



CONGRESS AT WORK

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



1. Desire for Legislation is voiced

C. Citizens contact Congress requesting that a new law be created

2. Bill is introduced and referred to committee

M. Member presents draft legislation which is forwarded to committee of jurisdiction

3. Committee Action

E. Witnesses are called to share information

3. Committee Action

J. Information on issue is gathered for study

O. Citizens' points of view are received and considered

4. Committee reports to full chamber

Q. Explanation is presented of what a bill does with reasons for support or opposition

5. Floor action—DEBATE

D. Members share opinions on bills in speeches

5. Floor action—AMENDMENTS

G. Members vote on changes to the bill

6. End of floor debate—HOUSE

B. 3/5 of Senators agree to stop debating and vote

6. End of floor debate—SENATE

P. House sets rules for amendments and length of debate after which a final vote is ordered

7. Vote on bill

I. Roll call is taken of Yeas and Nays

8. Process is repeated in other chamber

A. Act is sent to the other chamber for consideration

9. House and Senate bill versions are reconciled by conference committee

R. Members from both chambers meet to negotiate the differences between bills and come to agreement

8. House and Senate bill versions are reconciled by substitute bill

K. One chamber substitutes the text of the other chamber's bill so that both houses can vote on the exact same bill

10. Act sent to Executive

L. Act is transmitted for the President's signature

11. Executive signs act

N. President approves act and it therefore becomes law

11. Executive vetoes act

H. President submits a message explaining his disapproval of an act

12. Congress votes to override veto

E. 2/3 of members vote to make a bill into law without President's signature