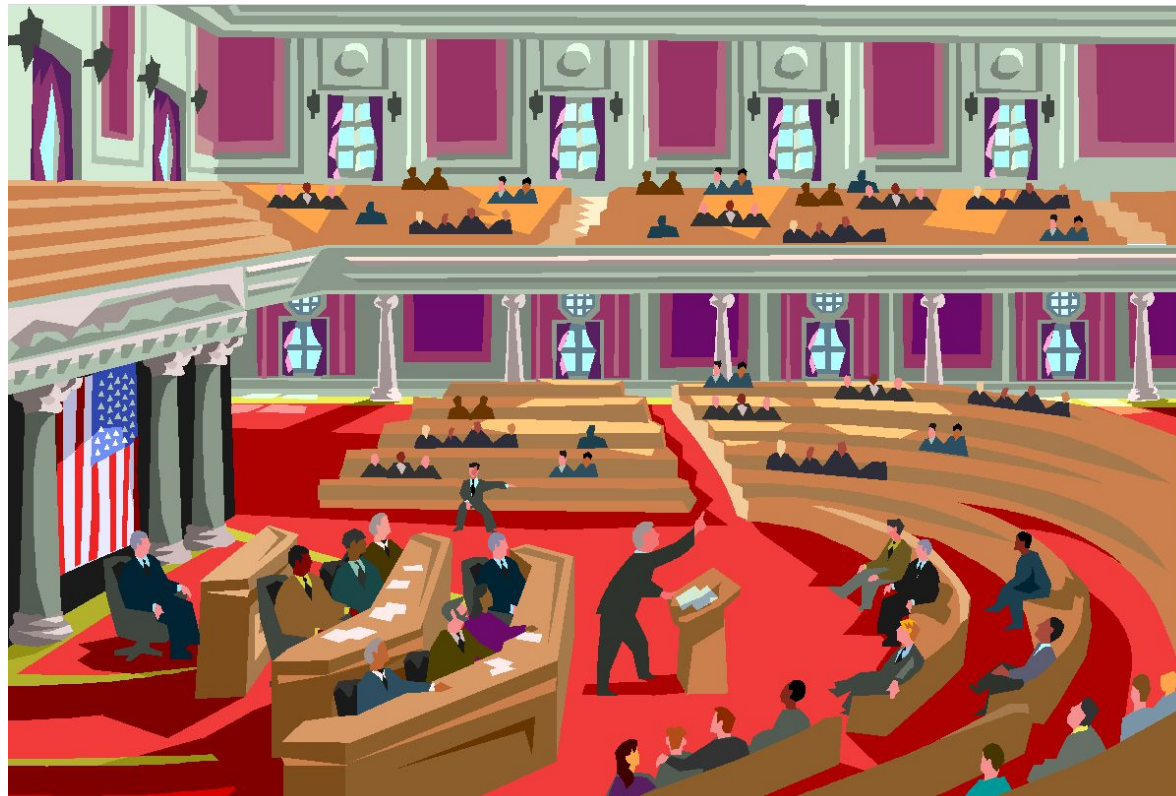


# The Legislative Branch

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# The U.S. Congress

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- Bicameral
- Senate
  - 100 members
  - Six years
- House
  - 435
  - 2 years
  - Reapportioned after each census



# Congressional Duties

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- Make the Laws
- Representatives of their constituents



# Powers of Congress – Article 1

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- Raise and collect taxes
  - Borrow money
  - Regulate commerce
  - Set laws for Naturalization and Bankruptcy
  - Coin Money
  - Punish counterfeiting
  - Post office
  - Copyrights and patents
  - Set up courts
  - Declare war
  - Establish the military and National guard
  - Make rules and allot funds for the military and National guard
  - Punish pirates
  - Run Washington D.C. and all federal property
  - Elastic clause- implied power
-

# ELASTIC CLAUSE

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- The necessary and proper clause gives Congress the power to make laws “necessary and proper” to carry out the delegated duties
  - Also known as the ‘elastic clause’ it stretches the power given Congress
-

# House of Representatives

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- Term: 2 years
  
  - Qualifications
    - 25 years old
    - 7 years as a U.S. citizen
    - Resident of represented state
-

# House of Representatives

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- Number of representatives: 435
  - Speaker of the House – Paul Ryan
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in line of succession
  - Decides the committees each member will serve on
  - Decides the order in which bills will be heard



# House of Representatives

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- Special Powers of the House of Representatives
    - All money (appropriations) bills start here
    - Select the President in an Electoral College tie
    - Write the article of impeachment against high ranking officials
-



# Senate

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- Term of office: 6 years
  
  - Qualifications:
    - 30 years old
    - 9 years a citizen of the U.S.
    - Resident of the represented state
-

# Senate

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- Number of Senators: 100
- Head of the Senate: U.S. Vice President – Mike Pence
- Power: Decides committee members and order bill are debated.



# Senate

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- Special Powers
    - Approves all treaties
    - Approves all appointments
    - Chooses the Vice President in an Electoral College tie
    - Acts as the jury in all trials of impeachment
-

## Privileges and Compensation of Congress members:

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Salary \$193,000 per year

Medical and dental benefits

Free office, parking, and trips to home state

**Franking privilege**- free postage on all mail to constituents

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## Privileges and Compensation of Congress members:

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### Immunity or legal protection:

Cannot be sued of anything they say or write  
while carrying out their duties

Cannot be arrested for minor offenses while  
Congress is in session

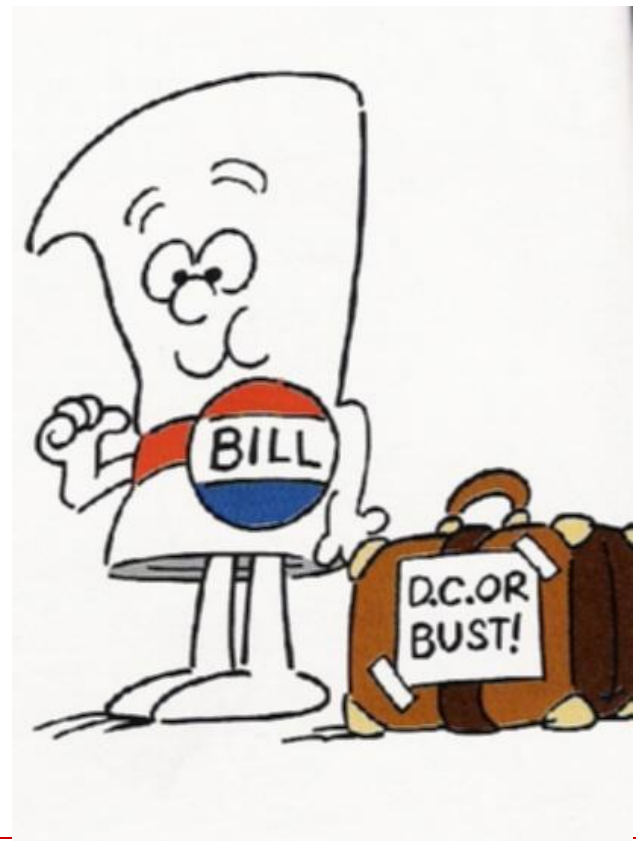
May not hold other political office at the same  
time

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# How Does a bill becomes a law?

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<http://youtu.be/tyeJ55o3EI0>



# Steps of a Bill



- 1) A Member of Congress introduces the Bill
- 2) The Bill goes to a Committee
- 3) The Bill is debated by either the Senate or the House
- 4) If Bill is passed it goes to the other Chamber – if not it DIES!
- 5) After Bill has been voted on in BOTH Chambers if is is approved...
- 6) The Bill is sent to the President who can either approve – it becomes LAW – or he can VETO it, which then goes back and starts all over again... Or 2/3 of Congress can override the Pres!

