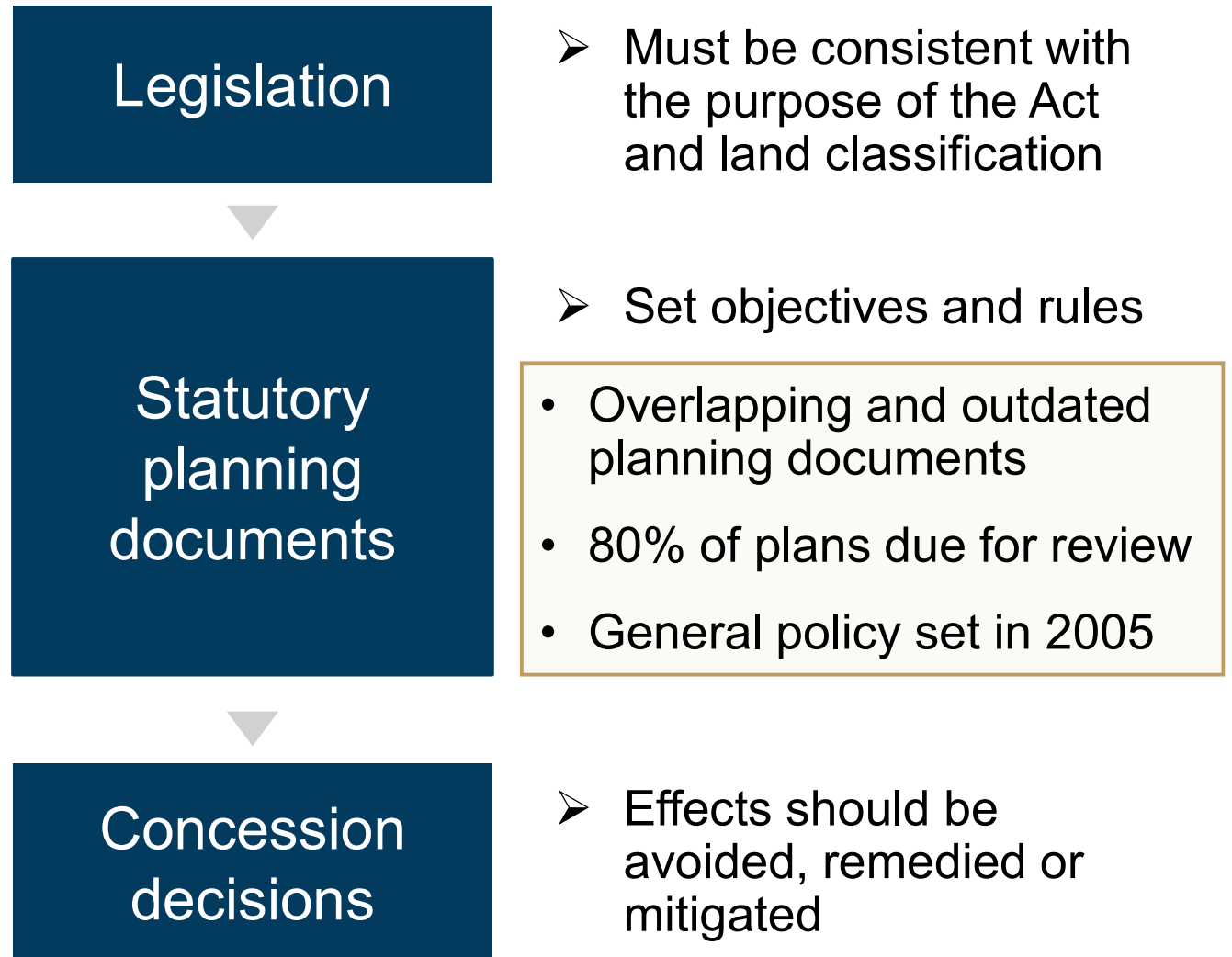
~20%

1+ year

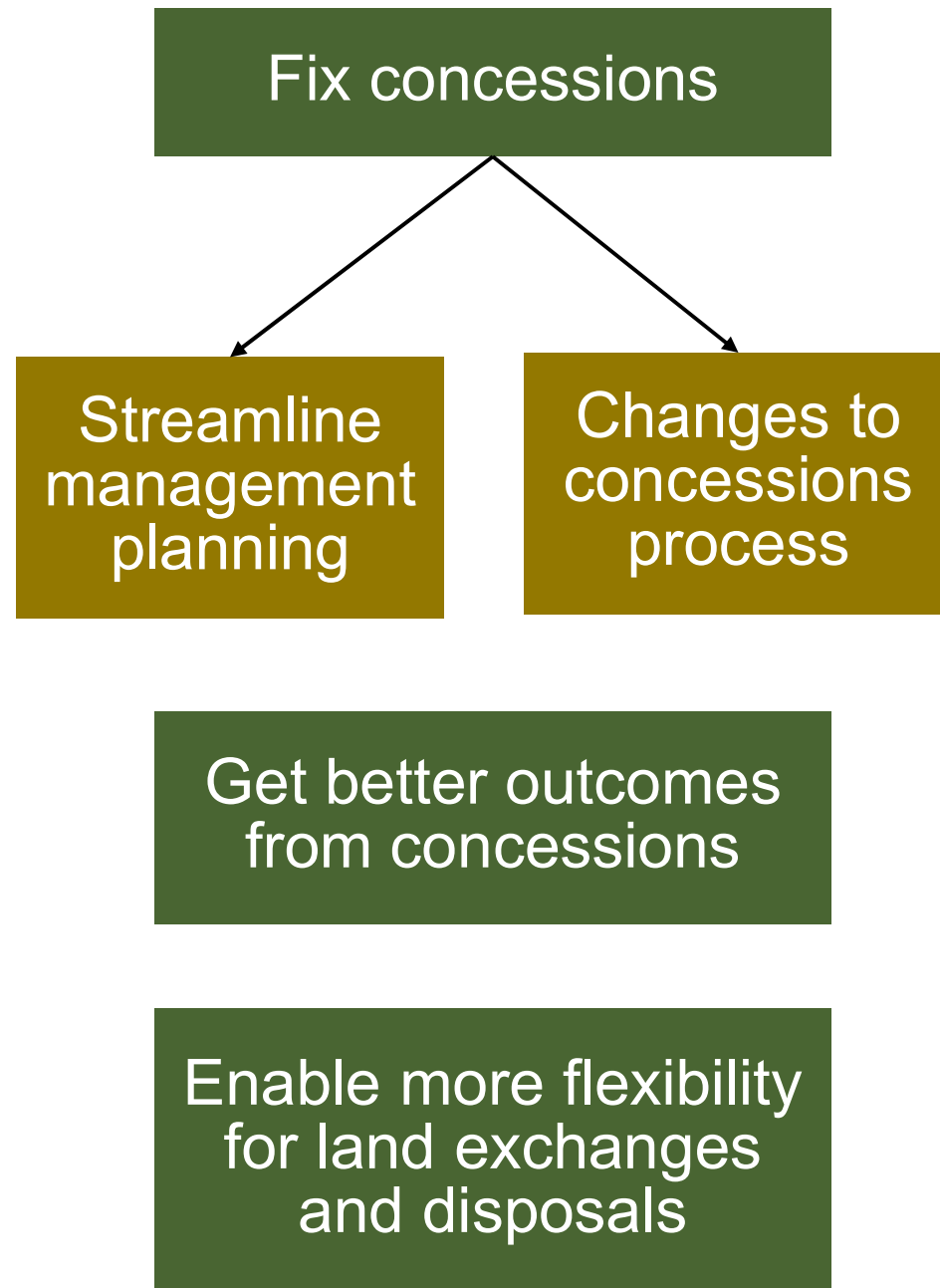
~30%

Management planning

Legislation and plans determine whether concessions are granted



Government objectives for this work



Clarify role of iwi in these processes

The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Section 4 requires DOC and the Minister of Conservation to give effect to Treaty principles when doing anything under conservation law.

- These proposals would not change section 4.
- The proposals aim to provide more clarity on how to give effect to Treaty principles.

Treaty settlements

- Many settlements provide roles for iwi in concessions and planning processes.
- Treaty settlements will be upheld.

Streamlining management planning



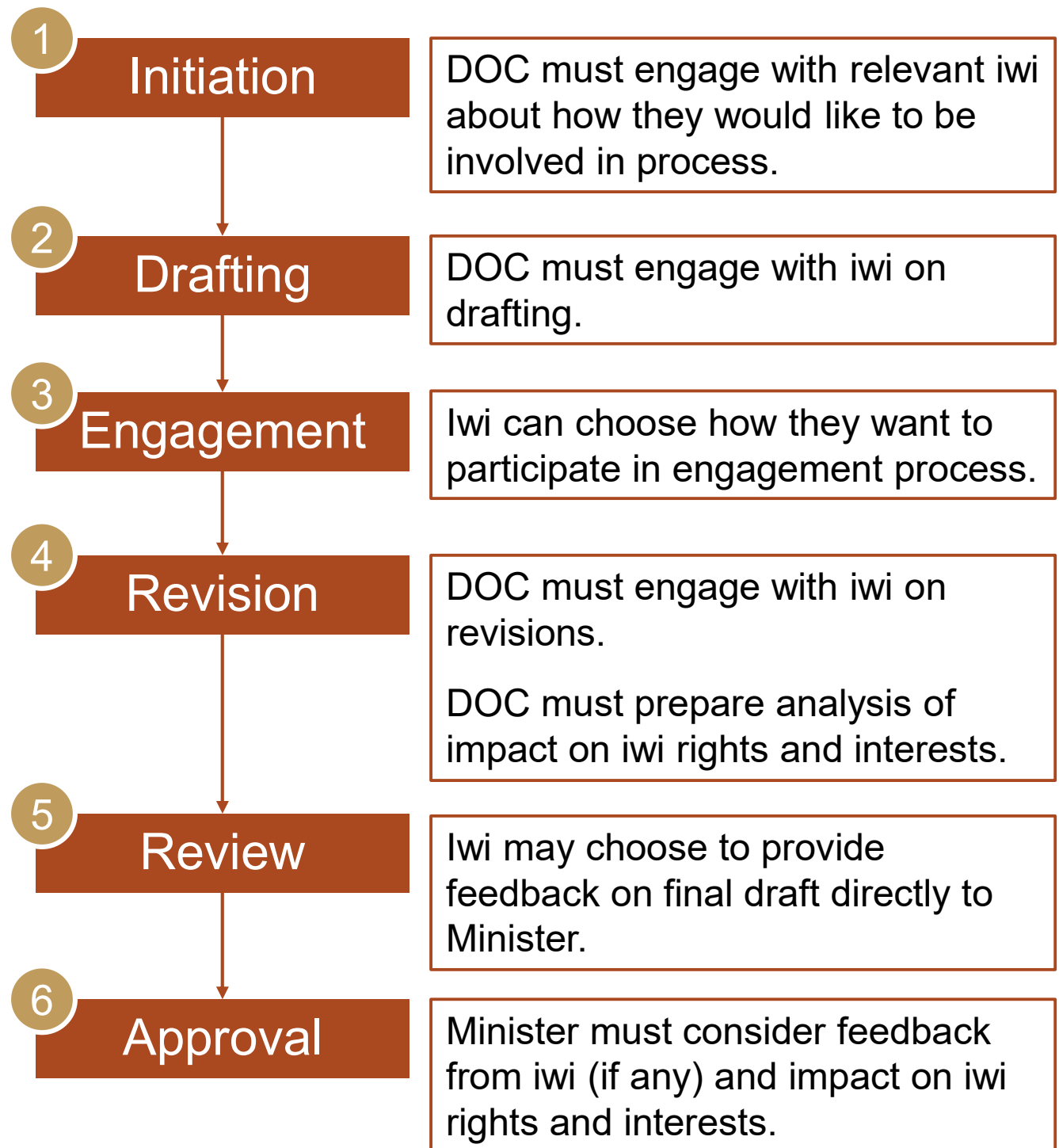
Streamlining management planning



Proposed process for National Conservation Policy Statement










Proposed process for area plans



Making plans more effective

- Plans will focus on long term biodiversity, recreation, historic and cultural outcomes on conservation land.
- They will also consent activities on conservation land.

	Exempt activities	Pre-approved activities	Prohibited activities
NCPS	 News media on tracks, carparks	 Commercial transport in carparks	 Grazing in national parks
Area plans	 Hang-gliding zones	  Drones Guiding	 Building structures in kiwi habitats

Enhancing use of amenities areas

- An amenities area is a small area in a national park or conservation park for visitor and related services.
- The Government proposes:
 - Replacing the two current amenities area tools with a new one.
 - Using the new tool for more detailed spatial planning.
 - Better integrating amenities areas into the planning system.



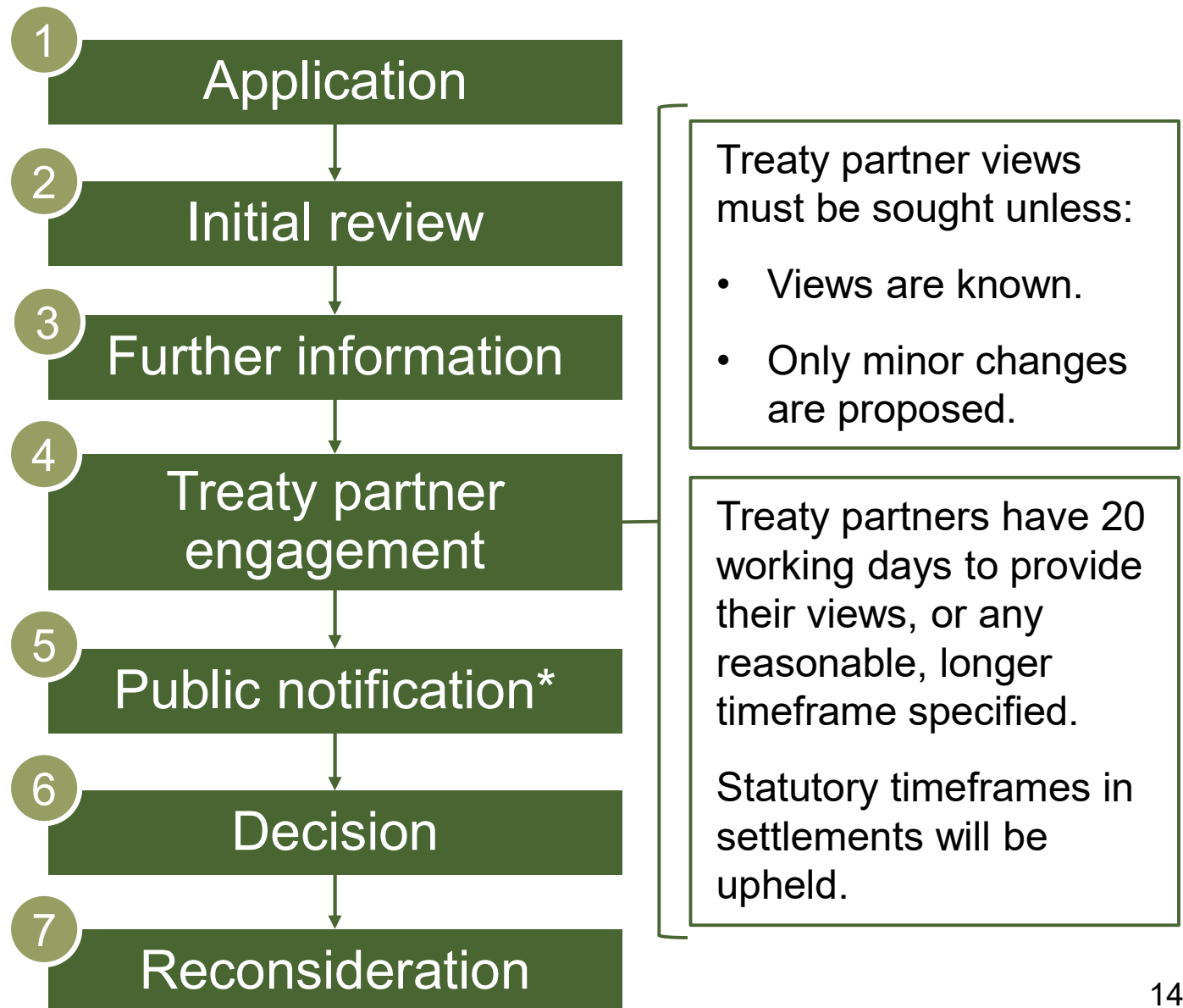
Summary of management planning proposals

- Streamlined structure:
 - Replace two general policies with one National Conservation Policy Statement.
 - Replace three types of strategies and plans with area plans.
- Revised processes for making or reviewing plans.
- Focus plans on outcomes and activity classes for concessions.

Improving the concessions process

Proposed process for individual concessions

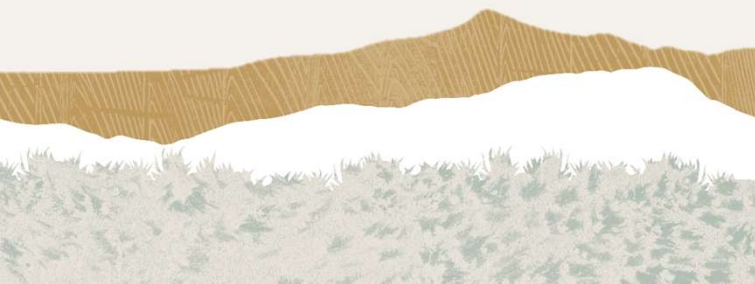
For concession applications not covered by activity classes in National Conservation Policy Statement or area plans:



Better outcomes from concessions

Investor certainty and better outcomes

- Clarifying when and how concessions are competitively allocated.
- Rules and processes to smooth transitions between operators (e.g. asset valuation).
- Modernising contractual management of concessions, including:
 - How concession fees are set.
 - Standard terms and conditions.



When to competitively allocate a concession

Competitive allocation could be used where:

- There is likely to be a market.
- There is limited supply or exclusive use.
- It makes sense given time and cost to run a competitive process.

Methods



Expression of Interest: Used to ascertain demand and/or potential uses of the land.



Auction: Price-based allocation where best use and concession conditions are known.



Tender: Parties compete over the quality of the offering when use is broadly known.

How to choose a concessionaire

Proposed criteria

- Recognition of Treaty rights and interests.
- Performance.
- Returns to conservation.
- Offerings to visitors.
- Benefits to the local area.

Land exchange and disposal

Current issues

- The law only allows conservation land to be exchanged or disposed if it is of no or very low conservation value.
- There are situations where we miss out on potential conservation benefits.
- This also limits Treaty partners' ability to acquire land.

Land exchange

Exchange of land between Crown and a private landowner.

Land disposal

Transfer of land ownership from the Crown to another party.

Proposals for exchange and disposal

Test

- An exchange or disposal would only be possible if it would result in net conservation benefit.
- *For disposals only:* Land would need to be surplus to conservation needs.

Exclusions

- Land of international or national significance.
- Land in national reserves.
- Land in ecological areas.
- Land listed in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Proposals for exchange and disposal

Other proposals

- Land would not need to first be classified as stewardship land.
 - Conservation covenants could be used to ensure continued protection.
-
- Rights of first refusal outlined in Treaty settlements will apply.
 - DOC will engage early with Treaty partners when suitable land is identified, or an application is received.

**Your feedback will inform
Government decisions**

How to provide feedback

Submissions close on 28 February 2025.



Fill in a submission form at
www.doc.govt.nz/modernising-conservation-land-management-consultation.



Email a submission to
landlegislation@doc.govt.nz.



Post a submission to:

*Department of Conservation
18 – 32 Manners St
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143
Attention: Modernising conservation
land management consultation
submissions*

What happens next

Nov – Dec 2024

Regional hui with
Treaty partners

Jan – Feb 2025

Starting work with
PSGEs on
settlements

28 Feb 2025

Submissions
close

Mid 2025

Govt decisions
on next steps

Late 2025

Bill introduced &
NCPS drafted

2026 Bill passed