Brazil's Pension Reform

The pension reform proposal is a constitutional amendment (PEC): it has to pass a number of steps before it can become law.

1. Analysis by Chamber of Deputies CCJ
   The first step is an analysis of the constitutional aspects of the proposal by the Commission on Constitution and Justice (CCJ).
   The Commission has 5 sessions in which to discuss the proposal and vote on whether to send it to step 2.

2. Analysis by Special Committee
   If deemed constitutional and approved by the CCJ, a Special Committee is created to conduct a merit analysis of the proposal.
   This working group will have 40 sessions to reach an agreement, and send the proposal to step 3.

3. Vote in the Chamber of Deputies
   Once approved by the Special Committee, the text is sent to the House plenary for two rounds of voting.
   At least 308, or 3/5 of all House Deputies must vote in favor of the proposal during each round of voting for it to pass.
   Once approved, the Speaker of the House sends the proposal to the Senate.

4. Analysis by Senate CCJ
   In the Senate, the proposal only goes to one working group for analysis. The Constitution and Justice Commission (CCJ) will analyze all aspects of the text.
   To propose amendments, the Commission must get at least 1/3 of the Senate to sign off.

5. Vote in the Senate
   Once approved by the CCJ, the proposal goes directly to the Senate plenary for 5 discussion sessions and 2 rounds of voting.
   At least 49, or 3/5, of all Senators must vote in favor of the proposal during each round of voting for it to pass.

6. Enactment or Amendments?
   If the PEC that left the Chamber of Deputies is not altered by the Senate, the text is enacted by the President of the Republic and enters into force.
   If the Senate propose amendments to the text, the matter returns to the House Special Committee for consideration of the amendments. It then must repeat steps 3-5 before it can be enacted.

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Sources: BrazilGov (brazil.gov.br/novaprevidencia), Internal Regiments of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate