The Legislative Branch

Chapter 7: Congress at Work

1. **How a Bill Becomes a Law**
2. Type of Bills and Resolutions
	1. Bill-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	2. Join Resolution-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. Concurrent Resolution-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	4. Resolution-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. How a Bill Becomes a Law-The House
4. A **\_\_\_\_\_** is a proposed law presented to the House or Senate for consideration.
5. A bill or resolution usually deals with a single matter, but sometimes a **\_\_\_\_\_\_** dealing with an unrelated matter is included.
6. The clerk of the House numbers each bill, gives it a short title, and enters it into the House *Journal* and the *Congressional Record* for the day. With these actions the bill has received its first reading.
7. The Bill in Committee
8. If a committee pigeonholes a bill that a majority of the House wishes to consider, it can be brought out of committee via a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
9. Most committees do their work through several **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**— divisions of existing committees formed to address specific issues.
10. Committees and subcommittees often hold public hearings or make a junket (trip) to gather information relating to a measure.
11. Committee Action
12. When a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** has completed its work on a bill, it returns to the full committee. The full committee may do one of several things:
	1. Report the bill favorably, with a “do pass” recommendation.
	2. Refuse to report the bill.
	3. Report the bill in amended form.
	4. Report the bill with unfavorable recommendation.
	5. Report a committee bill.
13. Scheduling a Debate
14. A bill is placed into one of **\_\_\_\_\_\_** calendars before going to the floor for consideration:
15. The Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
16. The House Calendar
17. The Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House
18. The Consent Calendar
19. The Discharge Calendar
20. Before most measures can be taken from a **­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, the Rules Committee must approve that step and set a time for its **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on the floor.
21. The Bill on the Floor
22. The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** includes all members of the House, however, they sit as one large committee and not as the House itself.
23. When the Committee of the Whole resolves itself, the Speaker steps down and another member presides. General debate follows.
24. Severe limits are placed on floor debate due to the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** large size.
25. Majority and minority floor leaders generally decide in advance how they will **\_\_\_\_\_\_** the time to be spent on a bill
26. Voting on the Bill
27. There are **\_\_\_\_\_** methods of taking a floor vote in the House:
	1. During voice votes the Speaker calls for the “ayes” and then the “noes.”
	2. In a standing vote, members in favor of for and then those opposed to the bill rise and then are counted by the clerk.
	3. One fifth of a quorum can demand a teller vote, in which the Speaker names two tellers, for and against, and members pass by each one to be counted
	4. A roll-call vote may be demanded by one fifth of the members present.
28. Once a bill has been approved at second reading, it is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, or printed in its final form. It is then read for a third time and a final vote is taken.
29. How a Bill Becomes a Law-The Senate
	1. Introducing the Bill
30. Bills are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** by senators, who are formally recognized for that purpose.
31. Proceedings are much less **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**in the Senate compared to the House.
32. The major differences between House and Senate rules regard **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** over measures.
33. As a general matter, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** may speak on the floor for as long as they wish.
34. This freedom of debate allows for the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** possible discussion of matters on the floor.
	1. Filibuster and Cloture
35. A **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is an attempt to “talk a bill to death.”
36. A senator may exercise his or her right of holding the floor as long as necessary, and in essence talk until a measure is dropped.
37. Rule XXII in the Standing Rules of the Senate deals with cloture, or limiting debate
38. If at least 60 senators vote for **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, no more than another 30 hours may be spent on debate, forcing a vote on a bill.
	1. Conference Committee
39. Any measure enacted by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** *must* have been passed by both houses in identical form.
40. If one of the houses will not accept the other’s version of a bill, a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** committee is formed to iron out the differences.
41. Once a conference committee **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** work on a bill, it is returned to both houses for final approval. It must be accepted or rejected without amendment.
42. The Final Step
43. The Constitution provides **four** options for the President when he receives a bill:
	1. The President may sign the bill, and it then becomes law.
	2. The President may veto the bill, or refuse to sign it. The President’s veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the members present in each house.
	3. If the President does not act upon a bill within 10 days of receiving it, it becomes law.
	4. A pocket veto occurs if Congress adjourns within 10 days of submitting a bill and the President does not sign it. The bill then dies.

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1. **Taxing and Spending Bills**
2. What is the role of Congress regarding taxes?
3. Taxes as % of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** are LOW!
4. US=30%
5. UK=34%
6. France=44%
7. Sweden=50%
8. All revenue bills must start in **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
9. House Ways & Means Committee
10. Senate Finance Committee
11. All tax bills are debated under a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** , which forbids members from offering any amendments to a bill from the floor
12. What is the role of Congress regarding taxes?
13. Under the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**the Senate has the authority to amend tax bills passed by the House.
14. To many people they view the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**as the place where special interest groups are able to get tax provisions they oppose taken out of a House bill
15. In the Senate, no **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** rule exists, and tax bill often do become collections of amendments
16. Most of the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** deal with particular interests in members’ states.

C. What is the role of Cong. regarding spending money?

1. U.S. spends over $**2** trill/yr. (debt v. deficit)
2. Congress appropriates—approves—government spending
3. Authorization vs. Appropriation
4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**-specific departments ask to receive money from Congress
5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**-Congress sets up federal programs and specifies how much money can be used
6. President submits a budget proposal
7. H & S **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Committees
8. Hear testimony on value of gov. programs
9. Uncontrollables vs. Discretionary (2:1)
10. Entitlements: SS, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.
11. **Influencing Congress**
12. How do voters influence Congress?
13. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: people one is elected to serve
14. Needs of constituents vs. personal beliefs
15. Daily life=constituents, Other=personal
16. Taking the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:
17. Visits home
18. Letters/Calls/Emails/Visits
19. Polls
20. Big supporters’ wish lists
21. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** can be manipulated!
22. Opponents enlighten, incumbents do the same
23. How do political parties influence Congress?
24. The more important the issue to the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, the more partisan the vote
25. Some issues aren’t clearly **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** by parties
26. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** do mean *something*:
27. R: less spending, local solutions, business and $$
28. D: social-welfare, tax help for ¢, regulate business
29. Sometimes Congress can be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!
30. Vote with respected colleagues
31. Vote how the people with big sticks tell you to
32. What are the other influences on Congress?
33. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
34. Proposals, media pressure, favors/punish
35. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
36. Lobbyists, info, citizen action, testimony, $
37. Political **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Committees (PACs)
38. Political fundraising organizations
39. Personality
40. Nature of issue (personal vs. people)
41. Congressional staff
42. **Helping Constituents**
43. How do lawmakers help individual constituents?
44. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: helping people w/problems
45. Caseworkers handle small problems
46. Lawmakers handle big problems
47. Why **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?
48. Votes, oversight, it’s the nice thing to do
49. Helping the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** back home
50. Pork-barrel: bring home the (bacon) public works
51. logrolling
52. Federal grants/contracts: get a return on tax $
53. Military contracts, federal projects, etc.