



U.S. Government

Bill to Law Simulation

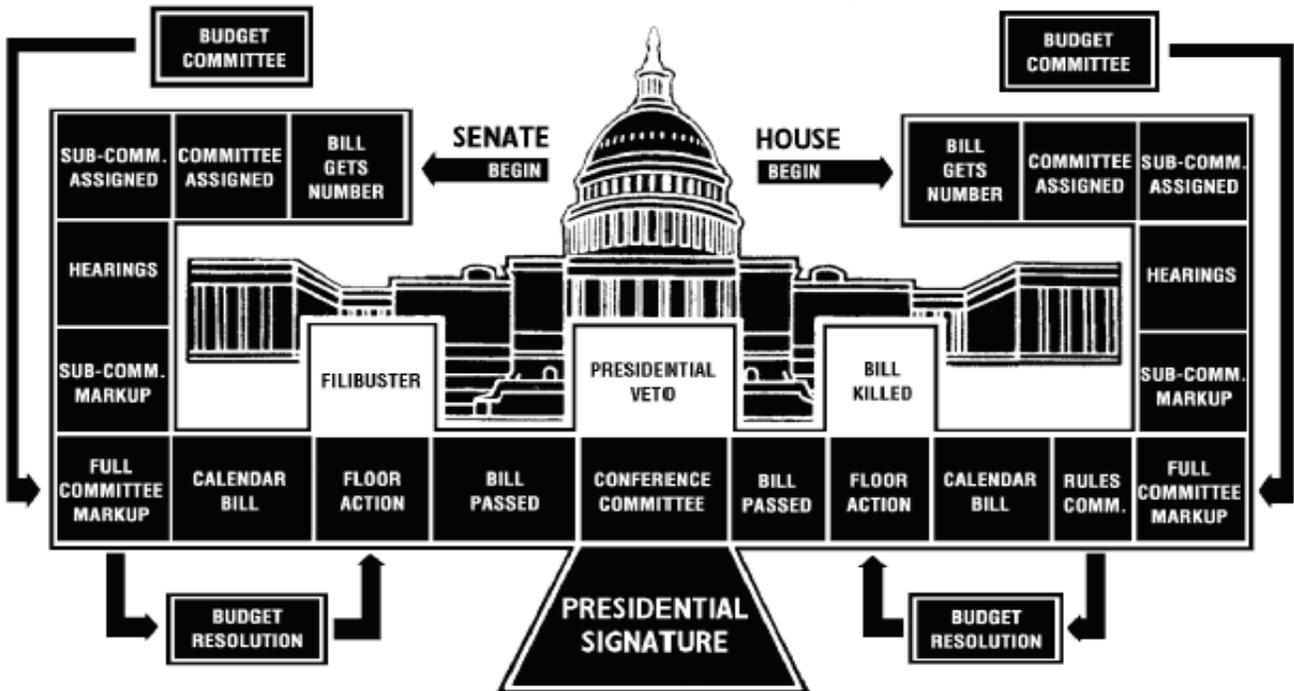
Adapted from Kara Redding (Tartan High School, MN)

Name: _____

Section: _____

Score: ____/5

Directions: You will be working in pairs to come up with a proposal on a new bill and have to work through the political process in order to attempt to get it passed. At the end of the simulation you will reflect on the process and what you learned.



Step 1: Writing the Bill

Title of Your Bill: *House Bill* # ____ : _____

This bill will ensure that _____

Who will benefit if this bill becomes a law?	Who might lose out?	Why is it okay that these people might lose out?

How does this law benefit your constituents? (Use the map to see which state and district you represent. Use the income, race, religion, age, and political beliefs of your constituents as evidence in your response.)

This law benefits my constituents because _____

How is your law enforced?

Who enforces it?

What is the consequence if the law is broken?

After your bill is signed into law by the President, how will your law be implemented? Please include here special exceptions, additional details, and step-by-step processes, current practices that need to be changed in order to accomplish your goal.

1. The Executive Department in charge of implementing my bill is _____

because _____
_____.

2. In order to implement my bill, this department must first _____

_____.

3. Next, they must _____

_____.

4. Finally, they must _____

_____.



How will your bill be paid for?

(Answer the question corresponding with the box you check. You may check more than one box.)

- Raise in taxes (*Will you raise taxes on rich citizens, poor citizens, and/or middle class citizens?*)
- Borrowing money from foreign countries (*Which country will you borrow from and how much?*)
- Cutting spending in another department (*Which executive department(s) will you cut spending from?*)

Once your bill is made into a law, what or who needs to make a change?

What/Who needs to change?	What is the change?	About how much money is needed?
●		\$
●		\$
●		\$

Step 2: Defending your Bill

When your bill goes through committee, the House, and the Senate, you will have to convince the other representatives that your bill is a good idea.

Preparation

Imagine you were against your own bill. What arguments would you make against it? What are your bill's potential weaknesses?

This bill could be problematic because _____

_____.

Argument

Good morning, fellow Congressmen and women. I am Representative _____¹ of _____² and I am here to propose a new bill called House Bill # _____:
_____³

It is important this bill becomes a law because:

- Reasoning:

- Reasoning:

- Evidence (use data about your constituents):

Step 3: Committee

Markup! In the space below, summarize the changes the committee members made to your bill. (1-3 sentences)

The Committee Vote

	For	Against
House Bill # ____: _____ (Title of your bill)		
	Passed?	Y / N

¹ Your name

² State you represent

³ Title of your bill

Step 4: The House of Representatives

Markup! In the space below, summarize any changes the representatives made to your bill. (1-3 sentences)

The House of Representatives Vote

	For	Against
House Bill # ____: _____ (Title of your bill)		
	Passed?	Y / N

Step 5: The Senate

Markup! In the space below, summarize any changes the senators made to your bill. (1-3 sentences)

The Senate Vote

	For	Against
House Bill # ____: _____ (Title of your bill)		
	Passed?	Y / N

Step 6: The President

Veto?

~OR~

Signature: _____

Reflection

Please answer in ***complete sentences***. Answer each question ***fully***.

Include at least three vocabulary words from those listed below and at least one from each level:

Bill	Law	Constituent	Implement	Enforce
Veto	Obstacle	Markup	Filibuster	Cloture

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
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1. Did your bill become a law? Why or why not? Do you agree with this decision and why?
2. Explain the obstacles your bill faced during the process of becoming a law. Were these obstacles overcome? Why or why not?
3. What did you learn about the U.S. process of law-making that you didn't know before? Explain.
4. Think about the authors of the Constitution. What kind of government they were hoping to make? Why do you think they made the law-making process is so complicated?