

Name _____

Law School

Fourth graders in Virginia are helping to reel in support to make the striped bass their state’s official saltwater fish. As the students work with lawmakers, they are learning how a bill becomes a law in Virginia.

Now it’s time to learn how a bill becomes a law for the entire United States. The diagram below shows one example of how a bill becomes a U.S. law. Study the diagram. Then answer the questions that follow.



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| <p>1. Anyone can come up with an idea for a law, but only members of Congress can introduce a bill to other lawmakers. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p> | <p>2. A committee, or group, from the House of Representatives reviews the bill. If the committee likes it, it sends the bill back to the House for all the lawmakers to consider.</p> | <p>3. Representatives can make amendments, or changes, to the bill. Then they vote. A yea vote means “yes.” A nay vote means “no.”</p> | <p>4. If the House approves the bill, it moves to the Senate. There, senators take similar steps to review the bill. If the Senate passes the bill, it goes to the U.S. president.</p> | <p>5. The president can sign the bill into law or veto it. To veto something is to refuse to approve it. If the president vetoes a bill, it can still become a law if two-thirds of Congress agree.</p> |
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1. Which two groups make up Congress?

2. When members of Congress **amend** a bill,

they _____.

3. In this example, in which part of Congress did the bill begin?

4. What happens after someone comes up with an idea for a law but before the bill is reviewed by a special committee?

5. What can you conclude about the U.S. president’s role in creating laws?

ANSWERS

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1. the Senate and the House of Representatives (classify and categorize)
2. change it (vocabulary in context)
3. House of Representatives (explicit information)
4. A Member of Congress introduces the bill to other lawmakers. (sequence)
5. Answers will vary. Possible answer: He or she has a lot of power. (drawing conclusions)