

OREGON CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

**McKenzie River Conference Center
June 22-25, 2010**

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A Day in the House

Outline of a “Typical” Midweek Day in the House of Representatives

I. Opening 10am

House called to order by Speaker pro tempore
Designation of Speaker pro tempore
Prayer
Approval of the Journal
Pledge of Allegiance
“One Minutes” (5 to 15 one minute speeches, alternating majority-minority)

II. Legislative Business

Announcement of postponing proceedings on recorded votes

Suspension Bills

(non-controversial legislation considered under “suspension of the rules, requires 2/3rds vote)

Rule on consideration of bill

Majority member of Rules Committee calls up H Res xxx “and ask for its immediate consideration.”

H Res xxx on rule for consideration of a bill:

Open Rule
Closed Rule
Structured Rule

Clerk reads resolution

One hour of debate on H Res; thirty minutes each side.

Majority member request: “I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the *Record*.”
UC.

After one hour, Majority member: “I move the previous question on the resolution.”

Minority member “demands the yeas and nays.”

Vote on H Res xxx on rule

House goes into “Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,”
for consideration of a bill, HR xxxx.

Often one hour of debate; thirty minutes each side.

Amendments: debates on any amendments allowed by rule; usually ten minutes

Votes on Amendments, in Committee of Whole House

Committee of Whole House rises

House consideration of HR xxxx

Motion to recommit (with or without instructions)

Vote on motion to recommit

Voting on Passage

III. Special Orders and Adjournment

Special Orders: some for sixty minutes, others often for five minutes

Motion to Adjourn

Office of the Historian
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Social Studies Lesson Plan

“One Minutes”

At the opening of each legislative day, after the prayer, the approval of the previous day's Journal, and the pledge of allegiance, the Speaker of the House announces that "the Chair will entertain" requests, usually up to five, for "one minute speeches on each side of the aisle." These "one minutes" allow individual representatives the chance to briefly address the House, sometimes on policy issues, other times simply to recognize prominent individuals from the member's district. These short speeches, along with "special orders" at the end of a day's legislative business, are one of the few times an individual member addresses the House. As such, members carefully prepare these remarks, knowing that many of their colleagues will be watching. This lesson plan will use this model as a way for students to learn a disciplined way of writing and speaking, on policy and other matters. For further info, email at: historian@mail.house.gov

1. Questions about Congress that your students will address in this lesson:

- What is the purpose of a "one minute" speech?
- Why does the House set such short time limits on speaking?
- How can a short speech contribute to deliberation and debate?
- What is the role of parties in choosing the members and the topics of these speeches?
- How does the public presentation of members shape their congressional careers?

2. Grade level of students: middle school through college, in government/civics classes, and US and World history classes.

3. Time period for lesson:

One class period for preparation, plus ten minutes for two or three further class periods for each student to give a "one minute." This could be a practice that could continue each day throughout the semester, with a student responsible for a number of “one minutes” over the course of the term.

4. Academic skills students will develop through their work on this lesson:

- Research skills, in searching for "one minutes" in daily *Congressional Record*; Analyze purpose of a short public speech;
- Develop rhetorical skills in a short written piece;
- Develop public speaking ability;
- Learn to write political, promotional, and/or celebratory speeches.

5. Assessment (how will students demonstrate what they have learned?):

Each student will have a brief chance to choose his/her own topic and address their colleagues, and will be assessed both on written and oral presentation.

Class can provide feedback on individual speeches, rating not as "best," but possibly as to which parts would be relevant to specific audiences; eg. news

6. Student activities (describe step-by-step students will do, plus time for each):

Teacher will review purpose and samples of "one minutes": approx. time, 15 minutes

Students will examine five to ten individual "one minutes", in small group setting, to get an idea of purpose and topics of "one minutes," and will discuss possible topics of their own "one minutes." 20 minutes

Students will prepare their own "one minute."

7. Resources students will use in their work:

Congressional Record, first two pages of selected legislative days.

See: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r111query.html>

Video of each day House of Representatives in session, T-Th.

approx. 10am; on CSPAN

Clock with second hand.

8. Lesson Extensions

Many variations possible, including connections with state content standards in government or history classes, eg. focus on specific topics on historical events, war power, health care, foreign policy, etc. Could also focus on specific representatives, over time.

9. Relevant Standards:

“Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.

“Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms.

Health Care Reform in America A Century of Politics 1910-2010

I. The Progressive Era

The German System of Health Care, 1880s

TR's New Nationalism Speech, 1910

1912 Presidential Campaign

Progressive Party and T. Roosevelt's call for National Health Insurance

“What Germany has done in the way of old-age pensions or insurance should be studied by us, and the system adapted to our uses.”

Herbert Hoover and health care policy

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Interior Secretary

Wilbur Commission on health policy, recommends group practice

II. Franklin Roosevelt's Social Policy

The New Deal

Social Security created, without medical care

World War II and Wage Freezes in Industry

Health Care as a “benefit”

IRS exempts benefits from taxes in 1954.

Congressman John Dingell, Sr. introduces health care legislation in House, H.R.15

FDR “Economic Bill of Rights” 11 Jan 1944, “State of the Union”

“We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all—regardless of station, race, or creed. Among these are: . . . The **right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health**; The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment. . .”

England: Beveridge Report and creation of National Health Service

III. Truman's Plan

Call for National Health Care, Nov. 1945

Ten year plan for compulsory insurance

Congress passes Hill-Burton Act, “Hospital Survey and Construction Act”, in 1946 PL 79-725

For construction of rural hospitals

AMA and others call Truman's plan “socialized medicine”; end with Korean war

IV. The Great Society

Medicare and Medicaid signed into law 31 July 1965

Doctors, hospitals, insurance companies (no prescription drug coverage)

Medicare vs. Medicaid

Consequences – sharp costs increases by late 1960s

V. Health Care in the 1970s

Richard Nixon's plan, of employer-based care, private competition vs.

Senator Ted Kennedy's Health Security Act, of universal “single payer” plan

Candidate Jimmy Carter calls for “national health insurance system with universal and mandatory coverage” in 1976 campaign

VI. Health Care during the Reagan-Bush Era, 1980s-90s

COBRA: Congress mandates emergency room coverage; passes Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, to continue coverage after leaving employment, 1986

Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act passed, July 1988, with surtax on elderly to fund program;
Repealed, Nov-Dec. 1989

ADA, 1990

VII. Clinton's Health Care Plan

1993 Clinton's Health Care Plan

Hillary's White House Task Force

23 Sept 1993: Clinton's Message to Congress on Health Care

Jan. 1994: State of the Union

Media Campaign

Spring-Summer 1994

Health Care in the House: Ways and Means, Ed. and Labor, Energy and Commerce

Health Care in the Senate:

VIII. Republican Rule, 1995-2006

Contract with America, 1994

House and Senate Majorities

HIPAA, 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

SCHIP, 1997 State Children's Health Insurance Program

Bi-Partisan Commission on Medicare, 1998-99

Health Care under George W. Bush

CBO Report, Jan. 2001, claims "surplus"

Medicare Modernization Act, 2003 (Prescription Drug Bill)

V. Obama and Health Care Reform

Campaign Promises Health Care as a "right"

Obama Strategy and Congress

July, 2009; House Committees: Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Ed. and Labor

"Robust public option"

"Blue Dogs" in Energy and Commerce

August Recess: Town Halls

9 Sept 2009 Obama speech to Congress; "you lie!"

Senate: Two versions: Baucus and Finance Com. Vs. HELP Com.

House: HR 3590 introduced Sept. 2009 CBO score \$1 tril./10 years

House Passage 7 Nov 2009; 220-215

Stupak-Pitts Amendment on abortion funding

Senate Passage 24 Dec 2009; 60-39

Mass. Senate Race 19 Jan 2010, "Gives GOP 41-59 Majority in Senate"

Obama State of the Union 28 Jan 2010

Health Care Summit 25 Feb 2010

House Passage 21 Mar 2010, 219-212 w/o any Republican votes; Obama signs 23 Mar

Stupak and "exec. order" on abortion language

"Reconciliation" passes, 25 Mar 2010

Charting The Future Of The Health Overhaul Bill

Kathleen Masterson and Mary Agnes Carey

December 24, 2009

The Senate approved the landmark health bill early Christmas Eve, a key step for President Obama and the Democrats in moving forward with health overhaul. But the debate is far from over. The \$871 billion Senate bill would be paid for by new taxes and cuts to Medicare payments to health care providers. It includes a new insurance marketplace, known as an exchange, bars insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions, and requires nearly everyone to buy insurance. Next, the Senate and the House have to reconcile their different versions. Below, a look at what the House has passed, the amended Senate bill — and where the two chambers may clash. The likelihood scale is based on how similar the House and Senate bills have been so far.

Issue	Senate	House	Likely In Final Bill?
Cost	Would cost \$871 billion over a decade, reducing the deficit by \$132 billion, and possibly an additional reduction of as much as \$1.3 trillion over the second decade, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.	Costs \$1.1 trillion over a decade, surpassing Obama's \$900 billion/10-year spending cap and the cost of the Senate bill.	95 percent
Public Option	Does not include a public option. Instead, the Office of Personnel Management, which supervises health plans for federal workers, would oversee national plans offered in the health insurance exchanges.	Creates a government-run insurance program that offers plans in competition with the private market. The government would negotiate rates with health care providers.	60 percent
Individual Requirements	Requires most people to have health insurance or pay a penalty, which starts at \$95 in 2014 and reaches \$750 two years later.	Requires most people to get health insurance or pay a penalty of up to 2.5 percent of their income. This mandate (along with subsidies for the poor) extends coverage to 36 million Americans.	95 percent
Employer Requirements	Does not require employers to provide health insurance. The bill would charge companies with over 50 employees a penalty for any employee whose health insurance the government ends up subsidizing.	Requires employers to contribute to health insurance for employees. But businesses with payrolls under \$500,000 are exempt; that's about 86 percent of all American businesses.	60 percent
Help for Individuals & Small Businesses	Sets up health insurance exchanges to help those newly required to get insurance shop around. Exchanges would open in 2014, a year after the House plan. Plans offered in the exchange would have to meet minimum requirements set by the	Also creates " insurance exchanges ," and until exchanges are set up, the bill immediately offers assistance to those who have been uninsured for several months or denied a policy because of pre-existing conditions.	95 percent

	government.		
Financial Assistance	includes subsidies to help cover those making up to 400 percent of federal poverty level -- currently \$88,000 per year for a family of four -- and expands the Medicaid program to include those making 133 percent of the federal poverty level.	Also includes subsidies to help those making up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level pay for health insurance premiums . The House bill would expand Medicaid eligibility for low-income individuals and families, cover new preventive services, and increase payments for check-ups.	99 percent
New Taxes	Imposes a 40 percent tax on high-cost health insurance plans -- those valued over \$8,500 per individual or \$23,000 per family. Charges a 10 percent tax on indoor tanning services , which is expected to raise \$2.7 billion in the first ten year period. Also increases Medicare payroll taxes -- from 1.45 to 2.35 percent -- on individuals earning \$200,000 a year and couples earning \$250,000.	Would tax the wealthiest Americans , with individuals making over \$500,000 and families making above \$1 million paying a surcharge on a portion of their income.	80 percent
Abortion	Would create a "firewall" to prevent federal subsidies from going toward abortion coverage. In plans that do cover abortion, beneficiaries would have to pay for it separately, and those funds would have to be kept in a separate account from taxpayer money.	Would ban abortion from being covered in the new public plan except in cases of rape, incest, or threat to the life of the pregnant woman. Also bans people from using government subsidies to purchase private plans with abortion coverage on the exchange.	60 percent
Medicare Changes	Would reduce Medicare spending by approximately \$395 billion over 10 years; includes cuts to private insurance plans (although implemented slightly differently from House bill). Also in 2010, Medicare beneficiaries would receive \$500 towards paying for prescription drugs not currently covered because of cost, those that fall into the so-called "doughnut hole."	Would reduce Medicare spending by approximately \$440 billion over 10 years, largely by reducing payments to private insurance plans that serve Medicare patients (and are currently paid more than the cost of providing that care) and by requiring hospitals and other health care providers to operate more efficiently. Also includes several new benefits for seniors, including more preventive care services	80 percent

Sources: NPR research

Credits: With reporting by NPR's Julie Rovner. Mary Agnes Carey is a reporter with **Kaiser Health News**. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120068329>

Congressional vs. Parliamentary Systems Procedures and Practices in US and UK

I. Introduction: US Congress and British Precedents

What is the relation between the US House of Representatives and UK House of Commons?

House of Rep \neq House of Commons;

US House and Senate, sort of like both House of Commons and Lords

What are parallels/similarities, and contrasts/differences between the two political systems?

Written vs. "Unwritten" Constitutions

The British Constitution

English Civil War, 1642-49

Commonwealth, 1649-60

Restoration

Glorious Revolution 1688-89

English Constitutionalism; empire and 'dominion' status

Eighteenth Century Origins and the design of the U.S. Constitution

Design of the Chambers

Unwritten aspects of the American Constitution

II. The American Political System

Sovereignty: Which governing body is "sovereign"?

What is the meaning of "sovereignty"? In what senses are the "people" sovereign?

James Bryce, MP: "The British Parliament had always been, was then, and remains now, a sovereign and constituent assembly. It can make and unmake any and every law, change the form of government or the succession to the crown, interfere with the course of justice, extinguish the most sacred private rights of the citizen. Between it and the people at large there is no legal distinction, because the whole plenitude of the people's rights and powers resides in it, just as if the whole nation were present within the chamber where it sits. ... it is to-day the only and the sufficient depository of the authority of the nation; and is therefore, within the sphere of law, irresponsible and omnipotent.

"**In the American system there exists no such body.** Not merely Congress alone, but also Congress and the President conjoined, are subject to the Constitution... The only power which is ultimately sovereign, as the British Parliament is always and directly sovereign, is the people of the States, acting in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, and capable in that manner of passing any law whatever in the form of a constitutional amendment." *The American Commonwealth*, 1888, 33.

Federal System: National vs. State governments

Separation of Powers: Legislative, Executive, Judicial

James Bryce, MP: "No general principle of politics laid such hold on the constitution-makers and statesmen of America as the dogma that the separation of these three functions is essential to freedom." *The American Commonwealth*, 1888, p.26.

Terms of Office: two, four, six years. [presidents serve for four years, ie. two congresses]
What is the political significance of these fixed terms of office?

III. The U.S. Constitution

Article I: The Legislative Branch

House of Representatives	435 for 2 yrs.	How is House <i>not</i> like House of Commons?
Senate	100 for 6 yrs.	How is Senate <i>not</i> like House of Lords?

Early 20c growth in power of Senate vs. almost all other “upper” houses

Article II: The Executive Branch

Presidency, the Cabinet, and Executive Departments

Article III: The Judicial Branch doctrine of “judicial review” (unwritten and contested)

IV. The Legislative Branch vs. a Parliamentary System

Prerogatives of the Legislature

Rules of each House

Role and Power of a Member of Congress

Role of Speaker of the House

Party Structure: leader, whips, caucus

Committee System: Congress at Work [House Rules Committee]

V. Deliberation in the House and Senate vs. Parliament

Proposing a Bill

Debates and “plenary sessions”

Amendments

Voting

VI. How Bills *Really* Become Laws

UK Parliament and the “Supply Bills”

US The Appropriations Process

VII. Comparisons and Conclusions

What are the strengths and weakness between the American and British Constitutions?

Why are almost every democratic governments in the world based on a parliamentary system, rather than a congressional system?

The First Branch

How to Teach About Congress

I. Why teach about Congress?

Which is the “first” branch of government? Why?

The House of Representatives and the “other body”

Historical examples:

How did Emancipation happen?

Civil Rights

II. The American Political System

Sovereignty: Which governing body is “sovereign”?

Federal System: National vs. State governments

Separation of Powers: Legislative, Executive, Judicial

For how many congresses does a president serve?

In which branch does the Majority rule?

III. The Legislative Branch

Prerogatives of the Legislature

Role and Power of a Member of Congress

Cultures of the two Houses

House = majority rules; Senate = minority

Role of Speaker of the House

Committee System: Congress at Work

Committees of Jurisdiction

Authorizing Committees and the Appropriations Committee

Politics, Policy, Procedure

IV. Bills and Laws

Civics version of how a bill becomes a law

Bill, committee, hearings, floor vote, “other body,” conference, to president

Who can introduce a bill?

How hard is it to introduce a bill?

How many bills are introduced?

Are most bills *intended* to become law?

Should you teach “how a bill becomes law”? Or “how an *idea* becomes a law”?

V. Deliberation and Decision Making in the Senate and the House

Who was “Roberts”, and why doesn’t Congress use his rules?

Two principles of Roberts Rules of Order:

Senate and Deliberation/ Debate

The Filibuster and the rights of the minority

House and Decision making

The House Rules Committee and the power of the majority

Rules Committee: Umpire? or Gatekeeper?

The Arm of the Speaker: open, closed, structured rules

VI. How an Idea *Really* Becomes a Law

Case Study I: Naming the rooms in the Capitol Visitors Center

Bill? Amendment?

Through appropriations process? Or authorizing committee?

Committee Structure in the House of Representatives

“Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings...”

Article I, section 5.

*“The House sits, not for serious discussion, but to sanction the conclusions of its Committees as rapidly as possible. It legislates in its committee-rooms; not by the determinations of majorities, but by the resolution of specially-commissioned minorities; so that it is not far from the truth to say that **Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee-rooms is Congress at work.**”*

Woodrow Wilson, *Congressional Government*, 1884, p.79.

Key Committees

Authorizing Committees vs. Appropriation Committee

Rules Committee

Ways and Means

Appropriations Committee (and subcommittees)

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA,
Commerce, Justice, Science
Defense
Energy and Water Development
Financial Services
Homeland Security
Interior and Environment
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
Legislative Branch
Military Construction, Veterans’ Affairs
State, Foreign Operations
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

Authorizing Committees

Agriculture
Armed Services
Budget
Education and Labor
Energy and Commerce
Financial Services
Foreign Affairs
Homeland Security
House Administration
Judiciary
Natural Resources
Oversight and Govt. Reform
Science and Technology
Small Business
Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics)
Transportation and Infrastructure
Veterans’ Affairs
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Ways and Means

The First Day

The House begins a New Congress

Example of 109th Congress, in January 4, 2005

Opening and Convening of new Congress

1. Clerk calls the House to order at noon.
2. Chaplain offers prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Clerk announces receipt of credentials of members.
5. Clerk causes quorum call by States by electronic device and announces quorum.
6. Clerk announces receipt of credentials of Resident Commissioner and Delegates.
7. Clerk announces any vacancies.

Election of Speaker

8. Nominations for Speaker. (Chairmen of Republican Conference and Democratic Caucus)
9. Clerk appoints tellers, usually four, to record manual roll call.
10. Manual roll call on election of Speaker.
11. Clerk announces election of Speaker.
12. Clerk appoints Committee to escort Speaker to Chair.
13. Sergeant at Arms announces Speaker and committee escorts Speaker to Chair.
14. Minority Leader presents Speaker and Speaker addresses House.

Oaths and Officers

15. Oath of Office is administered to Speaker by Dean of House (most senior member)
16. Speaker administers oath to Members and Delegates.
17. Announcements of election of Majority and Minority Leaders and Majority and Minority Whips. (Chairmen of Republican Conference and Democratic Caucus)
18. Privileged resolution electing officers of the House. (Majority party chairman)
 - a. Division of question (Minority party chairman)
 - b. Substitute amendment for resolution. (Minority party chairman)
19. Speaker administers oath to officers of the House.

Notification of Senate and President

20. Privileged resolution notifying Senate that a quorum is assembled and election of Speaker and Clerk. (Majority Leader)
21. Privileged resolution appointing Committee to Notify the President of quorum. (Majority Leader)
22. Speaker appoints Committee to notify the President.
23. Privileged resolution notifying President of election of Speaker and Clerk. (Majority Leader)

House Rules and Committees

24. Privileged resolution adopting House rules. (Majority Leader)
25. Privileged resolution electing Majority members to certain committees. (Majority chairman)
26. Privileged resolution electing Minority Members to certain committees. (Minority chairman)

27. Resolution designating certain Minority Employees. (Minority Leader)
28. Privileged resolution fixing daily hour of meeting. (Chairman of Rules)
29. Privileged resolutions re: absent Members-elect (if needed). (Majority or Minority Leader)
30. Privileged concurrent resolution regarding assembly. (Chairman of Rules)

Exec Branch Organization and Inauguration (during presidential election years)

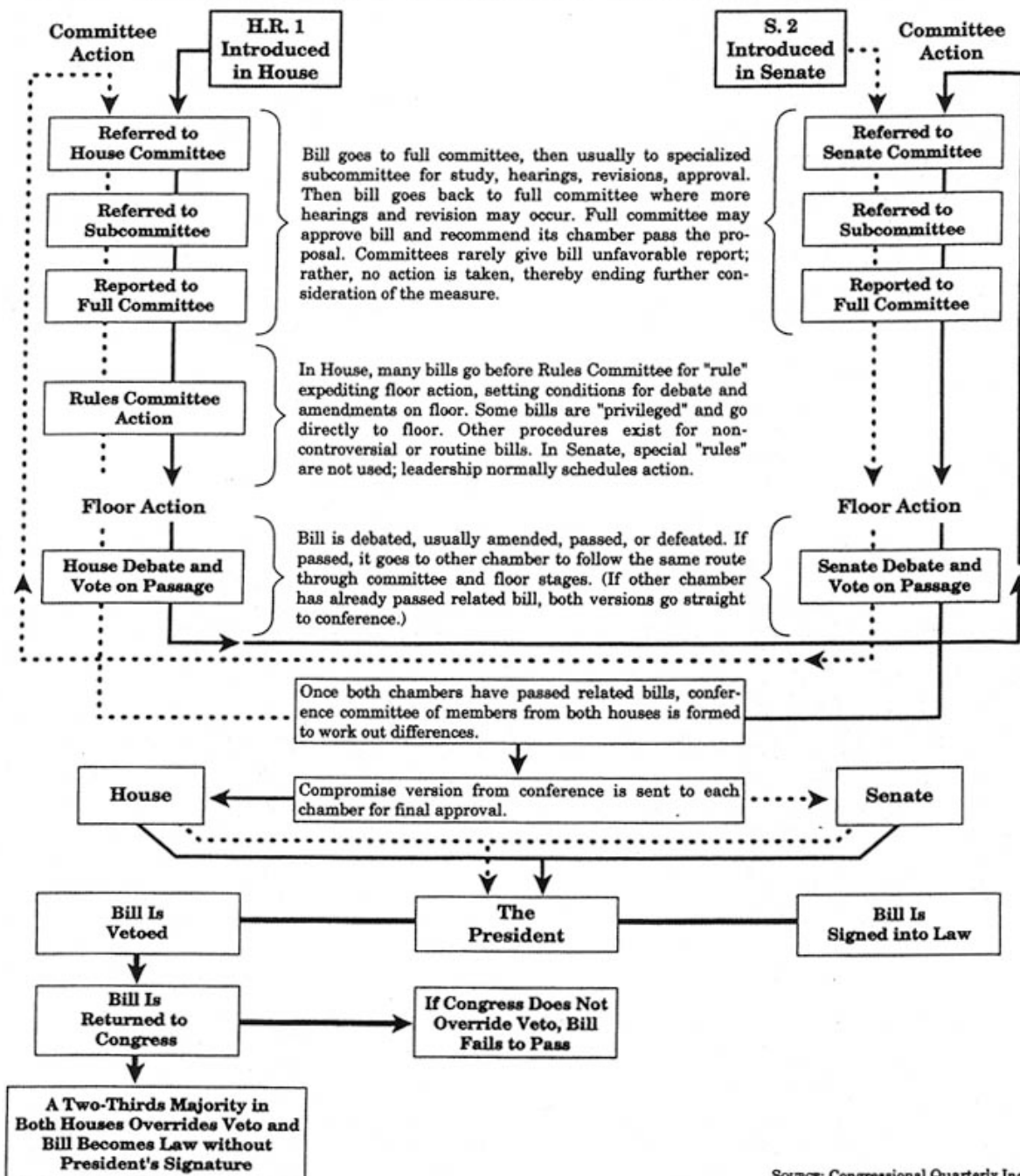
31. Message from the Senate. (Organizational Resolutions)
 - (a) Privileged concurrent resolution for joint session to count electoral votes
 - (b) Privileged concurrent resolution re-establishing the Joint Inaugural Committee
32. Re-appointment of Joint Inaugural Committee members.
33. Privileged resolution to proceed to West Front for Inauguration (Majority Leader)

House Organization

34. Privileged concurrent resolution for adjournment. (Majority Leader)
35. Unanimous Consent (UC) to adjourn over to January 6. (Majority Leader)
36. UC for appointment authority. (Majority Leader)
37. UC for extension of remarks. (Majority Leader)
38. UC for Morning Hour debate. (Majority Leader)
39. Report of Committee to notify the President. (Majority and Minority Leaders)
40. Statement from the Chair re: Special Orders.
41. Appointments by the Speaker.
42. Messages and communications laid down.
43. General announcements and other business.
45. Adjournment.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

This illustration shows the most typical way in which proposed legislation is enacted into law. There are more complicated as well as simpler routes, and most bills never become law. The process is illustrated with two hypothetical bills, House bill No. 1 (H.R. 1) and Senate bill No. 2 (S. 2). Bills must be passed by both houses in identical form before they can be sent to the president. The path of H.R. 1 is traced by a solid line, that of S. 2 by a dotted line. In practice, most bills begin as similar proposals in both houses.



Source: Congressional Quarterly Inc.

How the *Really Important* Bills become Law: The Appropriations Process

I. The American Political System

Separation of Powers: Legislative, Executive, Judicial

Independence of the Legislature

Congress at Work: The Committee System

Committees of Jurisdiction

Authorizing Committees and the Appropriations Committee

II. Bills and Laws

Civics version of how a bill becomes a law

Bill, committee, hearings, floor vote, “other body,” conference, to president

III. History of Federal Budget Process

Executive vs. Legislative Control: Who has the initiative in the approps. process?

Federal budgeting and appropriations in 19c

Federal budgeting and appropriations in early 20c

Bureau of the Budget, 1921

President Nixon and Congress

“Impoundment”

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974

Congressional budget office

Current appropriations cycle

IV. How the really *Important* Bills become Law

Appropriations vs. Revenue: ie. Spending vs. Taxation

“All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.” Article I, Section 7

House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee

“Tax expenditures”; “Pay-go” Rules; deficit spending

The Appropriations Process

“No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.”

Article I, Section 9

Federal Spending: approx. \$3.5 trillion FY09

Discretionary (35%) c1.2 tril vs. Mandatory Entitlements (65%) c2.3 tril.

Annual Appropriations Cycle (for discretionary spending only)
Federal Fiscal Year FY10: 1 Oct 09 – 30 Sept 10

Agency Requests: Nov-Dec

Presidential Budget: early February (week or so after State of Union) Is this a bill?
FY11 Budget request, Monday, Feb 1 2010 FY11 \$3.8 Trillion
“on-budget” vs. “off-budget” items

Congressional Budget: April 15th (required by law by Apr 15, usually passes mid-May
Budget Resolution (not law) House and Senate Budget Committees
Establishes five year spending levels by committee jurisdiction (not law)

House Appropriations Committee: May-July (usually finish by August recess)
Twelve Subcommittees “The College of Cardinals”
Twelve Appropriations Bills: Hearings and Markups (Feb-Apr)

“Earmarks” or “Legislatively directed spending”
What is an earmark? What is “pork”? and “kosher pork”?

Are these legitimate parts of the legislative process,
or evidence of a corrupt system?

Senate Appropriations Committee: June-Sept, (or so, if they get around to it)

Floor Debates: House Rules Committee (June-July) open rule, but leadership
agreements for floor debate and amendment process

Senate leadership: “unanimous consent” or 3/5ths for “cloture”

House-Senate Conference Committee or (‘ping-pong’ amendment process)
[eg. transport bill \$100 billion House vs. \$120 Senate = \$130]

Dangers of Conference Committees: 2009 stimulus bill,
H.R. 1 “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,” \$787 billion
High speed rail: House \$0 vs. Senate \$2 bil. > conference \$8 bil.

Continuing Resolutions “CRs” (temporary funding measures for when time runs out)
and **Omnibus bills**

President signs or vetoes 2/3rd Congress vote to override

Supplemental Appropriations

Decision making in Real Life – eg. buying a car

How much car can we afford?

Do we need a second job or a loan?

What car should we buy? Hummer? Smart Car?

Signing the contract

Writing the monthly payment check

Transmission busts, so, home equity loan!

Budget Committee

Ways and Means/Finance

Authorizing Committee

Authorizing Committee

Appropriations Committee

Supplemental appropriations

V. Conclusions

House Appropriations Committee 111th Congress

Chair: David Obey (D-WI)/ Jerry Lewis (R-CA)

Considers and approves eleven appropriation (funding) measures in order to properly allocate about 40% of the federal budget for that year, to programs, agencies, departments, etc. with measures ranging from defense to education.

<http://appropriations.house.gov/>

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Chair: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)/ Jack Kingston (R-GA)

Distributes and approves the appropriation (funding) for Department of Agriculture (except Forestry), Farm Credit Bureau, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and other departments, agencies, and programs assisting and managing the nation's agriculture. http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_ardf.shtml

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Chair: Alan Mollohan (D-WV)/ Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)

Appropriates funding for Department of Justice and Commerce, as well as agencies and programs dealing with judiciary, trade, and the sciences. http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_cjs.shtml

Defense

Chair: John P. Murtha (D-PA)/ C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)

Approves and funds the Department of Defense and the national intelligence community, including the C.I.A.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_def.shtml

Energy and Water Development

Chair: Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN)/ David L. Hobson (R-OH)

Distributes funding for the Department of Energy, as well as agencies and programs within the Department of the Interior and Defense (Army Corps of Engineers). http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_ew.shtml

Financial Services and General Government

Chair: José Serrano (D-NY)/ Ralph Regula (R-OH)

Appropriates fund to the Department of the Treasury, District of Columbia, the Executive Branch, as well as its agencies, programs, and offices. http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_fsdc.shtml

Homeland Security

Chair: David E. Price (D-NC)/ Harold Rogers (R-NY)

Distributes funds to the Department of Homeland Security. http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_dhs.shtml

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Chair: Norman D. Dicks (D-WA)/ Todd Tiahrt (R-KS)

Oversees the funding the Environmental Protection Agency, parts of the Department of the Interior, and other agencies relating to environmental; and historical protection (and preservation), as well as Native American Affairs.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_ienv.shtml

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Chair: David Obey (D-WI)/ James T. Walsh (R-NY)

Appropriates fund to the Departments of Education, Labor, most of the Health and Human Service, as well as related agencies.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_lhhse.shtml

Legislative Branch

Chair: Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)/ Zach Wamp (R-TN)

Distributes funding for the entire legislative branch and its related agencies and programs.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_leg.shtml

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Chair: Chet Edwards (D-TX)/ Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)

Oversees the funding of military construction, veterans affairs, and related programs.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_mivet.shtml

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Chair: Nita M. Lowey (D-NY)/ Frank R. Wolf (R-VA)

Distributes and approves the appropriation (funding) for Departments of State, Treasury, and Defense, and the agencies and programs that deal with international relations, aide, and development.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_sfo.shtml

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Chair: John W. Olver (D-MA)/ Joe Knollenberg (R-MI)

Distributes funding for Departments of Transportation, Housings and Urban Development, and related agencies.

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_tranurb.shtml

The First Branch
How to Teach About Congress

Teaching Resources

The Founders vested “all legislative power” in a Congress, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. These resources here are presented to help you gain a new sense of purpose about representative government, to more effectively teach your students about Congress and especially the “People’s House.” The mandate of the Office of the Historian is to “preserve and present the history of the House,” and the Office works with all who share that purpose. Contact us via email at historian@mail.house.gov. We hope that by increasing public understanding of Congress, the effectiveness of representative government will improve. Use these resources to look at American history and government from the perspective of Congress, where “the people govern.”

Suggested books and periodicals

- Baker, Ross K. *House and Senate*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2001.
- Barone, Michael, ed. *The Almanac of American Politics*. National Journal, 2006, etc.
- Davidson, Roger H. and Walter J. Oleszek. *Congress and Its Members*, 10th edition. Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006.
- Peters, Ronald M. *The American Speakership: The Office in Historical Perspective*. 2nd edition. Johns Hopkins, 1997.
- Remini, Robert V. *The House: The History of the House of Representative* Smithsonian books, 2005.
- Daily Papers on Congress
Roll Call www.rollcall.com (subscription required)
The Hill www.thehill.com (free access)
Politico www.politico.com (free access)
- Magazines on Congress
Congressional Quarterly www.cq.com
weekly journal, *CQ Weekly* (expensive subscription required)
National Journal, www.nationaljournal.com
weekly journal *National Journal* (expensive subscription required)

Online Resources

Federal Government Resources

- Online Guide to the House and Senate Members of the 110th Congress:
<http://www.memberguide.gpoaccess.gov/>
Legislative Info (bill tracking) www.congress.gov
Legislative info (general) <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- Senate www.senate.gov
see also Senate Historical Office under “Art and History” on Senate homepage
- House www.house.gov
Clerk of the House <http://clerk.house.gov>
some historical materials under “Art and History” on Clerk homepage
- House Rules Committee history http://www.rules.house.gov/committee_history.htm

Biographical Directory of U.S. Congress <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

Congressional Record search <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r110query.html>

U.S. Congressional Documents, 1770s – 1873

LoC A Century of Lawmaking <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Women in Congress <http://womenincongress.house.gov>

Architect of the Capitol www.aoc.gov

See sections on history of the Capitol and the Capitol Complex from AOC homepage

Library of Congress www.loc.gov

LOC Teacher resources www.loc.gov/teachers

American Memory Project of American History curriculum www.memory.loc.gov/learn

National Archives and Records Administration www.archives.gov

Archives teaching resources <http://www.archives.gov/education/>

Center for Legislative Archives (congressional materials)

<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/>

Smithsonian Institution www.si.edu

National Museum of American History <http://americanhistory.si.edu/>

Smithsonian American Art Museum <http://americanart.si.edu/index3.cfm>

Teacher education <http://americanart.si.edu/education/index.cfm>

New: National Museum of African American History and Culture <http://nmaahc.si.edu/>

Other Resources

C-SPAN www.cspan.org also on Cable TV. Provides live coverage of House and Senate chambers

C-SPAN Classroom www.c-spanclassroom.org

Has downloadable lesson plans and video clips for use in classroom

U.S. Capitol Historical Society www.uschs.org

U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress www.usafmc.org

Invite a former member of Congress to speak at your school!

Congressional Management Foundation www.cmf.org

Professional organization designed to improve management of congressional offices

Under publications, has a great guide for interns

National Constitution Center www.constitutioncenter.org ; Educators' section:

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/WelcomeEducatorsandStudents/index.shtml>

Society for History in the Federal Government www.shfg.org

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress www.congresscenters.org

Group of about forty organizations with congressional papers and research materials

Dirksen Center www.dirksencenter.org

Has best online "Congress in the Classroom" www.congressclass.org

Center on Congress at Indiana University www.centeroncongress.org

Center for Civic Education nation's largest civics curriculum, "We the People";

also, state and national contests for students www.civiced.org

Close-Up Foundation; runs student and teacher civics weeks in DC www.closeup.org

Model U.S. House of Representatives www.modelcongress.org

has week-long model House for college students in House office buildings

American Political Science Association www.apsanet.org

Section for educators http://www.apsanet.org/section_168.cfm

