

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Writing a Bill

Someone has an idea.

A member of Congress agrees with the idea and writes a proposal for the law which is called a "bill."



Going to Committee

The bill is sent to a committee that analyzes and discusses the bill.

The committee may re-write the bill, accept it as it is, or do nothing (table the bill).



Getting a Majority of Votes

When the committee sends the bill back, Congress votes on it.

If the bill started in the House, the House votes first. If it passes it moves on to the Senate.

If the bill started in the Senate, the Senate votes first. If the bill passes the Senate it goes to the House of Representatives.



Getting the President's Signature

If the bill passes in both houses of Congress, it is sent to the President.

If the President signs the bill it becomes law.

If the President vetoes the bill, it can only become a law if Congress overrides the veto with a 2/3 vote.