

From Bill to Law: Senate

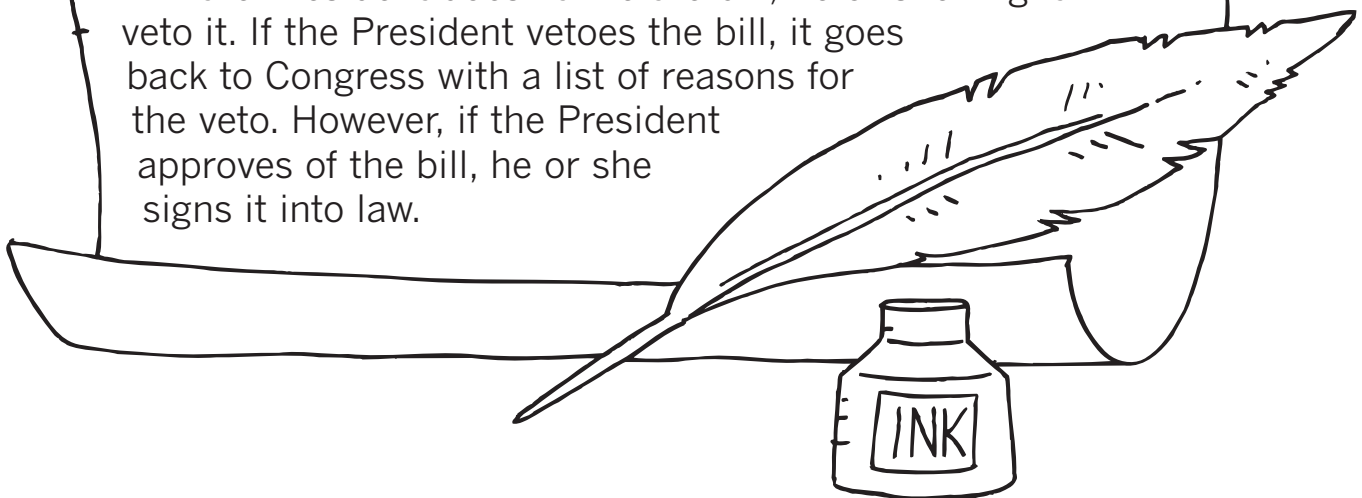
How a Bill Becomes a Law

When a Senator introduces a bill in the Senate, the bill is assigned a number and copies of it are made. The bill is then sent to committee and placed on the calendar. At that point, a bill can be assigned to a subcommittee who may hold hearings and recommend changes. The findings are reported to the full committee and a vote is taken.

If the bill is approved, the committee prepares a report explaining why they favor the bill. Committee members who oppose a bill sometimes write a dissenting opinion as well. The report goes back to the whole chamber and is placed on the calendar for debate.

In the Senate, debate is usually unlimited. Members can speak as long as they want. Finally, they vote on the bill. If the bill is approved, it goes to the House of Representatives. If either chamber of Congress (the Senate or House) does not pass the bill, the bill dies. If they both pass the bill, then the bill goes to the President.

If the President doesn't like the bill, he or she might veto it. If the President vetoes the bill, it goes back to Congress with a list of reasons for the veto. However, if the President approves of the bill, he or she signs it into law.



Chain of Events Map

Directions: In the top scroll, write the first event that sets the action in motion. Then write the rest of the important events in order. End with the event that concludes the action.

Process: _____

