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Hi! My name is Amy. I am an Australian teacher with over 10 years experience in the classroom. I help Aussie teachers conquer the curriculum. You can reach out to me at admin@mrsamy123.com.



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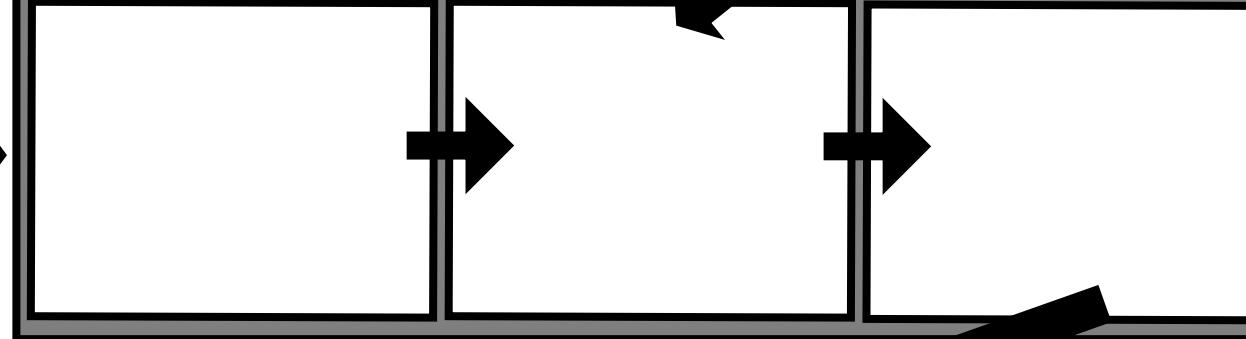
How Laws are Made

How Laws are Made

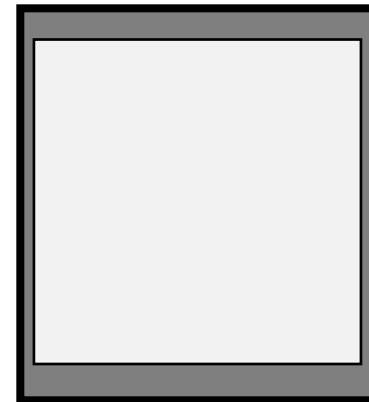
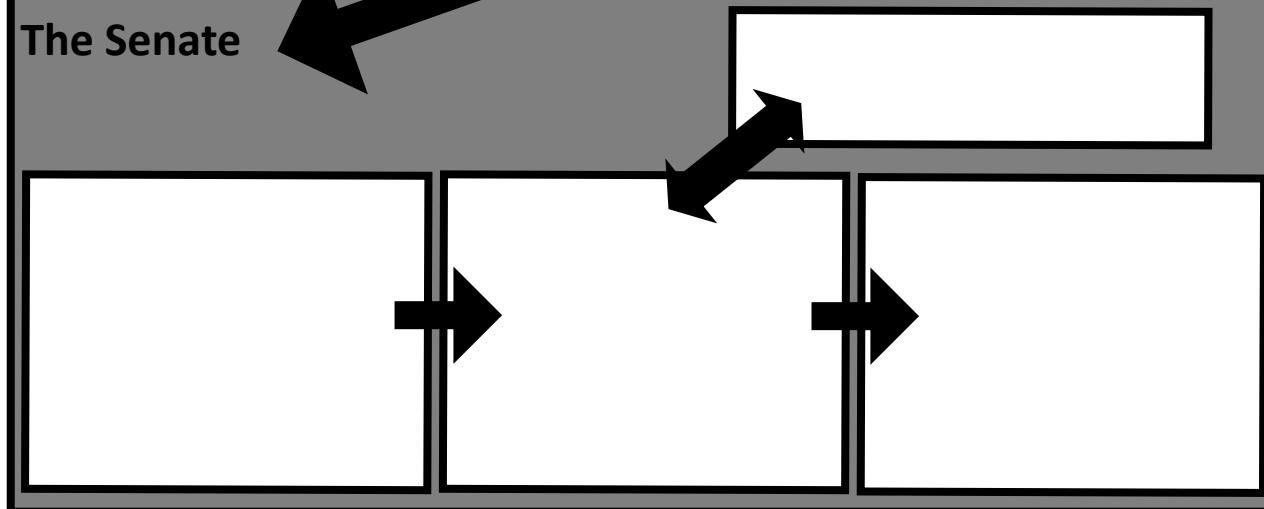
Suggestions for new laws can come from party policies, Members or interest groups in committees.

The cabinet agrees to the suggestion and the bill is drafted.

House of Representatives



The Senate



Origin of Laws

As times change laws need to be amended or written. Ideas for new laws can come from party policy which may be first announced during election campaigns or they may be suggestions made by Members of the House of Representatives or Senators. They may also come about from interest groups in committees.

Origin of Laws

The federal government can only make laws about items written in the Constitution such as foreign affairs, social securities, industrial relations, trade, immigration, currency and defence. The state/territory government can make laws about anything else. The local government can only make by-laws (regulations within limits set by a law).

Preparation of Bills

If the Cabinet/Prime Minister agrees to a suggestion of a new law or amendment then the Minister responsible for that particular area and their department arrange preparation of a bill.

Bill Draft

Bills are drafted by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel following the detailed instructions of the departments.

They are then looked at by government party committees. It then goes to the House of Representatives.

Giving Notice

The Minister who wants to introduce a bill gives written notice of their intention to the Clerk of the House. The Clerk arranges for the bill to be listed on the Notice Paper (agenda) for the next sitting day.

First Reading

The Clerk announces the next notice from the Notice Paper. The Minister presents a signed copy of the bill to the Clerk. The Clerk then reads out the long title of the bill.

Copies of the bill are then given to the members and made public.

Second Reading

While the bill is being given out the Minister moves for the bill to be read a second time and then makes a speech explaining the purpose, general principles and effect of the bill.

The debate is then adjourned and set down for an item of business for a future sitting. This gives Members time to study the bill and its effects before speaking and voting on it and the chance for public discussion and reaction.

Reference to a committee

A bill may be referred to a committee if it needs more information on the subject. This can include hearing witnesses, gathering evidence and recommending amendments to the bill.

The committee may write a report about their findings to inform the members of the House of Representatives.

Second Reading Debate

Members have the opportunity to give reason for opposing or supporting the bill.

The Shadow Minister outlines the opposition's position then Government and non-government members get to speak in turn.

Voting

At the end of the debate a vote is taken. If the bill is agreed to the Clerk reads out the title of the bill to complete the stage.

Consideration in detail

In this stage each bit of text in the bill is considered and debated.

If the House of Representatives agreed that the bill does not need to be discussed in detail then this bit is skipped.

Amendments may be made within this stage.

Third Reading

The Minister moves that the bill be read a third time. When the motion has been agreed to then the Clerk reads the long title and this means the bill has been passed.

Transition to Senate

*The Clerk then signs a certificate stating
that the bill has passed and is now ready for
presentation to the Senate.*

First Reading

The Clerk of the Senate then reads out the long title of the bill.

Copies of the bill are then given to the Senators.

Second Reading

After the bill has been motioned to be read a second time the Senators have an opportunity to debate the bill.

Reference to a committee

A bill may be referred to a committee if it needs more information on the subject. This can include hearing witnesses, gathering evidence and recommending amendments to the bill.

The committee may write a report about their findings to inform the members of the Senate.

Voting

At the end of the debate a vote is taken. If the bill is agreed to the Clerk reads out the title of the bill to complete the stage.

Third Reading

If agreed to the bill is then read a third time. If there is a bill that can not be agreed on between the two houses it may be 'laid aside' which means it is not pursued any further. The houses may send messages back and forth first to try and reach an agreement based on amendments.

Assent

*Once the bill has been agreed on in both houses and checked and certified accordingly by the Clerk of the House it is then presented to the Governor-General for assent (signing).
The bill then becomes an Act of Parliament.*

Becoming Law

Acts may become laws immediately or have a particular date for commencement. This date may be retrospective (in the past).