

THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

STAGE	HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES	UNITED STATES SENATE
INTRODUCTION	<p>A bill is submitted by a House Member.</p> <p>The bill is assigned to one or more committees based upon a review by the Parliamentarian. A committee typically first refers the bill to one of its subcommittees.</p>	<p>A bill is submitted by a Senate Member.</p> <p>The bill is assigned to one or more committees based upon a review by the Parliamentarian. A committee typically first refers the bill to one of its subcommittees.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBCOMMITTEE</p> <p>The subcommittee will hold hearings, and may revise the bill before holding a vote on whether to send it to the full committee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBCOMMITTEE</p> <p>The subcommittee will hold hearings, and may revise the bill before holding a vote on whether to send it to the full committee.</p>
COMMITTEE ACTION	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMITTEE</p> <p>The full committee may amend or rewrite the bill, may also hold hearings, may prepare a committee report, and must approve the bill before it can be advanced to the floor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMITTEE</p> <p>The full committee may amend or rewrite the bill, may also hold hearings, may prepare a committee report, and must approve the bill before it can be advanced to the floor.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">RULES COMMITTEE</p> <p>Before the bill is sent to the House floor, The House Committee on Rules must issue a rule to govern how the bill is to be debated on the House floor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SENATE LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Before the bill is sent to the Senate Floor, Senate Leaders must agree to schedule the bill for action on the Senate Floor.</p>
FLOOR ACTION	<p style="text-align: center;">FULL HOUSE</p> <p>The bill is debated by the full House, amendments may be offered if allowed by the adopted rule for debate, and a final vote is taken when debate is concluded.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FULL SENATE</p> <p>The bill is debated by the full Senate, amendments may be and a final vote is taken when debate is concluded.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFERENCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>If the House and Senate bills differ, House and Senate leaders each appoint members to a Conference Committee. The Conference Committee is charged with developing a compromise on the bill, and the compromise bill is sent back to each chamber for ratification.</p>	
ACCEPTANCE OF CONFERENCE REPORT	<p style="text-align: center;">FULL HOUSE</p> <p>The Full House votes on the bill returned by the Conference Committee. If this bill passes, it is forwarded to the President.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FULL SENATE</p> <p>The Full House votes on the bill returned by the Conference Committee. If this bill passes, it is forwarded to the President.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT</p> <p>The President either signs the bill into law or issues a veto. Congress has the power to override a veto through a vote of 2/3 in favor of both the House and the Senate.</p>	