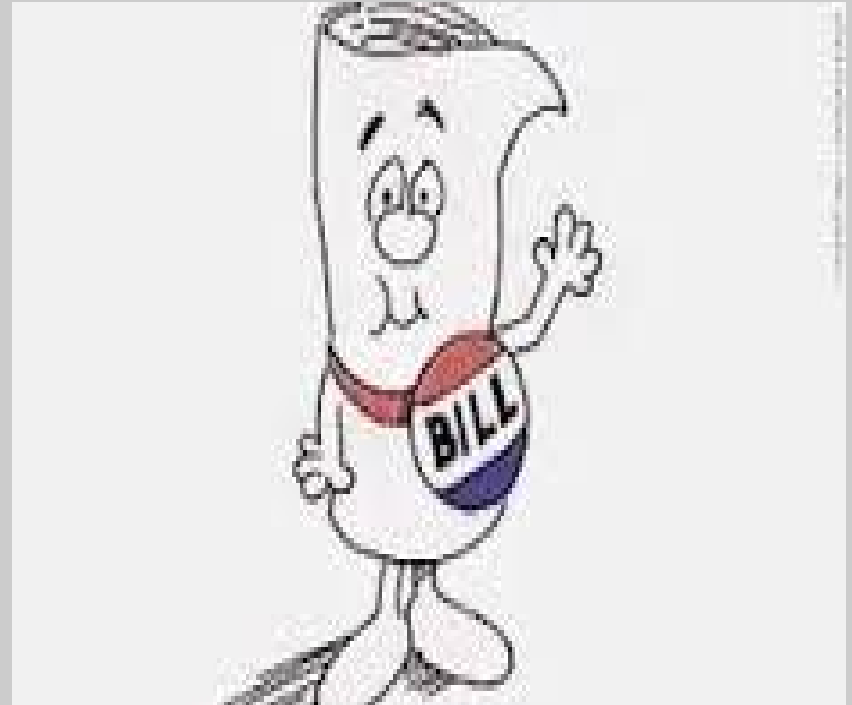


How a Bill Becomes a Law

Madison P.

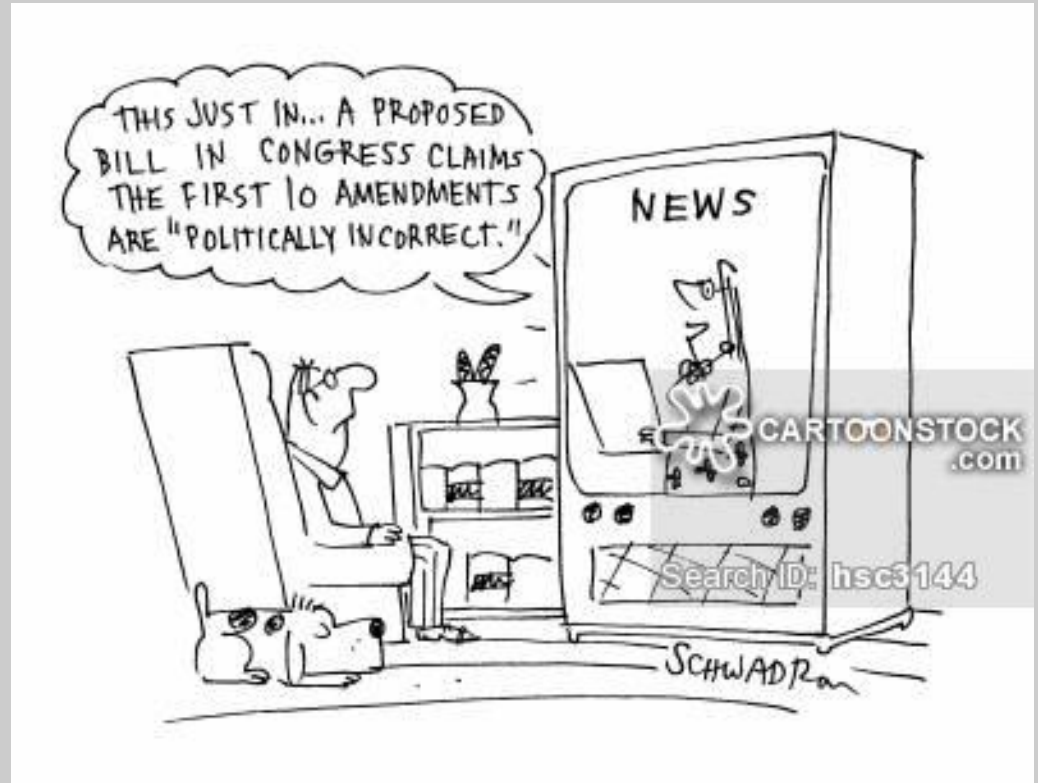
The Bill Begins

- Laws begin as an idea.
- The ideas come from a citizen or representatives.
- The representatives discuss the idea/law and if they agree they research the idea and write them into bills.



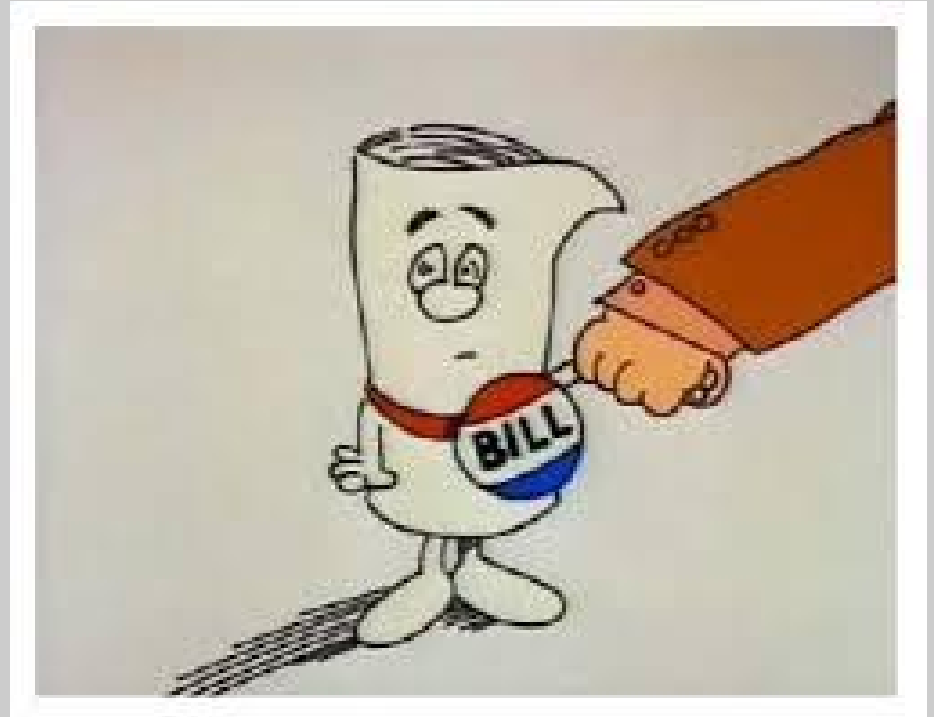
The Bill is Proposed

- When the representatives have written a bill, the bill needs a sponsor.
- They talk it over with other representatives about the bill.
- Once a bill has a sponsor and the support of other representatives, it's ready to be introduced.



The Bill is Introduced

- When the bill is introduced in the House of Representatives, a bill clerk assigns it a number that begins with H. R.
- A reading clerk reads the bill to all of the representatives, and the speaker of the house sends it to one of the house standing committees.



The Bill is Reported

- When the committee has approve the bill it is sent or reported to the house floor.
- Once reported, the bill is ready to be debated by the House of Representatives.



The Bill is Debated

- When a bill is debated, representatives discuss the bill and explain why they disagree or agree with it.
- Then a reading clerk reads the bill section by section and the representatives recommend changes.
- When all the changes have been made, the bill is ready to be voted on.



The Bill is Voted On

- There are three ways a bill can be voted on:
 1. Viva Voce (Voice Vote) the speaker of the House of Representatives who support the bill to say “aye” and those that oppose it say “no”.
 2. Division: The speaker of the house asks those representatives who support the bill to stand up and be counted, and those who disagree with the bill to stand up and be counted.
 3. Recorded: Representatives record their vote by using an electronic voting machine. Representatives can vote yes, no or present. (They can vote present if they don't want to vote for it or they are mutual about the bill.
- If a majority of the representatives say or select yes the bill passes.
- The bill is next passed on to the U.S. Senate.



The Bill is Referred to the Senate

- When a bill reaches the U.S. Senate, it goes through many of the same steps it went through in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The bill is discussed in a senate committee and then it is reported to the Senate floor and it can be voted on.
- Senators can vote on the bill by saying “yea” if they agree or by saying “nay” if they disagree.
- If the bill gets a majority of the Senate the bill is ready to go to the President



The Bill is Sent to the President

There are three different things that can happen:

1. Sign and pass the bill.
2. Refuse to sign, or veto, the bill is sent back to the U.S. House of Representatives. If $\frac{2}{3}$ of the representatives and senators support the bill, the President's veto is overridden and the bill becomes a law.
3. Do nothing (pocket veto)- If congress is in session the bill automatically becomes a law after ten days. If congress is not in session, the bill doesn't become a law.



The Bill is a Law!!

- If the bill has passed in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, has been approved by the President becomes a LAW!!!
- But, if the bill doesn't become a law it becomes a pocket veto.

