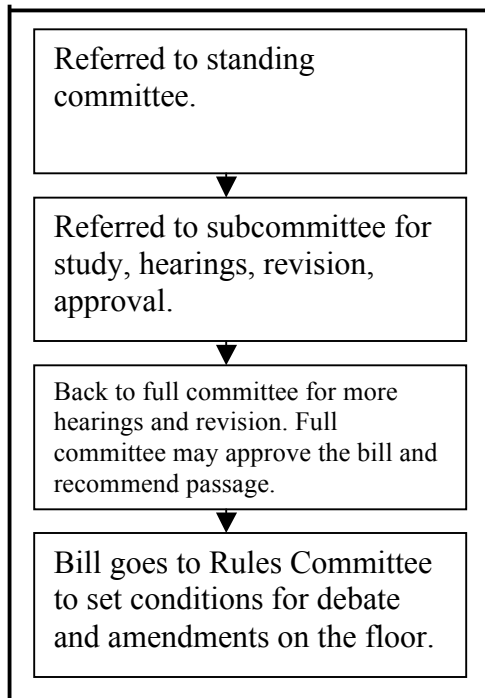


HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

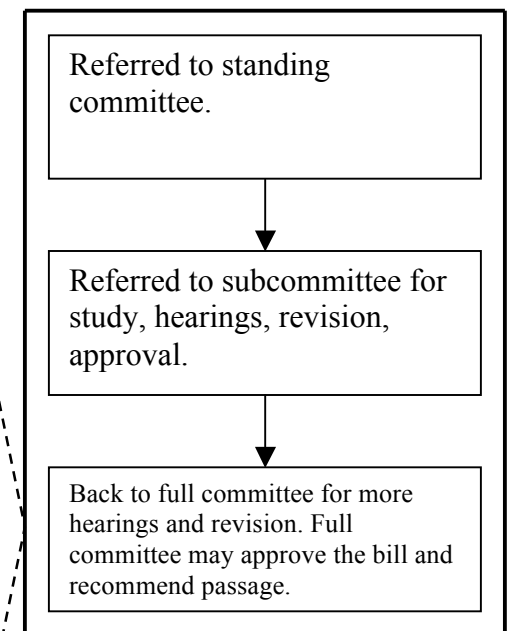
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

Committee Action

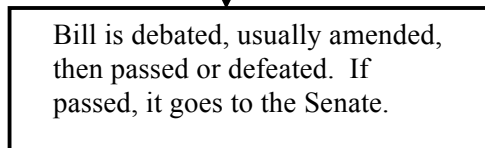


Committee Action

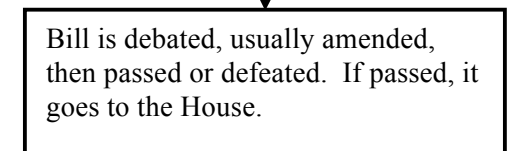


Most bills can start in either the House or the Senate. Bills that begin in the House must then go through the Senate procedure and bills that begin in the Senate must then go through the House procedure.

Floor Action



Floor Action



Congress may override a veto by a 2/3rds majority vote in both houses. The bill then becomes a law without the President's signature.

Bill returns to House

If House and Senate versions of the bill are the same, bill goes directly to the President; if different, then it goes to the Conference Committee.

Conference Committee

If the houses cannot agree on the wording of the bill, both versions go to a Conference Committee, with members from both houses.

Congress enacts the Bill

Compromise version is sent back to both houses for a vote

Congress may override a veto by a 2/3rds majority vote in both houses. The bill then becomes a law without the President's signature.

Bill returns to Senate

Presidential Action

1. President can sign the bill, it becomes a law.
2. President can veto the bill.
3. Pocket veto – let it sit on her desk for 10 days, if Congress is not in session, then the bill dies.
4. Keep on her desk for 10 days, Congress in session, bill becomes a law.

Remember: Most bills which are introduced into Congress never become law!