

HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE

"Congress shall have Power... To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper"
U.S. Constitution Article 1 Section 8



The code of a bill
H.R. 301 [110]
 House of Representatives # in which bill was received Congressional Session

CBO or Congressional Budget office is a non-partisan office charged with checking and creating budget estimates.

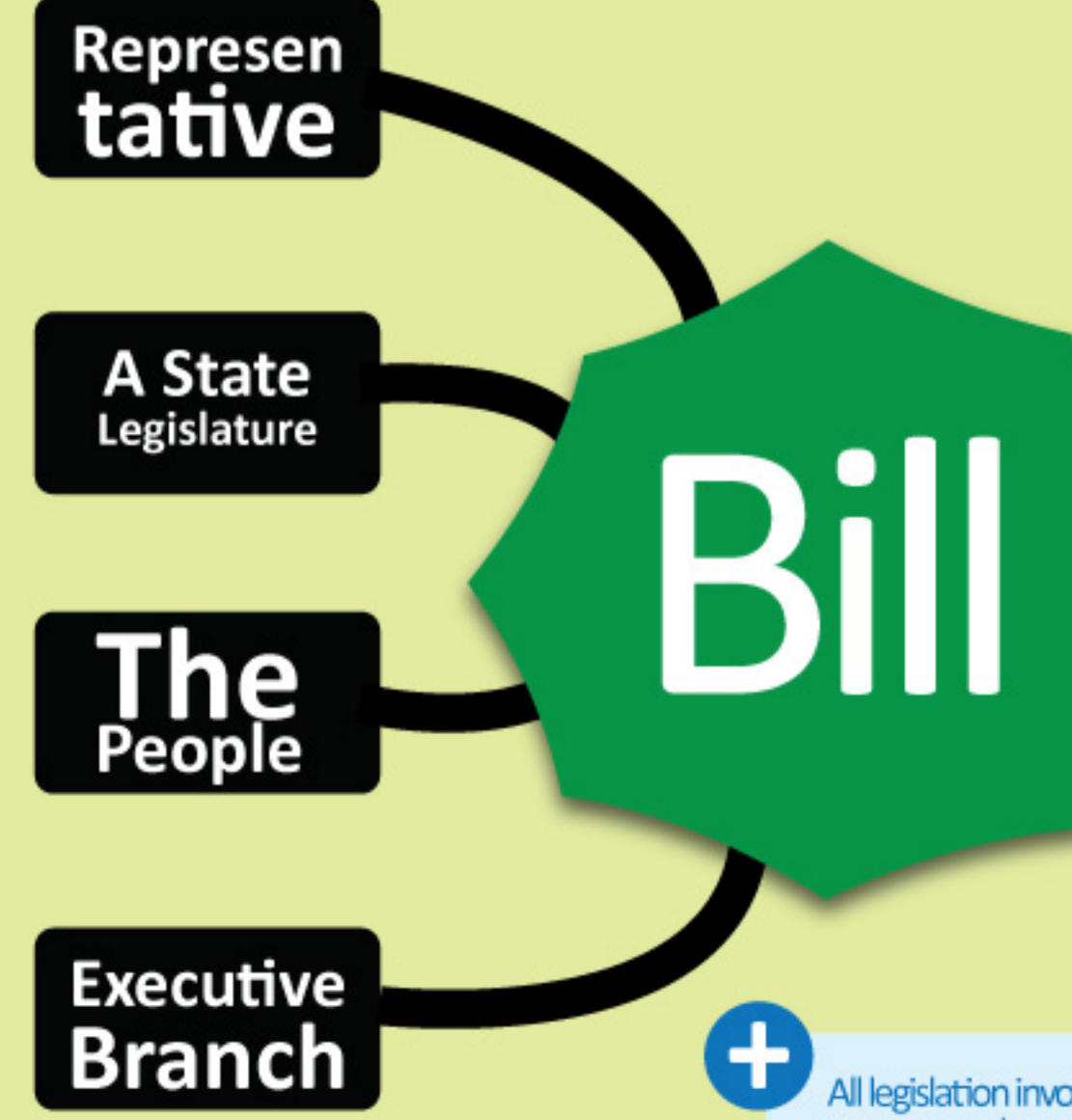
A bill originating in the Senate must go through HOR approval before going to the President.

SEN has 100 members and 16 standing committees.

Filibuster: A Senator or group of Senators deliver speeches and "hold" the floor indefinitely, hoping the prolonged debate will prevent passage of a bill. A filibuster can only be ended if a motion to end it is carried by 60 votes (a super majority).

A Reconciliation bill is part of the budget process and allows Congress to make changes in law to conform with budget levels set in the budget resolution. It has become an alternative way to pass contentious legislation in the Senate because it only requires a simple majority to pass.

A Lobbyist is an activist paid by an interest group to promote their position in the legislature. He/she can also work to change public opinion through advertising and other media outlets.



HOR has 435 members and 20 standing committees.



The President has ten days to sign a bill into law or veto it OR the bill automatically becomes a law. Congress can override with a 2/3 majority.

A Pocket Veto occurs when the President fails to sign a bill into law AND Congress recesses BEFORE ten days expire.