

17-How a Bill Becomes a Law

A **bill** is a proposal for a new law.

ANYONE can have the *idea*, but only a member of Congress can introduce a bill.

Bills must pass both houses of Congress...separately.

Bill is introduced into the House by a member of the house and assigned a number **HR #**

Committee can take 1 of 3 actions

1. Vote to send the bill forward
2. Vote to kill the bill
3. Pigeonhole the bill-places the bill to the side without a vote

Sent to Sub-Committee
Sub-committees study the bill in depth
Hold **public hearings**-

Sub-committees have the same three options (send forward, kill, or pigeonhole)

Sent back to full committee
-Same 3 options

Bill is sent to the full House of Representatives to be read for the first time
House leaders schedule a time for debate on the bill
House members research the bill
Riders may be attached which may have little or nothing to do with the original bill!
Pork barrel-legislation that spends money to keep certain constituents happy (ex. Bridge to Nowhere)

Debate is scheduled
Time is limited in the House of Representatives
Why?-

Each party is given equal time to speak about the bill

Bill is introduced in the Senate by a Senator and assigned a number **S #**

Committee can take 1 of 3 actions

1. Vote to send the bill forward
2. Vote to kill the bill
3. Pigeonhole the bill-places the bill to the side without a vote

Sent to Sub-Committee
Sub-committees study the bill in depth
Hold **public hearings**-

Sub-committees have the same three options (send forward, kill, or pigeonhole)

Sent back to full committee
-Same 3 options

Bill is sent to the full Senate to be read for the first time
Senate leaders schedule a time for debate on the bill
House members research the bill
Riders may be attached which may have little or nothing to do with the original bill!
Pork barrel-legislation that spends money to keep certain constituents happy (ex. Bridge to Nowhere)

Debate is scheduled
Each party is given equal time to speak about the bill
Time is unlimited in the Senate
Filibuster-a long speech to delay or stop voting on a bill
Cloture-a vote by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Senate to stop a filibuster

Continued on other side