



How a Bill Becomes a Law

These resources for all ages explore the bill-to-law process and provide access to information on current and draft legislation.

Online Resources

LawCraft from iCivics

<https://www.icivics.org/games/lawcraft>

See what it's like for members of Congress to pass legislation as you play this game, in which you take on the persona of a Congressman attempting to get a bill turned into a law.

Legislation Text from Congress.gov

<https://www.congress.gov/quick-search/legislation-text>

Read legislation from current and past congresses.

The Legislative Process from the United States House of Representatives

https://www.house.gov/content/learn/legislative_process/

Explore how laws are made from the perspective of a United States Representative.

The Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Federal Law from Annenberg Classroom

<https://goo.gl/rLRyRo>

The Lenore Annenberg Institute for Civics presents videos on how a bill becomes a law, lesson plans including discussion questions and other resources, and a game that immerses players in the workings of our three branches of government.

The Legislative Process: Overview from Congress.gov

<https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process>

This government resource provides an explanation of the legislative process via videos created by the Library of Congress.





Further Reading for Adults

Encyclopedia of the United States Congress

by Robert E. Dewhirst

328.73003 D

This comprehensive A-to-Z volume contains all the material needed to understand the United States Congress, including the people, events, and terms involved in the legislative branch of government.

Fighting for Common Ground: How We Can Fix the Stalemate in Congress by Olympia Snowe

328.73 S

In this call to action, former United States Senator from Maine Snowe explores the roots of her belief in principled policy-making and bipartisan compromise.

The Legislative Branch of Federal Government: People, Process, and Politics by Gary P. Gershman

328.73 G

This book looks at the evolution of the U.S. Congress over the past 225+ years, describing its current structure, responsibilities, and daily operations.

The U.S. Congress: A Very Short Introduction

by Donald A. Ritchie

328.73 R PBK

Ritchie, a congressional historian for more than thirty years, takes readers on a behind-the-scenes tour of Capitol Hill, pointing out the key players, explaining their behavior, and translating parliamentary language into plain English.





Further Reading for Youth

***The Congress: A Look at the Legislative Branch* by Robin Nelson and Sandy Donovan**

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This volume discusses the origin of the legislative branch, its purpose, and how a bill becomes a law.

***How a Law Is Passed* by Bill Scheppler**

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This book puts readers at the heart of the law-making action by tracking the progress of laws, from proposals in Congress, through debates in the House of Representatives and the Senate, to approval by the president.

***How Do Laws Get Passed?* by Leslie Harper**

J 328.73077 H

Learn all about laws and law making processes, including answers to questions about laws, why laws are in place, who makes laws, and how laws are written and passed.

***How the Legislative Branch Works* by Maddie Spaulding**

J 328.73 S

Learn how a bill becomes a law and how the U.S. Congress helps maintain the government's balance of power.

