

TABLE 3.1 Procedural Differences at Preliminary Stages of the Legislative Process

House	Senate
Bills are usually introduced before committee or floor action can proceed.	Committees may originate their own bills without first having measures sent to them.
No effective way to challenge the Speaker's (parliamentarian's) referral decisions.	Referrals are subject to appeals from the floor, but unanimous consent is used to correct erroneous referrals.
The Speaker is granted authority by House rules to refer bills to more than one committee.	Multiple referrals occur by unanimous consent, although the majority leader and minority leader can jointly offer a motion to that effect.
The Speaker is authorized by chamber rule, subject to House approval, to create ad hoc panels to consider legislation.	Neither the majority leader nor the presiding officer has authority under Senate rules to create ad hoc panels to process legislation.
Generally difficult to bypass committee consideration of measures.	Bypassing committee consideration of measures occurs more easily.
Floor action is sometimes less important for shaping policies than is committee action.	Floor action is as important as committee action in decision making.