

How a Federal Bill Becomes a Law

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1. A [bill](#) is introduced in the House or the Senate.
2. The bill is referred to a committee and a subcommittee.
3. The committee and/or the subcommittee hold [hearings](#) on the bill.
4. The committee prepares a committee [report](#) and reports the bill to the full House or the Senate.
5. The bill is [debated](#) on the floor of the House or the Senate.
6. A [vote](#) is taken and the bill is passed or defeated.
7. The same procedure is carried out in the other house.
8. When both houses have passed related bills, the bills are referred to a conference committee where members agree to a compromised version.
9. The [compromise bill](#) is sent to each house with a [conference committee report](#). A [vote](#) is taken and the bill is passed or defeated.
10. If the bill passes both houses, it is sent to the [President](#).
11. The bill becomes [law](#) if any one of the following conditions is met:
 - President signs the bill; or
 - President takes no action within ten days (excluding Sundays) and Congress is in session; or
 - President vetoes the bill but is overridden by two-thirds vote of each house of Congress.
12. If the President does not act and Congress adjourns before ten days pass, then the bill dies (pocket veto).

See The Flow Chart Below

