



How a Bill Becomes a Law Flowchart

About 10,000 bills are introduced per year. Each is given a number and assigned to a committee. There are 22 committees in the House of Representatives and 15 committees in the Senate.

BILL IS DRAFTED

Members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and even outside groups can draft (write or draw up) bills.

HOUSE

Bill is introduced and assigned to a Committee which refers to a Subcommittee. Only members can introduce bills.

SUBCOMMITTEE

Members study the bill, hold hearings, and debate provisions. Marks up the bill. If it passes goes to Committee.

COMMITTEE

Full Committee considers the bill. If it approves the bill in some form, the bill goes to the Rules Committee.

RULES COMMITTEE

It issues a rule to govern debate on the floor. Sends it to the Full House.

FULL HOUSE

Debates the bill and may amend it. If it is different from the Senate version, it must go to a Conference Committee.

FULL HOUSE

Votes on bill, if it passes it goes to the President.

PRESIDENT

Can sign or veto the bill. Congress can override it by 2/3 majority vote in the House and Senate. President can sign the bill, veto it or do nothing.

SENATE

Bill is introduced and assigned to a Committee which refers to a Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE

Members study the bill, hold hearings, and debate provisions. Marks up the bill. If it passes goes to Committee.

COMMITTEE

Full Committee considers the bill. If it approves the bill in some form, the bill goes to the Rules Committee.

FULL SENATE

Debates the bill and may amend it. If it is different from the House version, it must go to a Conference Committee.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Senators and Representatives meet to reconcile differences between bills. When agreement is reached, a compromise bill is sent to Full Senate.

FULL SENATE

Votes on bill, if passes it goes to the President.





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BILL IS _____
Who can draft or write a bill?

