

FOLDABLE PROJECT  
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



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Main duty of the Legislative Branch:

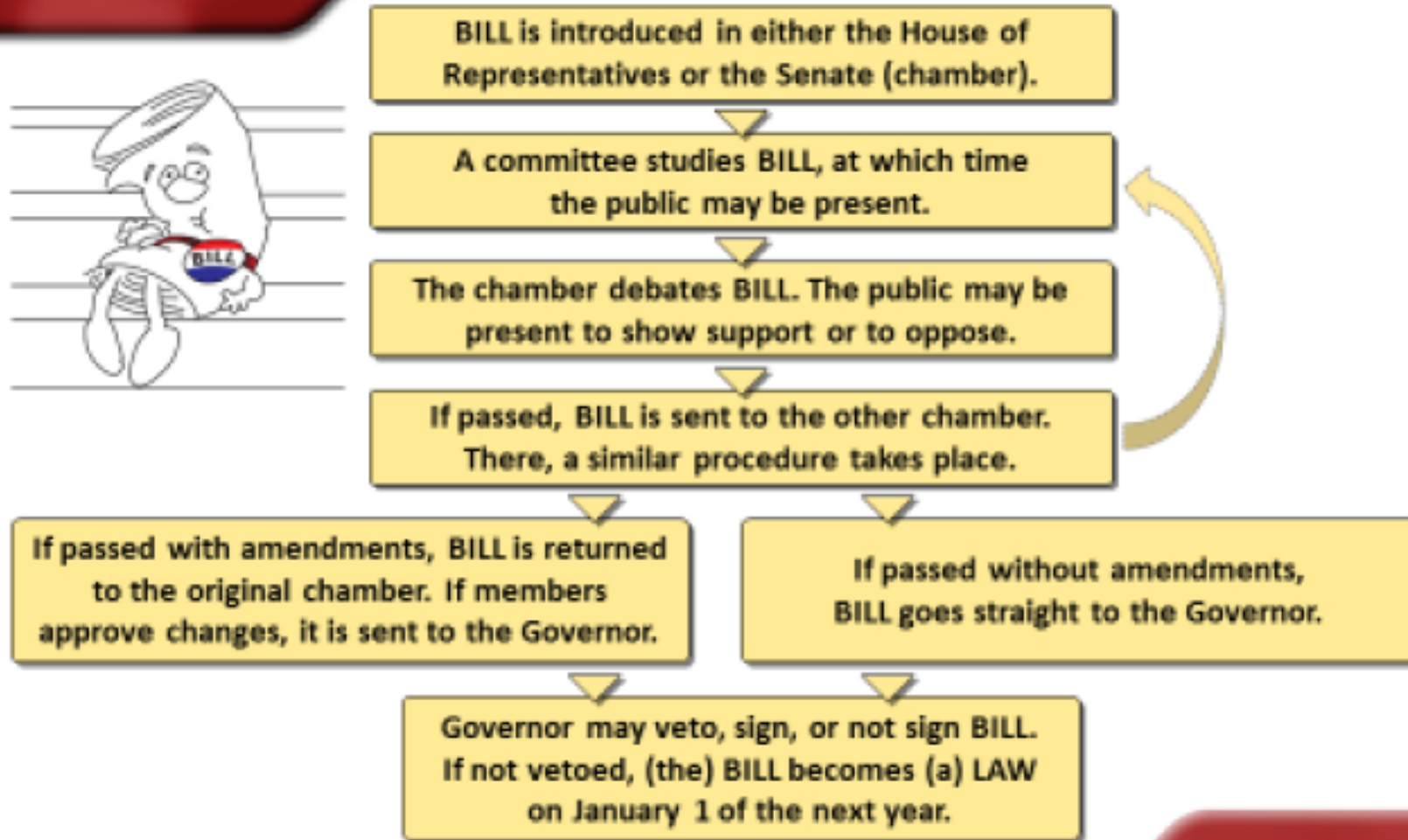
**MAKE THE LAWS**

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# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

2.

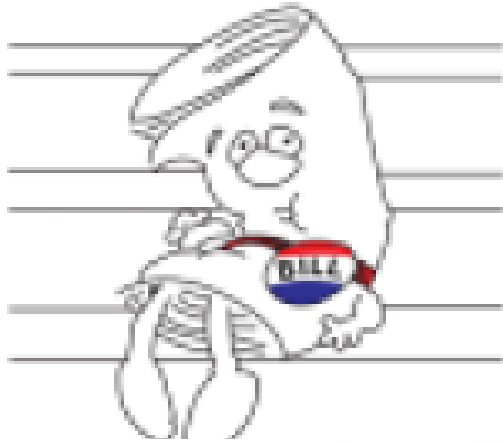
## FLOW CHART: How a Bill Becomes a Law



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

2.

## FLOW CHART: How a Bill Becomes a Law



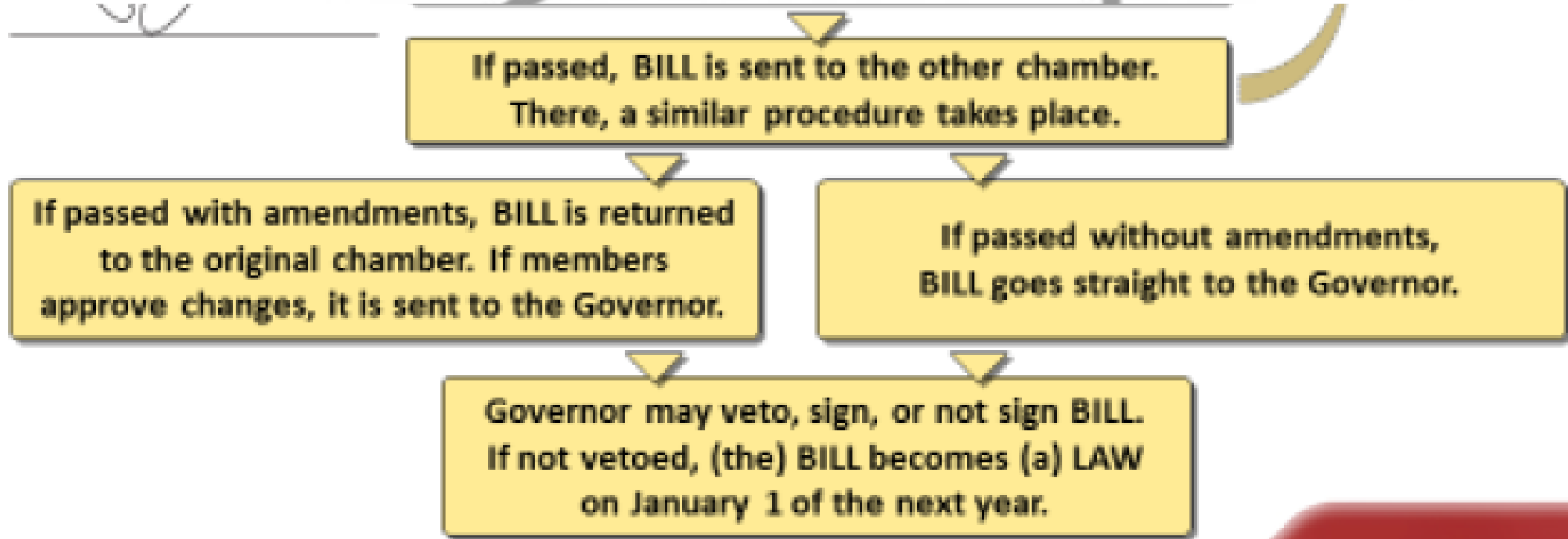
BILL is introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate (chamber).

A committee studies BILL, at which time the public may be present.

The chamber debates BILL. The public may be present to show support or to oppose.



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



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3.

## CHART: Texas Legislature

The Texas legislature is bicameral. It has two chambers: the House of Representatives (150 members) and the Senate (31 members).

The U.S. Congress is bicameral. It has two chambers: the House of Representatives (435 members) and the Senate (100 members).

Texas Legislature		
	Senate	House
Term	4 years	2 years
Age	At least 26	At least 21
Residency	5+ years	2+ years
Sessions	Meets in Austin once every two years for 140 days	

U.S. Congress		
	Senate	House
Term	6 years	2 years
Age	At least 30	At least 25
Residency	9+ years as U.S. citizen; must live in state at time of election	7+ years as U.S. citizen; must live in state at time of election
Sessions	At least once each year; no time limit	



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<b>Texas Legislature</b>		
	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House</b>
<b>Term</b>	4 years	2 years
<b>Age</b>	At least 26	At least 21
<b>Residency</b>	5+ years	2+ years
<b>Sessions</b>	Meets in Austin once every two years for 140 days	

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4.

## VOCABULARY: Legislative Branch

**bicameral:** Composed of two legislative chambers or houses.

**bill:** A proposal for a new law.

**seniority:** A rule in the Congress by which members have their choice of committee assignments in order of rank based on length of service.

**interim committee:** A group established by law or rules to work between sessions on legislative matters.

**select committee:** A group appointed by the Speaker and/or the Lt. Governor to handle specific matters. This committee is usually dissolved when its purpose is accomplished.



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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## 5. Speaker of the House.

- A.** Serves as presiding officer of the House.
  - B.** Can vote on bills.
  - C.** Decides which members serve on which committees.
  - D.** Decides which committee a bill is assigned to, which may determine if a bill eventually passes or fails.
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# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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## 6. Lieutenant Governor.

- A.** Serves as presiding officer (president) of the Senate.
  - B.** Only votes if the Senate's vote ends in a tie.
  - C.** Decides which members serve on which committees.
  - D.** Decides which committee a bill is assigned to, which may determine if a bill eventually passes or fails.
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# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



[Schoolhouse Rock | I'm Just a Bill](#)

[Almost Painless Guide | Legislative Branch](#)

# Mere History



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[merehistory.weebly.com](http://merehistory.weebly.com)

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