

## Block Starter

Write your answers only on your Bell Ringer for the following questions:

1. What political party is in charge of the House?
2. What political party is in charge of the Senate?
3. Who is in charge of the House?
4. Who is in charge of the Senate?
5. What does the president pro tempore do?

# How A Bill Becomes a Law



# Standard(s) to Cover

**GC.13** Describe the process of how a bill becomes a law

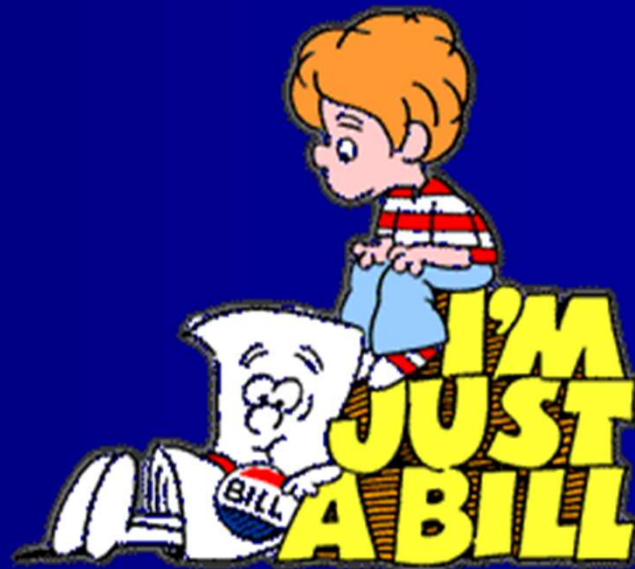


# I'm Just a Bill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgVKvqTItto>

# Step 1

- *Every Bill starts out as an idea*
- Ideas must be communicated to the Congresspeople



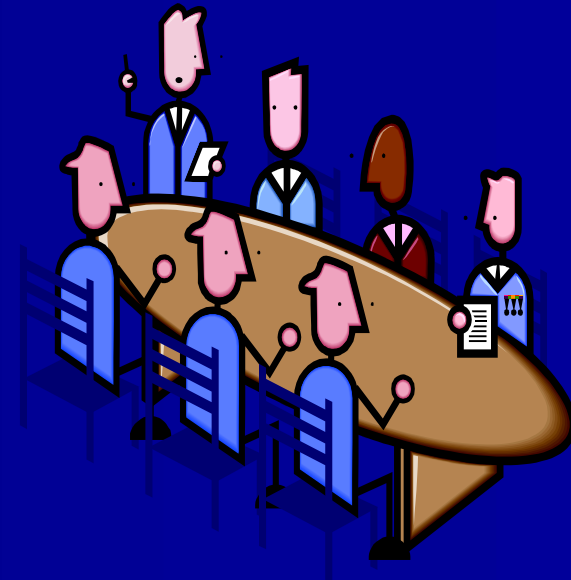
# Step 2

- Bills need **sponsors** (supporters)
- Reps talk to other reps to see if anyone will sponsor the bill
- *Once sponsors support the bill, the bill is introduced and placed in the hopper*



# Step 3

- A clerk reads the bill to all Representatives
- After it is introduced, each Bill is then *sent to the standing committee* that seems most qualified to handle it.
  - A *committee is a group of experts in a field (education, labor, business, housing, etc.)*



Standing & Permanent Select Committees	Standing & Permanent Select Committees
House of Representatives	Senate
Agriculture	Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Appropriations	Appropriations
Armed Services	Armed Services
Budget	Budget
Education and Workforce	Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Energy and Commerce	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Ethics	Ethics (select)
Natural Resources	Energy and Natural Resources
Financial Services	Finance
Foreign Affairs	Foreign Relations
Homeland Security	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Intelligence (select)	Intelligence (select)
Judiciary	Judiciary
Rules	Rules and Administration
Small Business	Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Veterans' Affairs	Veterans' Affairs
Transportation and Infrastructure	Environment and Public Works
Ways and Means	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Oversight and Government Reform	Indian Affairs (select)
Science, Space, and Technology	
Small Business	



# \*\*Sometimes\*\*

- Committees will need more information for bills to see if they should agree to pass them or not.
- Subcommittees are used to research, then they'll report to the committee



# Lobbyists

- Lobbyists are sometimes involved in subcommittees
- They do various things:
  - Research issues
  - Build alliances with other groups
  - Develop strategy
  - Meet with legislators
  - Attend/testify at committee hearings
  - Negotiate with other legislators, administrators, etc.
  - Campaign to build public pressure
- Often subject to bribery

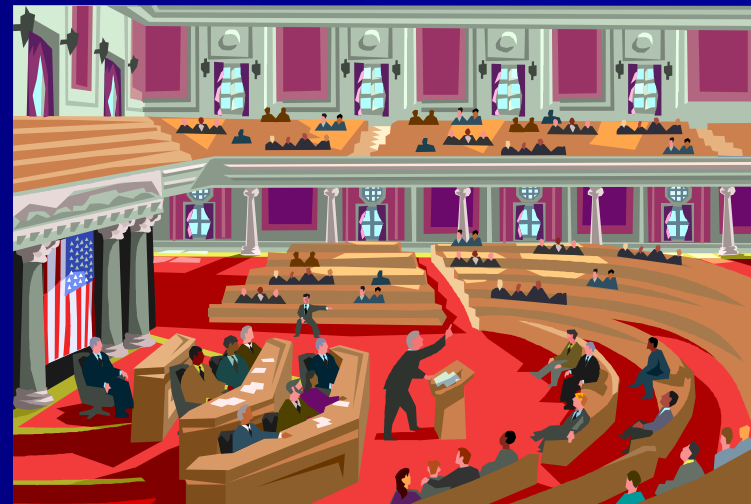
# Step 4

- The *subcommittee* *will report to the* *standing committee* who will decide if the Bill should
  - *Pass without changes*
  - *Have changes and pass it along*
  - *Replace the Bill with a alternative one*
  - *Kill the Bill*



# Step 5

- Once it's passed the committee, bills **go to the Floor (the entire chamber) for debate**
  - Reading clerks read bills section by section
  - Reps suggest changes
  - When all changes are made...



# Step 6

- When members of Congress are ready to vote
  - Majority = 50% + 1
- 3 ways of voting
  - “aye” or “nay”
  - Stand up way
  - Recording their voice (“yes, no, present”)
- If receives a majority, it is certified by the Clerk and is delivered to the Senate



# Step 7

Look at Mrs. Hackney cutting corners. 😊

FYI – Senators only use their voice to vote

# Step 8: The President

- **Presidential Action**
  - **Veto: refuse to sign**
    - **Congress can override the veto with a 2/3rds vote in each house – very unlikely**
  - **Sign the Bill into Law**
  - **Do nothing for 10 days**
    - **In session – the Bill becomes a Law**
    - **Out of session – the Bill dies – POCKET VETO**



# Initiatives and Referendums (States)

## Initiatives

- The people draft a bill themselves, without telling Congress
- Two types
  - **Direct**—citizens draft it and it automatically goes on the ballot to vote
  - **Indirect**—citizens draft a bill and present it to Congress

## Referendums

- Piece of legislation that the people to directly vote on for approval or rejection
- Three types
  - **Compulsory**—constitutions must allow the people to vote to be ratified
  - **Voluntary**—piece of legislation MAY be given to the people to vote
  - **Popular**—if the people do not like a bill/law, they can sign a petition



**<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/state/tennessee-constitutional-amendments/51-aaabf2a8-de4e-4418-99c4-69acb156b520>**

# PBLs (1<sup>st</sup>)

## House

H.R.7 Abbigail & Skyla

H.R.8 Jaxon

H.R.9 Mykenzie & Kaylee

H.R.10 Mikayla, Claire, Jenna, Brook

H.R.11 Michael

H.R.12 Yat

H.R.13 Reeve & Jacob

H.R.14 Thad

## Senate

S.1 Kaden

S.2 Alexsa

S.3 Trinity

S.4 Zach, Natalie, Makenzie

S.5 Sam, Shane, Vince, Peyton

S.6 Will & Aubrey

# PBLs (2<sup>nd</sup>)

## House

- H.R.2 Brandon, Christian, Lane, CJ
- H.R.6 Carleigh, Madelyn, Grace
- H.R.7 Skylar
- H.R.9 Mike
- H.R.10 Hailey

## Senate

- S.1 John
- S.3 Riley
- S.4 Amanda & Madyson
- S.5 Aiden
- S.8 Jada & Sydney

# PBLs (3<sup>rd</sup>)

## House

- H.R.3 Dalton Whit, Russell, Zach, Anthony
- H.R.5 Anna, Ian, Gabby
- H.R.7 Trey & Jude
- H.R.8 Dakota, Trevor, Dalton W, Bryce

## Senate

- S.1 Alontra & Tabitha
- S.2 Hollyn, Alyssa, Shelby, Abby
- S.4 Riley & Cayla
- S.6 Peyton, Mickendrick, Jose, Kariza
- S.9 Bryson

# Standard(s) Covered

**GC.13** Describe the process of how a bill becomes a law

