

# How a Bill Becomes a Law



- Representatives in the **U.S. House** take ideas and write them into bills.
- The “**sponsor**” of a new bill proposes the bill in an effort to gain the support of other Representatives.

## Introduction

- Once a bill has a **sponsor** and the support of additional Representatives, it is introduced on the **House Floor**.
- A clerk assigns a number beginning with “**H.R.**” (standing for **House Resolution**) and reads the bill to the entire House.



## Committee Review



- The speaker sends the bill to a **committee** made up of Representatives with **expertise** on the topic.
- The **committee** reviews, researches, and revises the bill.
- The committee either approves the bill or sends it to a **subcommittee** for a more thorough evaluation.

## Reporting to the House Floor



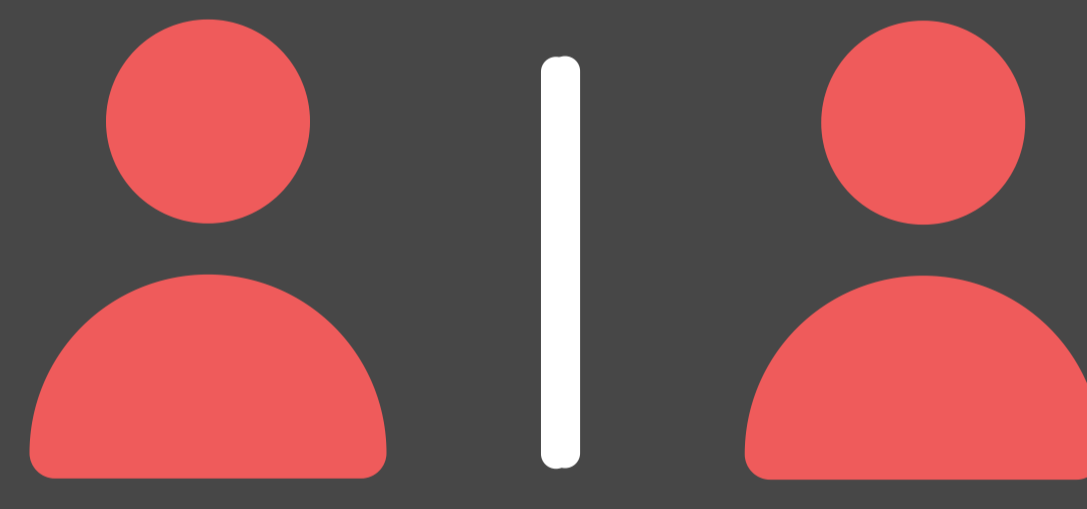
The approved bill is “**reported**” to the House Floor.

## House Debate and Vote



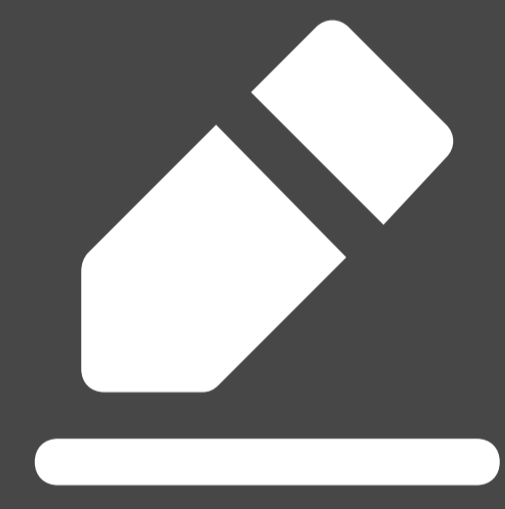
### Voice Vote:

The Representatives who support the bill say “**aye**” and those who oppose say “**no.**”



### Division Vote:

If the outcome of the voice vote is uncertain, the Speaker will have Representatives **stand** and be counted as either for or against the bill.



### Recorded or Yea and Nay Vote:

Representatives vote using an **electronic voting system**. Each member’s vote is recorded.

\*If the bill **passes** in the House, it is certified by the **House Clerk**.\*

## Referral to Senate for a Parallel Process



- The bill is sent to the **U.S. Senate**, where it is discussed in a committee and reported to the Senate floor to be voted on.
- If a majority of the **Senators** approve, the bill **passes** in the U.S. Senate.

## President's Desk

When a bill reaches the President, he has **3** choices:



**Sign:** The bill becomes **law**.



**Veto:** The President returns the bill, unsigned, to Congress within **10 days**. It does not become law unless **two-thirds** of both chambers vote to override the veto.



**Pocket Veto:** If the President fails to act within **10 days** and Congress adjourns in that time, the bill does not become law. Congress **cannot** override the pocket veto.