

Background on the Federal Legislative Process

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**American Home
Furnishings
Alliance**



Sources of Law

Congress

State Legislatures

Regulatory Agencies

Court Decisions



Statutes and Regulations

**Congress Legislates,
Resulting in Statutes
called Public Laws**

**Agencies Promulgate
Regulations**

**Regulations Help
Implement Statutes by
Adding Detail and
Clarification**



Statutes and Regulations

Congress Can Steer Agency Actions by:

- Withholding Funding
- Conducting Oversight Investigations and Hearings
- Amending the Statute



Courts

**Federal Courts Can
Invalidate Statutes or
Regulations that
Violate the
Constitution**

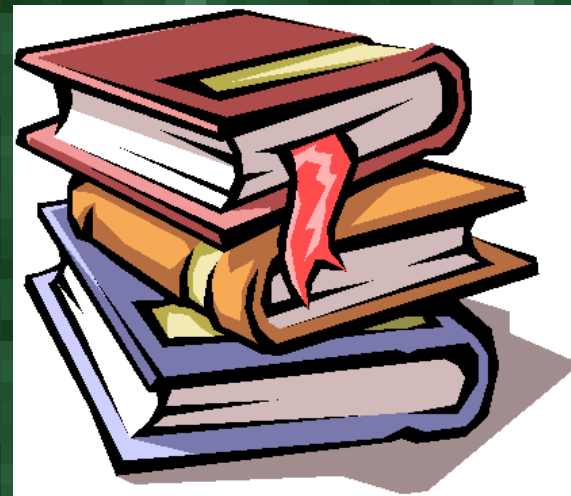
**They Can Also
Determine that an
Agency Improperly
Interpreted a Statute**



Bills Often Reference...

The U.S. Code (USC), the Official Collection of Statutes Passed by Congress

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the Compilation of Agency Regulations



Drafting and Securing Cosponsors



Introduction

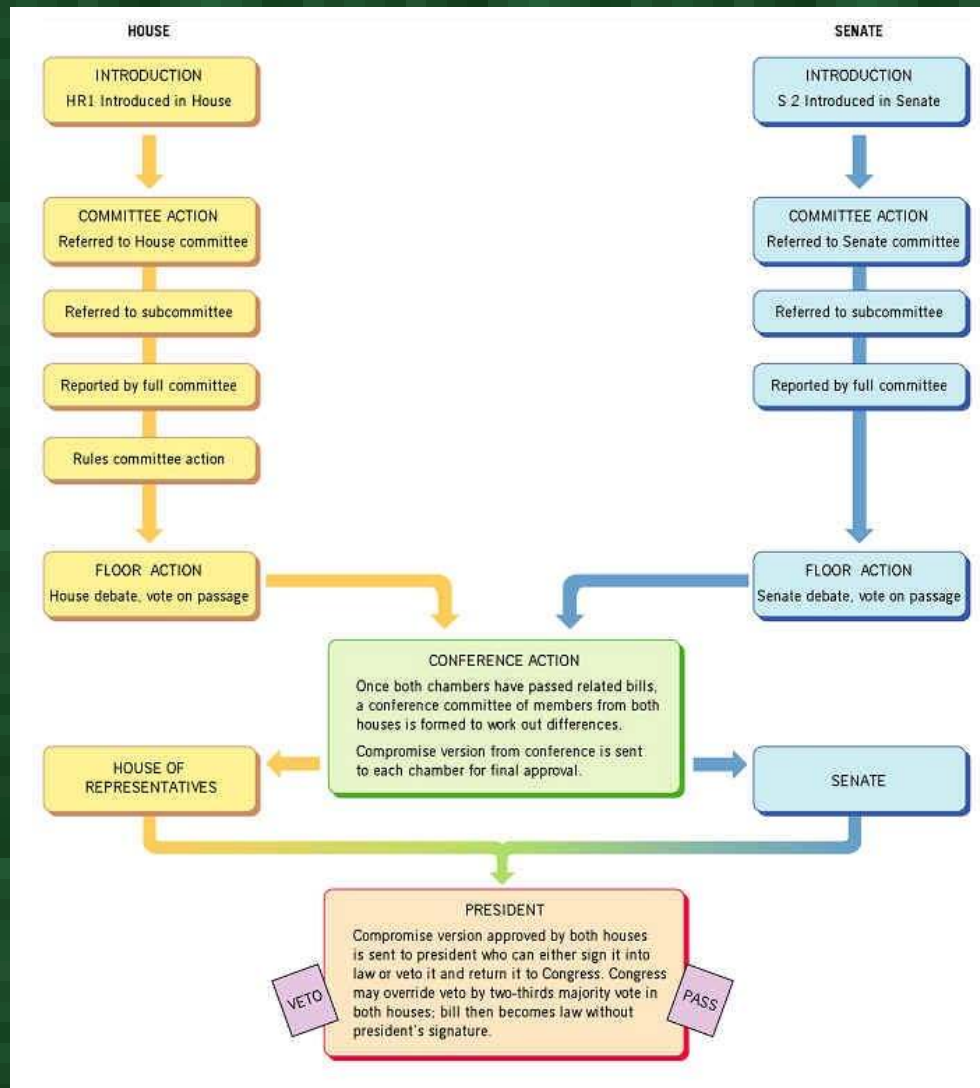
Bill hopper, 1838-46. National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



Digital image (c) 1996 Smithsonian Institution



Introduction is Just the Beginning



Why Bother?

Draw Attention to an Issue

Prod Government or Private Sector Bodies to Move Forward

Appease a Constituent or Get Favorable Publicity



Committees



Subcommittees

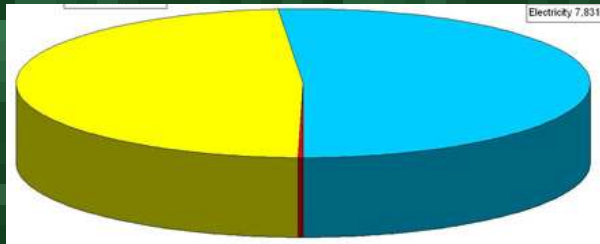


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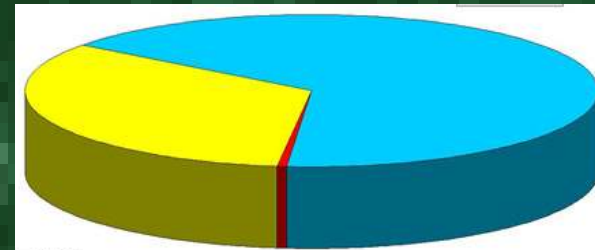


Party Breakdown

Full Senate



Committee or Subcommittee



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Hearings

**Testimony is
Received from
Interested Parties**

**Gauge and Shape
Public Perception
of Bill**



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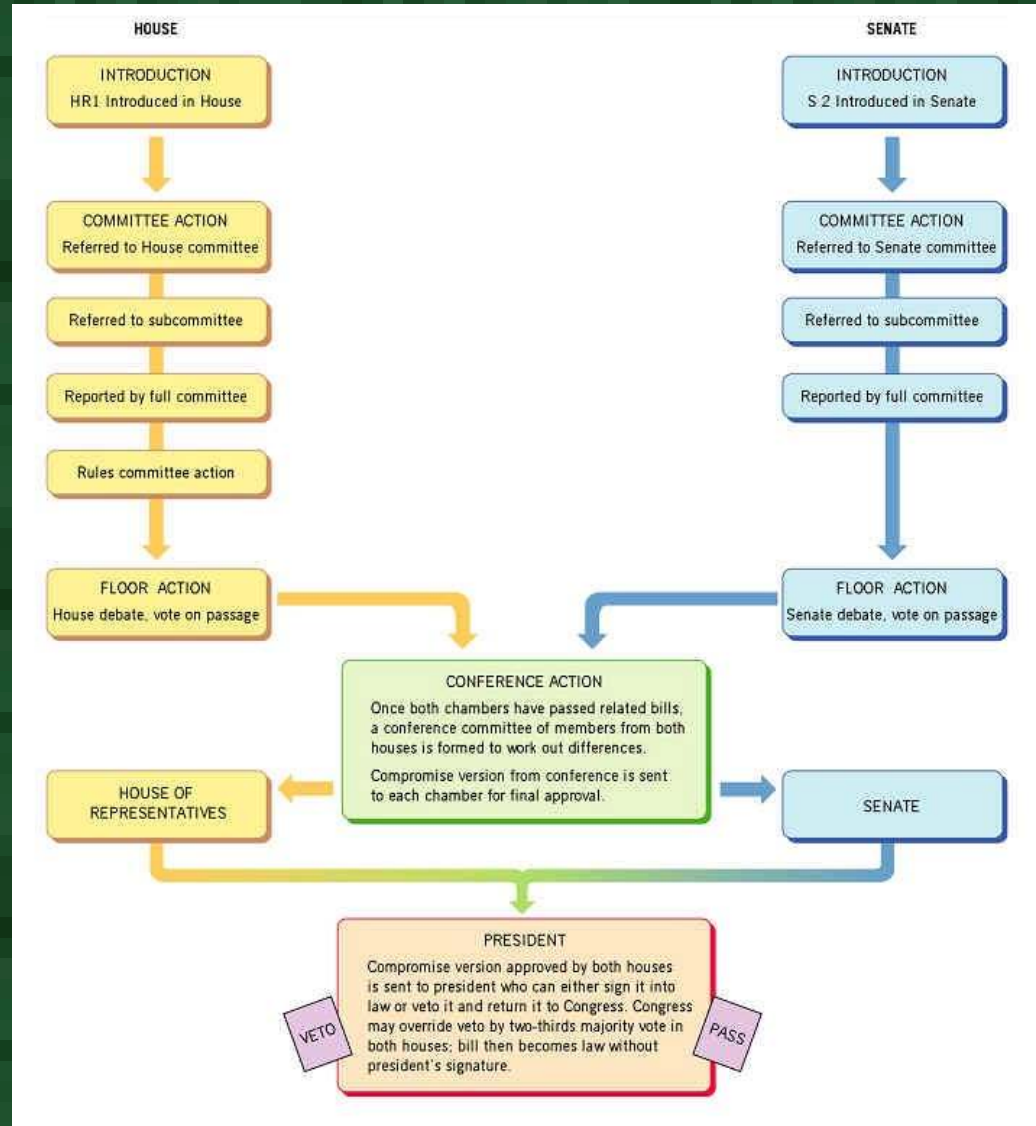
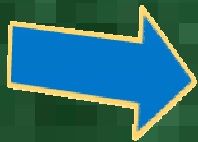
Markups

**Amendments are
Discussed and Voted
On**

**The Amended Bill is
voted on**

**If Approved, it is
“Reported Out” of
Committee**

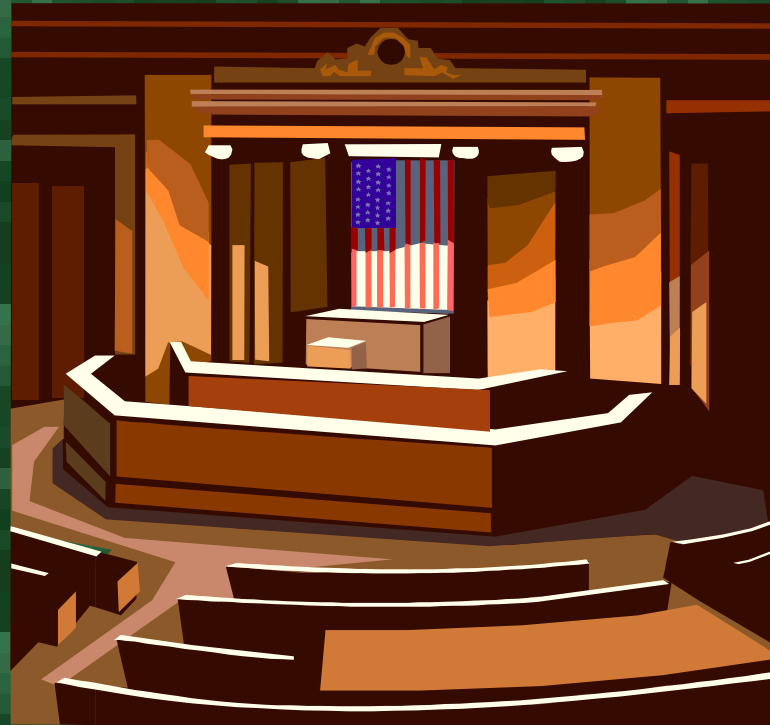




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Floor Consideration



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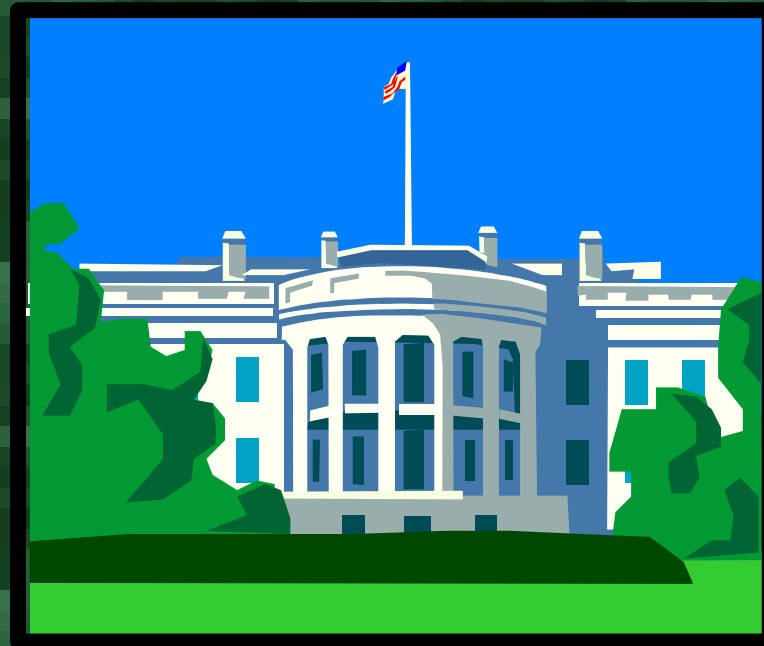
Conference



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The President



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Questions and Discussion

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