

Legislative Branch Vocabulary

Congress - made up of the House of Representatives and Senate

House of Representatives - the part of Congress in which representation is determined by population of each state.

Senate - the upper house of Congress with 100 members.

Bicameral Legislature - a type of legislature that has 2 houses.

Bill - a proposal for a law

Cloture - an action in the Senate that can limit debate about a bill.

Conference Committee - when members of the House and Senate come together to settle any differences regarding a bill that has passed both houses.

Enumerated Powers - powers of Congress that is actually written down in the Constitution.

Expressed Powers - powers of Congress that is actually written down in the Constitution.

Filibuster - only in the Senate - a bill can be talked and talked about - used to delay a vote on that bill.

Floor Debate - when the entire House or Senate talks (debates) a bill

Implied Powers - powers of Congress that are not listed in the constitution, but which can be justified as necessary if the government is to carry out its duties.

Interest Groups - a group of people who try to influence the government to change or make laws about an issue.

Law - a bill that has been approved by Congress and signed by the President.

Lobbyist - a person who tries to influence government officials for an interest group.

Override - Congress can react to a veto in this manner.

Representative - a person who is elected to a 2 year term in the House of Representatives.

Rules Committee - powerful House of Representative committee that decides whether to put a bill on the agenda

Senator - a person who is elected to a 6 year term for the Senate

Standing Committee - a committee that decides if a bill is worthy to go on through the debate and approval process.

Veto - one of the powers of the President - rejection of a bill