

THE PASSAGE OF A BILL THROUGH CONGRESS

INTRODUCTION

1. Member of one house of Congress introduces bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

2. Bill is referred to a committee of that house.

3. Committee decides to consider bill.

— or —

3. Committee decides to kill bill.

4. Committee or subcommittee holds hearing on bill.

5. Committee votes to report the bill out to the house.

— or —

5. Committee votes to kill bill.

FLOOR ACTION

6. Bill is debated.

7. Majority of the house votes in favor of the bill.

— or —

7. Majority of the house votes against the bill.

8. Bill is sent to the other house, which goes through Steps 1-7.

9. Bill is referred to conference committee to work out differences in House and Senate versions of bill.

10. Both houses vote to approve bill and send bill to President.

— or —

10. One or both houses vote against bill.

ENACTMENT

11. President signs bill or allows bill to become law without signing it.

— or —

11. President vetoes bill.

12. Both houses vote to override President's veto.

— or —

12. One or both houses fail to override President's veto.