

How a Bill Becomes a Law

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Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

Part A. Put the 10 steps in the correct order (write 1–10)

- 1 The President signs the bill (or vetoes it).
- 2 A member of Congress introduces the bill in the House or Senate.
- 3 The idea for a new law is thought up.
- 4 The bill is debated and voted on by the full chamber.
- 5 A conference committee works out differences between the two versions.
- 6 The committee studies the bill and holds hearings.
- 7 The bill is drafted into formal written language.
- 8 Both chambers vote again on the identical final version.
- 9 The bill moves to the other chamber and repeats the process.
- 10 The committee votes to send the bill to the full chamber.

Part B. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the box

Word Box: veto • committee • Congress • bill • President • override • conference • law

1. A proposed law being considered by the government is called a _____.
2. Bills are introduced by members of _____, which has two chambers.
3. A small group of members that studies a bill in detail is called a _____.
4. A bill that passes both chambers goes to the _____ to be signed.
5. When the President rejects a bill, it is called a _____.
6. Congress can _____ a veto with a two-thirds vote in both chambers.
7. When the House and Senate versions differ, a _____ committee fixes them.
8. After the President signs a bill, it becomes a _____.

Part C. Match each term to its definition

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Bill | a. The chamber that has 435 members |
| 2. Veto | b. A member of Congress introduces a proposal here |
| 3. Committee | c. The President rejects a bill |
| 4. House of Representatives | d. A proposed law |
| 5. Senate | e. A small group that studies bills and holds hearings |
| 6. Override | f. The chamber that has 100 members, two per state |
| 7. Two-thirds | g. Congress passes a law over the President's veto |
| 8. Introduce | h. The vote needed to override a veto |

Part D. True or False? Circle T or F

1. Most bills that are introduced actually become laws. (T / F)
2. A bill must pass both the House and the Senate. (T / F)
3. The President writes and introduces most bills. (T / F)
4. A pocket veto happens when the President takes no action and Congress adjourns. (T / F)
5. A conference committee includes members from both chambers. (T / F)

Part E. Short Answer

1. Why is the committee stage called the "graveyard" of bills?

2. Explain one way the bill-to-law process shows checks and balances.

Answer Key

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Part A. Correct order (1–10)

1. Idea thought up
2. Drafted into language
3. Introduced in Congress
4. Committee studies & hearings
5. Committee votes
6. Floor debate & vote
7. Other chamber repeats process
8. Conference committee
9. Final vote both chambers
10. President signs or vetoes

Part B. Fill in the blank

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. bill | 2. Congress |
| 3. committee | 4. President |
| 5. veto | 6. override |
| 7. conference | 8. law |

Part C. Matching

1. Bill => d
2. Veto => c
3. Committee => e
4. House of Representatives => a
5. Senate => f
6. Override => g
7. Two-thirds => h
8. Introduce => b

Part D. True / False

1. False — only a small fraction (about 5%) become law.
2. True — both chambers must pass the identical bill.
3. False — only members of Congress can introduce bills.
4. True — no action + adjournment = pocket veto.
5. True — it blends House and Senate versions.

Part E. Short answer (sample answers)

1. The committee stage kills most bills — a committee can simply refuse to vote on a bill, and then it never reaches the full chamber. Very few bills survive committee.

2. Congress writes and passes the law (legislative branch), but the President can veto it (executive branch), and Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote. Each branch checks the other's power.