



## How a Bill Becomes a Law Flowchart

About 10,000 bills are introduced per year. Each is given a number and assigned to a committee. There are 22 committees in the House of Representatives and 15 committees in the Senate.

**BILL IS DRAFTED**  
Members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and even outside groups can draft (write or draw up) bills.

**HOUSE**  
Bill is introduced and assigned to a Committee which refers to a Subcommittee. Only members can introduce bills.

**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Members study the bill, hold hearings, and debate provisions. Marks up the bill. If it passes goes to Committee.

**COMMITTEE**  
Full Committee considers the bill. If it approves the bill in some form, the bill goes to the Rules Committee.

**RULES COMMITTEE**  
It issues a rule to govern debate on the floor. Sends it to the Full House.

**FULL HOUSE**  
Debates the bill and may amend it. If it is different from the Senate version, it must go to a Conference Committee.

**FULL HOUSE**  
Votes on bill, if it passes it goes to the President.

**PRESIDENT**  
Can sign or veto the bill. Congress can override it by 2/3 majority vote in the House and Senate. President can sign the bill, veto it or do nothing.

**SENATE**  
Bill is introduced and assigned to a Committee which refers to a Subcommittee.

**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Members study the bill, hold hearings, and debate provisions. Marks up the bill. If it passes goes to Committee.

**COMMITTEE**  
Full Committee considers the bill. If it approves the bill in some form, the bill goes to the Rules Committee.

**FULL SENATE**  
Debates the bill and may amend it. If it is different from the House version, it must go to a Conference Committee.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**  
Senators and Representatives meet to reconcile differences between bills. When agreement is reached, a compromise bill is sent to Full Senate.

**FULL SENATE**  
Votes on bill, if passes it goes to the President.





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BILL IS \_\_\_\_\_  
Who can draft or write a bill?

