

Social Studies Assessment For the Legislative Process Bill Becomes a Law

Maine Learning Results: Civics and Government

C1 Fundamental Principles of Government and Constitutions

Civics and Government

C. Fundamental Principles of Government and Constitutions

1. Explain the meaning and importance of fundamental principles of American constitutional democracy (e.g., popular sovereignty, rule of law, three branches of government, representative institutions, shared powers, checks and balance, and separation of church and state.)

Assessment Summary:

After a unit covering the history and development of the United States Constitution, and completing activities associated with watching the documentary, *There ought to be a Law*, students will apply their knowledge to complete this authentic assessment of the legislative process in general, and the process as it specifically relates to the formation of a bill of their choice.

Civics and Government C1

1. Students will list the function of each branch of the United States government as it relates to a bill becoming a law. Students will also explain why it is important for all three branches of government to be involved in the law making process.

Suggestions for Prior Instruction:

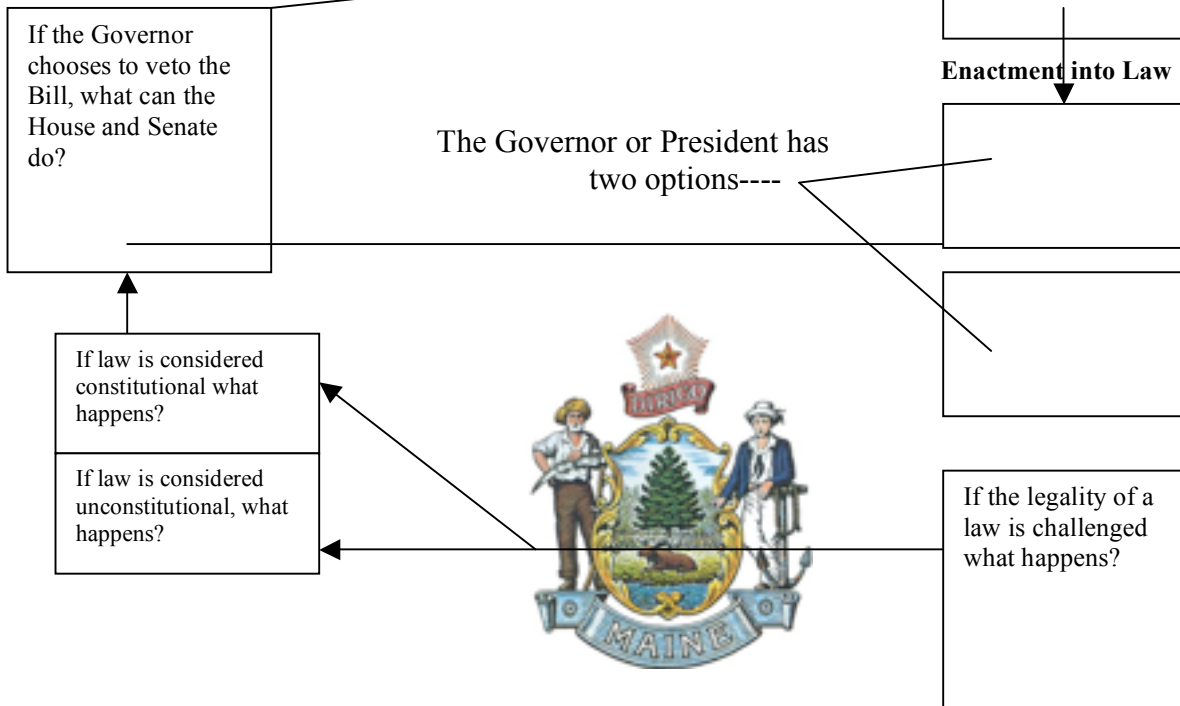
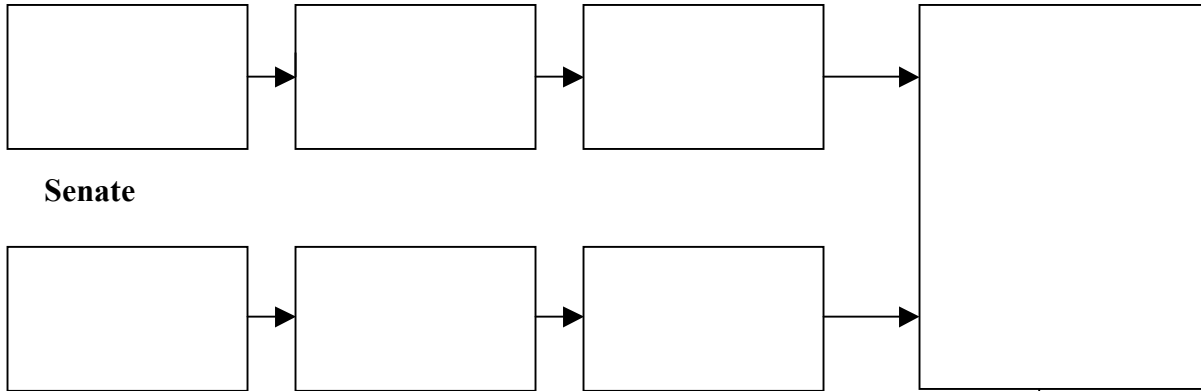
- Students should have completed a unit on the United States Constitution.
- Students should have a basic understanding of the legislative branch including the fundamental similarities and difference between both houses.
- Students should understand the role of the executive branch in our government including some of its most important powers.
- Students should be able to explain the role of the judicial branch, including the power of judicial review.
- Students should be familiar with the American system of checks and balances.
- Students should understand the role of each branch of government and how a bill becomes a law.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

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Step 1. Complete the chart below to introduce your bill. In each box, make a note indicating the steps the bill must go through in becoming a law.

House of Representatives



From Bill to Law

Civics and Government C1 **Assessment**

Step 2. List the functions of each branch of the United States government as it relates to a bill becoming a law.

Legislative Branch-

Executive Branch-

Judicial Branch-

Explain why it is important for all branches to be involved in this process.

Civics and Government C1 **Assessment**

Step 2. Describe your bill and explain why you would like to see this bill become a law. Refer to the chart above as you indicate the path that the bill must follow. In your essay, explain the part played by special interest groups or “lobbyists” in this process. Be creative but make sure you are accurate in describing the steps the bill must take.