

# Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

## Congress at Work

### Lesson 1 *How a Bill Becomes a Law*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

#### I. Types of Bills and Resolutions

- A. Bills dealing with individual people or places are called \_\_\_\_\_ bills, while bills involving general matters that apply to the entire nation are called \_\_\_\_\_ bills.
- B. Congress also passes \_\_\_\_\_ to make policy on unusual or temporary matters.
- C. A \_\_\_\_\_ resolution is passed in the same form by both houses of Congress, a \_\_\_\_\_ resolution is passed by one house alone and affects matters only in that house, and \_\_\_\_\_ resolutions cover matters requiring the action of the House and Senate but do not need a law.
- D. Lawmakers attach \_\_\_\_\_ to bills that are likely to pass.

#### II. Introducing a Bill

- A. In the \_\_\_\_\_, a bill is dropped into the hopper, and in the Senate, it is formally introduced by a \_\_\_\_\_, and in both cases it is assigned to a committee.
- B. When a committee chooses to act on a bill, \_\_\_\_\_ are held to gather information from experts, government officials, and interest groups.
- C. When hearings and markup of the bill are complete, the \_\_\_\_\_ votes to kill the bill or to \_\_\_\_\_ it by sending it and the accompanying report to the full House or Senate for action.

**Guided Reading Activity** *cont.***networks****Congress at Work****III. Floor Action**

- A. During floor debate, a bill may be \_\_\_\_\_ to make changes or corrections, or as a way to slow its progress or kill it.
- B. The final vote requires the presence of a \_\_\_\_\_ and a third reading of the bill.

**IV. Final Steps in Passing Bills**

- A. If one house will not accept the version passed by the other house, a \_\_\_\_\_ must work out the differences.
- B. After both houses have approved an \_\_\_\_\_ bill, the bill goes to the president, who decides whether to sign or \_\_\_\_\_ the bill, or kill it with a \_\_\_\_\_ if it was passed during the last 10 days of a session.
- C. Congress can \_\_\_\_\_ a president's veto with a \_\_\_\_\_ vote in both houses, but this is difficult to obtain, so presidential vetoes are seldom overridden.
- D. Fewer than \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all bills introduced in Congress actually become laws because some are proposed simply as gestures, some are too complicated or controversial, and many cannot gain the support or compromises necessary to survive the process.

**Summary and Reflection**

**Directions:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Identify the hazards along the path from introduction to law that keep most bills from becoming laws.

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