TEACHER NOTES LESSON 19

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Bill

HOUSE

Bill Introduced: Representative(s) submit proposal for new law. AT this stage, it is called a "bill."

Assigned to Committee for study:

Subcommittee: holds hearings and makes revisions.
Full Committee: may lay the bill aside (table it) or release it (report it out) with a recommendation to pass it.

Rules Committee: This committee makes rules for debating the bill in the House and decides when the bill will be up for debate. It determines how long the debates will last.

"Floor" Action: The full House debates the bill and may add amendments. If a *simple majority* (one more than half) of Representatives vote for it, the bill "passes and goes to the Senate.

House must vote to approve the compromise version of the bill.

Bill

SENATE

Bill Introduced: Senator(s) submit proposal for new law. At this stage, it is called a "bill."

Assigned to Committee for study:

Subcommittee: holds hearings and makes revisions.
Full Committee: may lay the bill aside (table it) or release it (report it out) with a recommendation to pass it.

"Floor" Action: The full Senate debates the bill and may add amendments. Senators can debate a bill continuously unless they vote to limit discussion. For most bills, when a simple majority of Senators vote for it, the bill "passes" and goes to the House.

Senate must vote to approve the compromise version of the bill.

To Senate **To House**

Conference Committee: When related bills have passed both houses, a conference committee is formed with some members of each house. They meet to work out differences between the two versions of the bill.

President of the United States: has 10 days (except Sundays) to consider the bill. The President can either

Law

- sign the bill – which then becomes law, or

Veto

- veto (reject) the bill and return it to Congress