**How A Bill Becomes A Law**

In the House of Representatives:

1. Bill sponsors circulate a letter to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ other members about their bill and explain why to support it BEFORE introducing the bill on the floor.

* The bill may have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a tacked-on (many times unrelated) measure not likely to pass on its own (typically money related)

2. Sponsor introduces the bill on the floor. At that time, the clerk gives it a number, title and brief summary and enters it into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + - There will be a total of \_\_ readings of the bill in the House. The first occurs when the bill is introduced. The second reading is to open the bill for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in floor consideration, and the third occurs just before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote.

3. After the first reading, the bill is sent to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Committee Chair then sends the bill to the proper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if appropriate.

* Some bills get buried in committee (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) Some also get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (meaning put out.)

4. A bill with a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” response in committee is sent on. The Chair of the committee/subcommittee uses the appropriate calendar to schedule its reading. (Certain days are for certain types of legislation; therefore, the numerous calendars.)

5. Once the bill leaves the committee, it goes on to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee which either checks the bill and accepts it or kills it. The Rules Committee can set \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for debate, prohibit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the bill on the floor, and can vote to suspend the rules to make voting easier.

6. If a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is present (218 members), floor debates can begin on the bill. Debates are limited to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per member unless unanimously granted more time.

* + - At any time, any member can “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” This is a demand for a vote to end the debate period. If adopted, debate then stops and a vote is taken.

7. Voting: There are 3 types of votes. 1- “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Vote” is an audible “aye or no” 2- “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Vote” is a physical movement to “stand and be counted” if in favor 3- “Teller Vote” occurs when a representative is chosen from each party and member “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” being counted as they do so (This type of vote is outdated and has been replaced with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Voting. There are now 48 locations throughout the Capitol Building where members may vote either yea, nay or present. Members vote “present” for a quorum call or to be registered as a refrain.)

* + - Separate votes must be taken for each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ action. For example, votes must be taken to accept each amendment to the bill, to table the bill, to move the previous question, etc.

8. If a bill passes the House with a \_\_\_\_\_ majority, it is signed by the Speaker of the House and taken to the Senate by a page to the President of the Senate's desk.

In the Senate:

The protocol is much the same through #4 of the House steps. There is no Rules Committee in the Senate, so a bill moves from committee straight to floor consideration. If 2/3 of the Senate is present, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in attendance and floor consideration may begin.

1. On the floor, there is no debate limit for Senators (in either time or subject.)

* + - They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “move the previous question”
    - There is a \_\_\_ speech limit per day
    - A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may occur. This is an attempt to “talk a bill to death.” Senators use this option to demand a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the bill or to drop it all together. They ramble on for hours, taking turns reading from the Bible, a cookbook, about the state of the nation and world, etc to keep a vote from occurring.
    - The ONLY way to stop a filibuster is by invoking the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rule. 16 senators must propose to invoke the rule, and when voted on 60 senators must say yes. It limits debate to 30 hours and then a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote. (Typically, this doesn't work as senators respect the legislative process.)

2. If a bill was sent from the House and the Senate wants to make a change, it must be sent to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee. This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ committee (with members from both the House and the Senate) set up to rewrite/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the current unacceptable terms. (This is rare because a bill must go back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ houses if rewritten and voted on again.)

3. Once debate has ended, the senate takes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote.

4. If the bill passes, it is sent on to the President of the United States for approval.

* + - The President has 3 options: 1- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it and make it law 2- \_\_\_\_\_ it (do not sign it within 10 days) 3- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ veto- do not sign and congress adjourns before 10 days is up
    - Congress may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a veto by passing it again in both houses with a \_\_\_\_\_ majority in both houses. This is impossible with a pocket veto.