



I'm Just a Bill . . . (Borrowed from Ms. Redding)

The purpose of this project is for you to experience for yourself the process of an idea becoming a bill, and that bill becoming a law.

Content Goals

Every student will be able to:

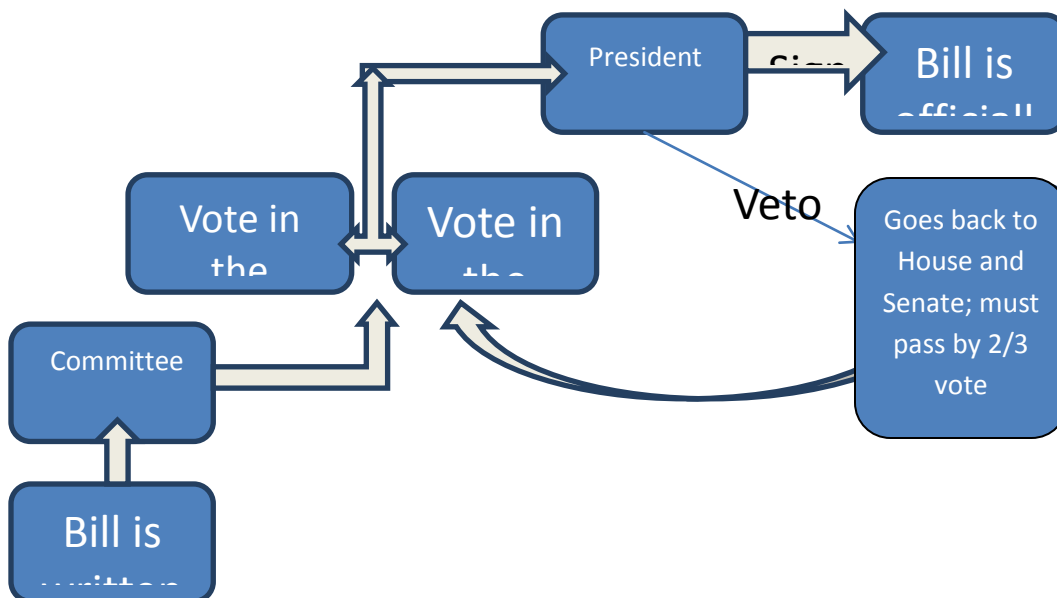
- Identify the steps that must be taken in order for a bill to become a law.
- Evaluate why the process of making a law is so complicated.
- Create their own bill and identify a realistic process to implement this law.
- Debate about other students' bills and identify areas of improvement.

Language Goals

Every student will be able to:

- Discuss why the process of making a law is so complicated and what that process is supposed to accomplish.
- Explain with details a potential law of their choosing, and write an action plan that describes how this law would be implemented.
- Defend their bill in a committee and create an argument that will (hopefully) convince their classmates to pass their bill.
- Evaluate other students' bills and revise them by discussing areas of improvement as a group.

Process



Step 1: Writing the Bill

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

The goal your bill will accomplish:

Who will benefit from this new potential law?	Who might lose out because of this new potential law?	Why is it okay that these people might lose out?

How does this law benefit your constituents, or the people in your district who you represent?

How will your bill be paid for? (Remember, the government owes a LOT of money and half the Representatives are not willing to raise taxes.)

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

What needs to change?	How much money is needed?
●	\$
●	\$
●	\$

The Details. Now that you've written your goal, please list the specific regulations that will make it possible for you to accomplish this goal. Please include here special exceptions, additional details, and step-by-step changes that need to be made in order to accomplish your goal.

1.

2.

3.

4.

How is your law enforced? Who enforces it? What is the consequence if the law is broken?

Signature of Representative Proposing this Bill: _____

Signature of Representative Seconding this Bill: _____

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

If you were against your own bill, what arguments would you make against it? What are your bill's potential weaknesses?

Argument

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

It is important this bill becomes a law because:

-

-

-

Step 3: Committee

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

Step 4: The House of Representatives

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

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 the questions that follow in complete sentences and in your best English.

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