

FIGURE 8-1 How a Bill Becomes Law

ENACTMENT
INTO LAW

FLOOR ACTION

COMMITTEE ACTION

INTRODUCTION

Bill introduced
in House

Referred to House
committee, which
holds hearings and
recommends
passage

House debates
and passes

Much legislation
begins as similar
proposals in both
houses

House and Senate
members confer,
reach compromise
on all differences
between the two
versions

House and
Senate approve
compromise

President signs
into law

Bill introduced
in Senate

Referred to Senate
committee, which
holds hearings and
recommends
passage

Senate debates
and passes

All bills must be
approved by the
House and Senate
in identical form
before they can
be sent to the
president

