

# Legislative Process Terminology

| TERM                     | DEFINITION   |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Calendar</b>          | <p>A list of public bills awaiting action by the House. The House of Representatives has five calendars of business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Union Calendar</li> <li>2. House Calendar</li> <li>3. Private Calendar</li> <li>4. Corrections Calendar</li> <li>5. Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees.</li> </ol> <p>The calendars are compiled in one publication, printed each day that the House is in session. This publication contains a history of Senate-passed bills, House bills reported out of the committee, bills on which the House has acted, and other useful information.</p> |
| <b>Codified</b>          | <p>The purpose is to present the laws in a concise and usable form. New editions of the code are published every six years and cumulative supplements are published after the conclusion of each regular session of Congress.</p>  |
| <b>Committee</b>         | <p>The committee is comprised of 19 House and 16 Senate committees, with each having jurisdiction over various areas of public policy. Members debate and revise proposed bills, and ultimately vote to accept or reject the changes.</p> <p>Committee Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Committee on Financial Services</li> <li>• Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Hearings/Markup</b>   | <p>Congress meets with experts, supporters, and opponents to study the proposed bill. If changes are necessary, the subcommittee will mark-up the bill and vote to accept or reject the changes.</p>   |
| <b>Identical Form</b>    | <p>Each chamber of Congress (House and Senate) appoints members to a conference committee, which reconciles any differences in the pending legislation.</p>  |
| <b>Regulatory Action</b> | <p>Executive agencies draft detailed regulations, which specify how the laws are to be carried out. New and proposed regulations are announced in the Federal Register.</p>  |
| <b>Sign</b>              | <p>If the president signs the bill, it becomes law and is published by the Office of the Federal Register (OFR).</p>   |
| <b>Subcommittee</b>      | <p>The bill is examined and studied further in specified hearings to obtain views of experts, supporters and opponents; subcommittee members then vote to accept or reject changes. If accepted, the bill is returned to the committee for final approval or rejection.</p>  |
| <b>Veto</b>              | <p>Presidential vetoes are a rejection of legislation, approved by majorities in both houses of Congress. Vetoes and congressional efforts to override them are often the reason for, or a reflection of conflict between Congress and the President. The threat of a veto can prompt the modification of bills moving through the legislative process.</p>  |
| <b>H.R. ####</b>         | <p>House Resolution (house bills).</p>   |
| <b>S. ###</b>            | <p>Senate bills.</p>   |