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California's Constitution lays out rules for adopting a wide variety of legislative actions, from passing the budget, to increasing or reducing taxes, to overriding the Governor's veto. Certain actions need only a simple majority vote of both houses of the Legislature, while others require a two-thirds vote. Most actions require the Governor's signature, and some need voter approval. In an effort to shed light on basic policymaking processes in California, the following table summarizes the requirements for approving key legislative actions.

	Legislative Vote Requirement: Simple Majority or Two-Thirds?	Governor's Signature Required?	Voter Approval Required?
			
BUDGETS AND SPENDING			
Pass a budget bill			
Pass a budget-related (i.e., trailer) bill per Proposition 25 of 2010			
Must contain an appropriation			
Must be identified in the budget bill			
Approve a General Fund appropriation for public schools			
Pass any other bill that contains a General Fund appropriation			
REVENUES			
Impose or increase a state tax			
Impose or increase a state fee			
Reduce or eliminate a state tax or fee			
Change how property tax dollars — within a county — are allocated among any combination of cities, the county, and special districts			
BONDS			
Pass a general obligation (GO) bond measure			
Pass a lease-revenue bond measure			

	Legislative Vote Requirement: Simple Majority or Two-Thirds?	Governor's Signature Required?	Voter Approval Required?
			
CHANGES TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION			
Amend or revise the state Constitution			
Withdraw a proposed constitutional amendment or revision that the Legislature has placed on the ballot			
Move, to a subsequent election, a proposed constitutional amendment or revision that the Legislature has placed on the ballot			
Call a constitutional convention			
CHANGES TO LAWS ENACTED BY VOTERS THROUGH THE INITIATIVE PROCESS ("INITIATIVE STATUTES")			
Amend or repeal an initiative statute*			
OTHER			
Pass an urgency bill (takes effect immediately)			
Does not apply to budget bills or to budget-related bills that comply with Proposition 25 of 2010			
Override Governor's veto (bill or appropriation)			
Make changes affecting travel and living expenses for members of the Legislature			
<p>* The California Constitution allows the Legislature to pass a majority-vote bill that amends or repeals an initiative statute. However, any such bill must be approved by the voters unless the initiative waives this requirement. In practice, initiative statutes often allow lawmakers to pass amendments, typically by a two-thirds vote, without voter approval if such changes would <i>further the purpose</i> of the initiative. Other types of changes, including repeal, typically remain subject to voter approval.</p> <p>Source: CBP analysis of California Constitution; Legislative Analyst's Office; Senate Bill 202 (Hancock, Chapter 558 of 2011)</p>			