

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

1) A member of the Senate or House of Representatives drafts a bill



2) The bill is introduced in the House or the Senate



3) The bill is assigned to a Committee (within the House or Senate, depending on where it was introduced) and is often referred to a subcommittee



4) The subcommittee holds hearings, makes revisions to the bill, and determines whether or not the bill will go to the full committee

5) The Full Committee may make amendments to the bill and decides whether or not the bill will go to the floor of the full House or full Senate



6) The bill goes to the Senate or House floor, where members may make further amendments and will vote on the bill. If the bill passes in both the Senate and the House and the versions of the bill are different, then the bill goes to conference committee



7) The conference committee is comprised of members from both the House and Senate, and it determines a new version of the bill that will return to the floor of both the House and the Senate

8) The new version of the bill returns to the House and Senate floors for another vote



9) If the bill passes in both the Senate and the House, the bill goes to the president. He can sign it into law or veto it.

At any point in the process, the bill may sit on the schedule for the entire Congressional session, and Congress may never address it. If this occurs, members of Congress will need to introduce a new similar bill the following session for any chance of it becoming a law.

For more information About How a Bill Becomes a Law:

Schoolhouse Rock- How a Bill Becomes a Law: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEJL2Uuv-oQ>

US government document "How Our Laws are Made:" <http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/howourlawsaremade.pdf>