

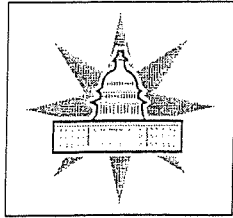
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Review Guide for Legislative Branch

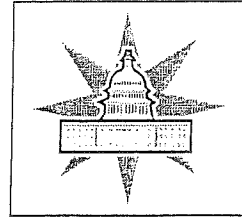
Answer the following questions on your own piece of paper.

1. What is the main duty and power of the Legislative Branch?
2. What are the two houses that make up Congress?
3. How many members are in the House of Representatives?
4. How many members are in the Senate?
5. What are the qualifications to be a Representative?
6. What are the qualifications to be a Senator?
7. How long is a Representatives' term? How long is a Senator's term?
8. How many Representatives does a state get? How many Senators does a state get?
9. How many terms can a Representative of Senator serve?
10. What is a census and how does it relate to representation in the House of Representatives?
11. What are Congressional Districts?
12. Where is the Legislative Branch found in the Constitution?
13. What are FOUR enumerated powers of Congress?
14. How can the Legislative Branch check the Executive and Judicial Branches?
15. How do the Executive and Judicial Branches check to Legislative Branch?
16. What are implied powers? *Elastic Clause*
17. What is a constituent?
18. What is a bill?
19. How many bills pass out of Congress?
20. How do representatives spend their day?

21. What helps to influence a Congressperson when voting on a bill?
22. Who is president of the Senate?
23. What does the speaker of the House do?
24. What are both majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate?
25. What are the jobs of the majority and minority whips?
26. What is the president pro tem?
27. When a bill is introduced where does it go next?
28. Where do most bills die?
29. If a bill passes out of committee, where does it go next?
30. After a bill passes through one house, where must it go next?
31. What is a conference committee?
32. What is an amendment?
33. What may the President do when he receives a bill?



The Legislative Branch

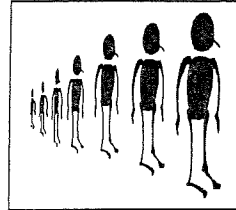


Bicameral ↘

The Legislative Branch is made up of two houses:

1. The House of Representatives
2. The Senate

I. House of Representatives



Number of members: 435

How many Representatives does each state have?

- It is based on a states population. For example, California has 52 Representatives and Wyoming has 1.
- *1. Gerrymandering - redrawing district lines to favor a political party.*
- Every ten years a census (An official population count) is taken to determine how many representatives each state will receive. Every census some states gain or lose representation.
- On average one Representative represents ~~624,000~~ ^{712,000} people. House members represent a particular district in their home state.

*Re-dist-
ricting*

After the number of representatives shifts state legislatures redraw the congressional districts within each state.

What does it take to be a Representative?

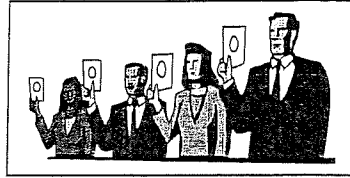
- Age: 25
- Years of Citizenship: 7
- Be a resident of the state they are representing

Length of term

- 2 years with unlimited terms as long as they keep getting reelected.

II. Senate

Number of members: 100



How many Senators does each state have?

- 2 per state
- Each state has equal power in the Senate

*Only
Senate*

What does it take to be a ~~Representative~~ ^{Senator}?

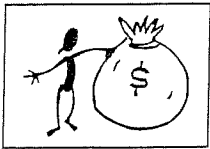
- Age: 30
- Years of Citizenship: 9
- Be a resident of the state they are representing

*Can approve
Presidential
appointments*

Length of term

- 6 years with unlimited terms as long as they keep getting reelected

III. Powers of Congress = *Enumerated Powers*

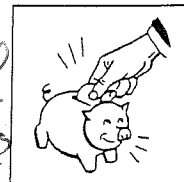


1. Borrowing Money – Sometimes the government needs to borrow money to pay for programs and wars.

Tax Bills

2. Power to Tax – The Congress is able to raise money in order to pay for the government.

Tax bills must be initiated in the House of Representatives

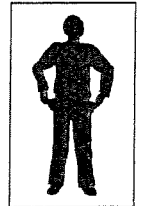


3. Commerce Clause – Allows congress to regulate and promote trade.



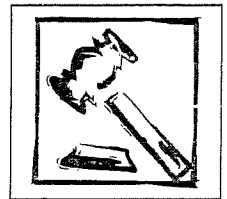
4. Currency Power – Allows Congress to coin money and punish those who counterfeit money.

5. Bankruptcies – Congress has the power to establish laws when a person is unable to pay his or her debts.



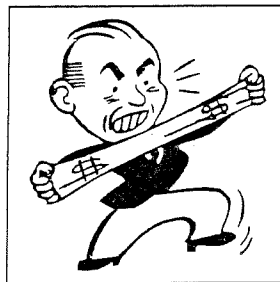
6. War Powers – Congress is allowed to declare war and “provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

7. Impeachment – Congress has the power to try and remove federal officials – such as the President, Vice-President, and Federal Judges.



House brings charges, Senate tries case

8. Implied Powers – The Elastic Clause gives Congress authority to pass laws it deems “necessary and proper” to carry out its specified functions. Congress is able to make laws concerning subjects that may not be in the Constitution.



*charged with
Misconduct on
The job,
only the House
brings charges.*

*Fund
raising is
a role of
a politician.*

Members of Congress and Their Work

How Representative spend their days:

1. They must split time traveling between Washington D.C. and their home state. They have to keep in touch with their constituents - People they represent
2. Meet with staff members
3. Make telephone calls and answer mail
4. Prepare legislation - They must be in the House or Senate chambers for debate and voting on legislation.

The most important role of a Representative or Senator is to consider bills proposed for legislation.

Bill - A proposed law presented to a legislative body.

How hard is it to pass a bill?

- It is extremely hard to pass bills. Out of the hundreds of bills that are introduced in Congress only 10% ever pass.
- It is important to remember a bill must pass through both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

So how does a bill get passed?

- The process can be broken down into 4 steps in both the House of Representatives and Senate.

1. Introduction of the Bill

- A member of Congress can only introduce a bill. However, constituents, the president, and interest groups can suggest them.
- The bill when introduced in either the house or Senate is assigned a number.

2. Bills in Committee = *most legislative work.*

- Once a Bill is introduced it is then sent to a committee that deals with the subject matter. For example, a bill dealing with highway funding would go to the Transportation Committee.
- 90% of all bills die in committee or as it's called in Congress pigeonholed - simply forgotten and never discussed.
- Each committee has a chairperson who has the power to address or ignore a bill.
- If the committee chooses to act on a bill they will have hearings on the bill. They will also mark-up or make changes to the bill. The committee may choose to pass the bill out of committee or kill it.

3. Floor Action and Debate

- If a bill is passed out of committee it is put on the calendar for floor debate
- When a bill is addressed on the floor, members can make statements in favor or in opposition of the bill.

- They may also add amendments (Changes) to the bill, which may hurt or help its chances of passage.
- After floor debate Congress members can vote to pass or kill a bill.

4. President's Actions

- After a bill passes through both the House of Representatives and the Senate it is then presented to the President. The President may do the following
 1. Sign the bill into law
 2. Veto the Bill - Refuses to sign. Congress can override the veto with a 2/3 vote
 3. Pocket Veto - The president refuses to act on the bill until Congress has adjourned.

What influences members of Congress when they vote for bills?

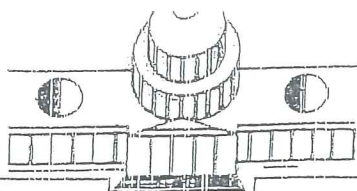
1. Constituents' Views - Members of Congress listen to the people they represent. If they fail to listen to their constituents their chances of reelection could be hurt.
2. Party Membership - Usually members of Congress belong to the Democratic and Republican Party. They often vote based on the views of their party.

3. Personal Views

Also: AND attend events to raise funds for re-election.

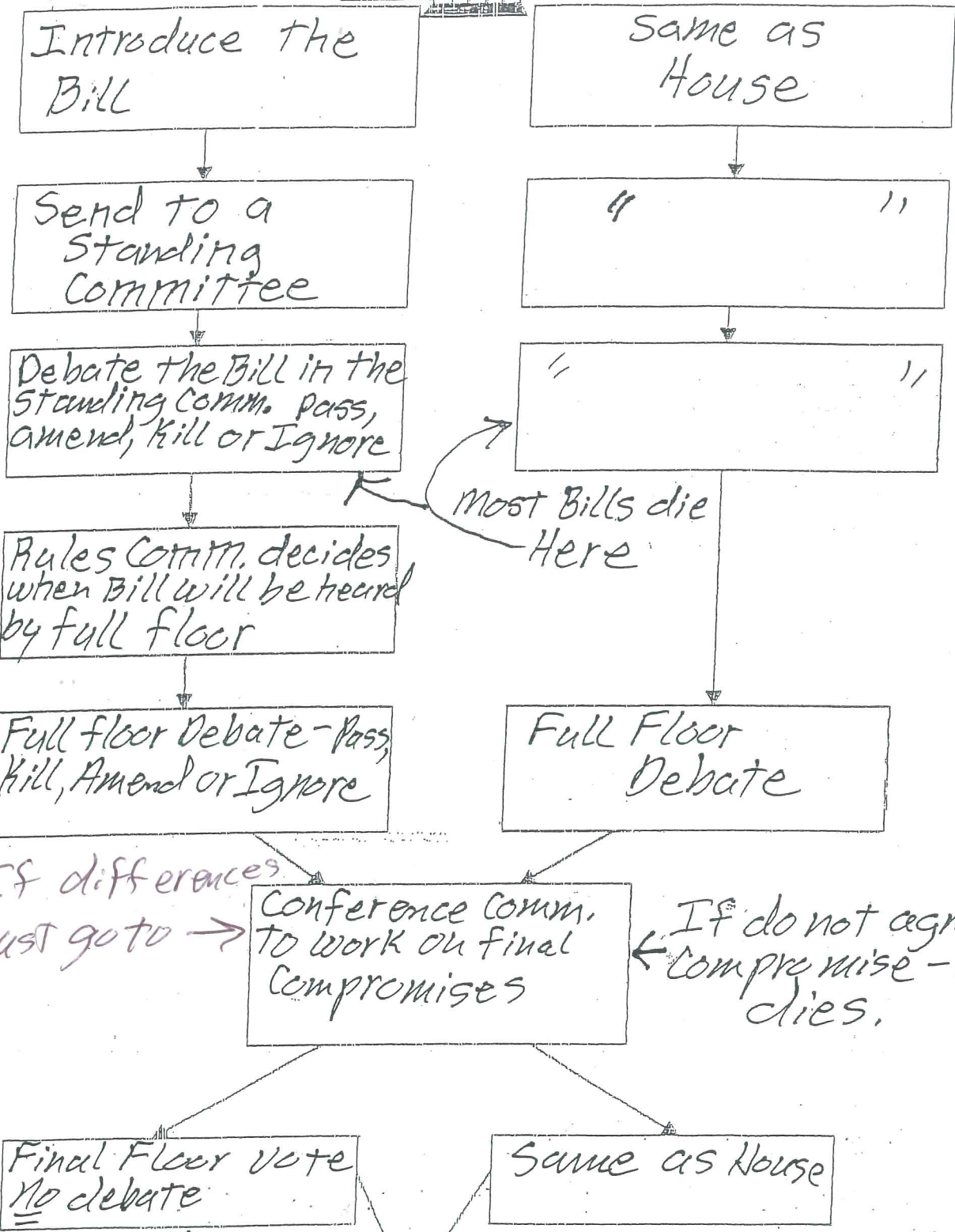
4. Lobbyists - Individuals who represent a particular interest group who tries to persuade the government to meet their interests.
5. Media - The media lets members of Congress to know what is important to the people.
6. Staff Members - People who work for members of Congress.

How Bill becomes a Law



HOUSE

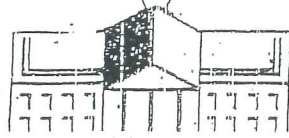
SENATE



Most Bills die Here

If differences must go to →

If do not agree on compromise - Bill dies.



$\frac{2}{3}$ to override veto.

President signs into law or vetos

Worksheet 38A

Congressional Organization

Use with Chapter 10, Section 1 *Congress has an official and a party structure.*

Directions: Complete the two diagrams below indicating the leadership structure of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the space provided indicate whether the position is official or part of the party structure, and give a brief description of each job.

U. S. Congress

Senate

House of Representatives

President of the Senate

- Vice President
- Official
- Presides over Senate
- can only vote in a tie

Speaker of the House

- Official - Rules on points of order, recog. members who wish to speak
- decides voice votes, refers bills to committees. Can vote & take part in debate.

President Pro Tempore

- Official
- Presides in absence of V.P.

Majority Leader

- Principal Spokesperson of majority party
- Helps Speaker plan party leg. program

Minority Leader

- Principle Spokesperson of minority party

Majority Leader

- Political Spokesperson of majority party.
- Plans leg. program

Minority Leader

- Pol. Spokesperson for minority party

Majority Whip

- Assists Majority leader

Minority Whip

- Assists Minority leader - Reg

Majority Whip

- assist Party Leader. Make certain that members get to floor for debate & vote

Minority Whip

- Same as

Blount of Missouri

Basic Principles of the Constitution

I. Popular Sovereignty

- Power rests with the people. People have the ultimate authority in deciding how the government is run.

Examples of Popular Sovereignty:

- Equality in voting
- People vote on candidates and issues at the local, state and national levels.
- 15th Amendment - Gave African Americans the right to vote
- 19th Amendment - Gave women the vote
- 26th Amendment - Gave 18 year olds the vote

II. Limited Government

- Government does not hold all the power and it does only those things that people allow it to do.

Examples of Limited Government:

- Government officials must follow the laws and the Constitution.
- The President and Supreme Court Justices can be impeached.
- Government officials can be voted out of office.

III. Separation of Powers

- Grants each branch specific powers in the government.

Purpose of Separation of Powers

- It was meant to keep one branch from being too powerful.

The three branches of Government:

1. Article 1 Legislative Branch - Creates the laws
2. Article 2 Executive Branch - Carryout the laws
3. Article 3 Judicial Branch - Interprets the laws

IV. Federalism

- Sharing of power by the National and State governments.

What are some powers given to the National Government?

- Declare War
- Coin Money
- Regulate Interstate Commerce - Trade between states
- Establish Foreign Policy - Relations with other countries

What are powers that are given to the states?

- Establish and Maintain Schools
- Conduct Elections
- Provide for Public Safety
- Assume other powers not given to the National Government

What are powers shared by both the state and National Government?

- Both can collect taxes
- Make and enforce laws
- Borrow money
- Establish courts

V. National Supremacy

- The Constitution is the Supreme Law of the land.

How does National Supremacy Clause work?

- Federal laws override state laws.

VI. The Elastic Clause or Necessary and Proper Clause

- Gives Congress the authority to pass laws it deems "necessary and proper" to carry out its duties.

How is the Elastic Clause used?

- Laws are created concerning issues that may not be written in the Constitution.
- For example, there is nothing in the constitution about regulating the internet but Congress has the authority to regulate internet activity.

VII. Checks and Balances

- Ability of each of the three branches to check or control the other branches.

Checks on the Legislative Branch

- o Judicial Branch - Declare laws unconstitutional
- o Executive Branch - Veto laws

2. Checks on the Executive Branch

- o Legislative Branch - Override a presidential veto and Impeach the President
- o Judicial Branch - Declare acts unconstitutional

Senate approves
Presidential appointments

3. Checks on the Judicial Branch

- o Executive Branch - Appoints Judges
- o Legislative Branch - Impeach Judges and Approves Judges