



Legislative Process:

How a Bill Becomes a  
Law

# Introduction

- Ideas for bills come from citizens, President, members of Congress, or special-interest groups
- Appropriations (dealing with money) bills **must** start in the House.



# Committee Action

- Bill is sent to the appropriate committee.
- Committees research, revise, and debate bills
- Choices:
  - Reject the bill
  - Change the bill
  - Approve it



# Floor Debate

- Bill debated in the house that introduced it.
- If approved, the bill goes to the other house for approval.
- Same process



## Conference Committee

- Joint committee made up of members from both houses.
- Job: Create a compromised version of revised bills.
- Both houses must agree on changes.
- Bill must be exactly the same in both houses!

# Presidential Action

- Approval:
  - Sign bill into law
- Rejection:
  - Veto



## After Veto

- Congress can override with 2/3 votes of BOTH houses.