

TABLE 1.1 Several Major Differences Between the House and Senate

House	Senate
Shorter term of office (2 years)	Longer term of office (6 years)
Adheres closely to procedural rules on floor activity	Operates mostly by unanimous consent
Narrower constituency	Broader, more varied constituency
Originates all revenue bills	Sole power to ratify treaties and to advise and consent to presidential nominations
Policy specialists	Policy generalists
Less press and media coverage	More press and media coverage
Power less evenly distributed	Power more evenly distributed
Less prestigious	More prestigious
More expeditious in floor debate	Less expeditious in floor debate
Strict germaneness requirement for floor amendments	No general germaneness rule for floor amendments
Less reliance on staff	More reliance on staff
More partisan	Somewhat less partisan
Strict limits on debate	Unlimited debate on nearly every measure
Method of operation stresses majority rule	Traditions and practices emphasize minority rights