

# LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

## House of Representatives



## Senate

### INTRODUCTION

A representative or senator introduces a bill by filing it with the House/Senate clerk



### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

- Bills are referred to committees for debate, analysis, and amendments
- Simple majorities are needed to pass committees in both the House and Senate
- Bills are often sent to subcommittees for extra analysis, especially on niche issues



### FLOOR DEBATE

#### HOUSE

- Bill is debated and amended
- Simple majority needed to pass

#### SENATE

- Bill is debated and amended
- Legislation requires 60 vote margin
- Simple majority needed to pass



### FINAL VOTES/ CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- If both chambers pass an identical bill, it is sent directly to the president
- If they pass different bills, a conference committee is formed of representatives and senators who try and find a compromise
- Bills that pass conference committee must then pass both the House and Senate



### PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE OR VETO

- A bill becomes a law after a president signs it or after 10 days if they take no action
- The president can reject a bill with a veto
- Congress can override the veto with a 2/3 majority vote in each chamber