

Reteaching Activity



Congress at Work

DIRECTIONS →

Number the steps for a bill to become a law in the order that they usually occur.

- _____ **A.** Both the Senate and the House pass the bill in identical forms or send the bill to a conference committee to work out the differences.
- _____ **B.** A committee or subcommittee may pigeonhole the bill and let it die, vote to kill the bill, or recommend that the bill be adopted as is or in a revised form.
- _____ **C.** Citizens, special interest groups, the president, or other officials develop an idea for a bill.
- _____ **D.** The bill goes to the president who can sign it or reject it.
- _____ **E.** A committee meets in a markup session to decide what changes, if any, to make in the bill.
- _____ **F.** After a third reading, the bill, printed in its new form, is voted on, as long as a quorum of the members of the House or Senate is present. A majority vote is needed for passage.
- _____ **G.** A representative of the House drops the bill into a box near the clerk’s desk, or a senator, recognized by the presiding officer of the Senate, makes a formal presentation of the bill.
- _____ **H.** The bill receives a second reading as it is debated on the floor of the House and the Senate. At this time, lawmakers may propose amendments to be added to the bill.
- _____ **I.** Hearings are held during which a committee listens to testimony from proponents of the bill.
- _____ **J.** Lawmakers or others write the new bill.
- _____ **K.** The committee votes to kill the bill or send it to the House or Senate for action.
- _____ **L.** The bill is given a title and a number in the first reading of the bill.

DIRECTIONS →

After each cause, write the letter of its effect from the box.

- 1. Cause:** The closed-rule procedure allowed only members of the Ways and Means Committee to write a tax bill.
Effect: _____
- 2. Cause:** Ordinary citizens are generally more concerned with issues that affect their daily lives, than with international issues.
Effect: _____
- 3. Cause:** Members of a party are likely to share similar beliefs about public policy; they often do not have strong opinions about every issue.
Effect: _____

- A.** Democrats or Republicans will generally vote together.
- B.** Lawmakers often make up their own minds when voting on issues related to foreign affairs but go along with voters’ preferences on domestic problems and concerns.
- C.** House members revolted in the 1970s; they allowed members to amend bills on the floor and forced Wilbur Mills to resign.

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