

How a Bill Becomes a Law

It all starts with an idea! The idea can come from a member of congress or from a citizen, like you!

BILL
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Senate

Bill is introduced to the senate by a member of the senate

Bill is sent to a senate committee or subcommittee

Committee renews researches and revises the bill

Committee votes on whether or not to return the bill to the full senate

Committee returns the bill to the full senate with a report and recommendation and the bill is put on the senate calendar

Bill is read in full senate for discussion and amending

Full senate votes on the bill

House

Bill is introduced to the house by a member of the house

Bill is sent to a house committee or subcommittee

Committee renews researches and revises the bill

Committee votes on whether or not to return the bill to the full house

Committee returns the bill to the full house with a report and recommendation and the bill is put on the house calendar

Bill is read in full house for discussion and amending

Full house votes on the bill

If the house and senate pass different versions of the bill, it is referred to a conference committee made up of members of both

Both chambers vote on final bill



Bill goes to the President

LAW

President signs the bill and it becomes a law

President vetoes the bill

Congress can override with 2/3 vote