

# The Legislative Process



**Presented by: Lisa Elijah &  
Julie Howell**



# Welcome & Webinar Process

- Today's webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on PVA.org
- Closed Captioning is available. Click the CC button in the meeting controls bar at the bottom of your screen to turn it on.
- If you have a question, please type it in the Q&A box. Questions will be answered at the end of the program



# Introductions

- Lisa Elijah – Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Air Force Veteran, PVA member
- Julie Howell – Associate Legislative Director, Army Veteran



# What this is & what this is not

- This is NOT a comprehensive civics course
- This is NOT a place to debate politics or personal beliefs
- This is NOT going to turn into a forum for debate
  
- This IS a small overview of the structures of government
- This IS a refresher course for those that might want it
- This IS a 30,000 foot view of our current system



# As a reminder: Last Time

- Fundamentals of Government
- Federal Government
  - The Three Branches
    - Executive, Judiciary, Legislative
  - Bicameral Congress -
    - House of Representatives
    - US Senate
- State and Local Government



# Series Overview

- **The 5 W's & an H–**
  - Fundamentals of Government
  - **The Legislative Process**
  - Understanding the Issues & Becoming a Change Agent
  - Who is Advocating & Who With
  - The Art of Advocacy



# Origin of a Bill

- Ideas are the seeds to the start of a bill
  - Bills generally are initiated through constituents or hearings/meetings
- Anyone can write a bill, but only members of Congress can introduce legislation



# Creation of a Bill

- Once an idea is in place research into the issue starts
- Offices get outside validation
  - Think tanks, Advocacy Groups, CRS
- Bill is drafted







# Introduction

- Game plan on introduction:
  - Get Endorsements
  - Get Sponsors
- Introduce Bill

# What is a Committee?

A committee is a group of members appointed to investigate, debate, and report on legislation



# Committees in the House & Senate

## House of Representatives

20 Standing Committees

104 subcommittees

3 Select Committees

4 Joint Committees

## US Senate

16 Standing Committees

70 subcommittees

5 Select Committees





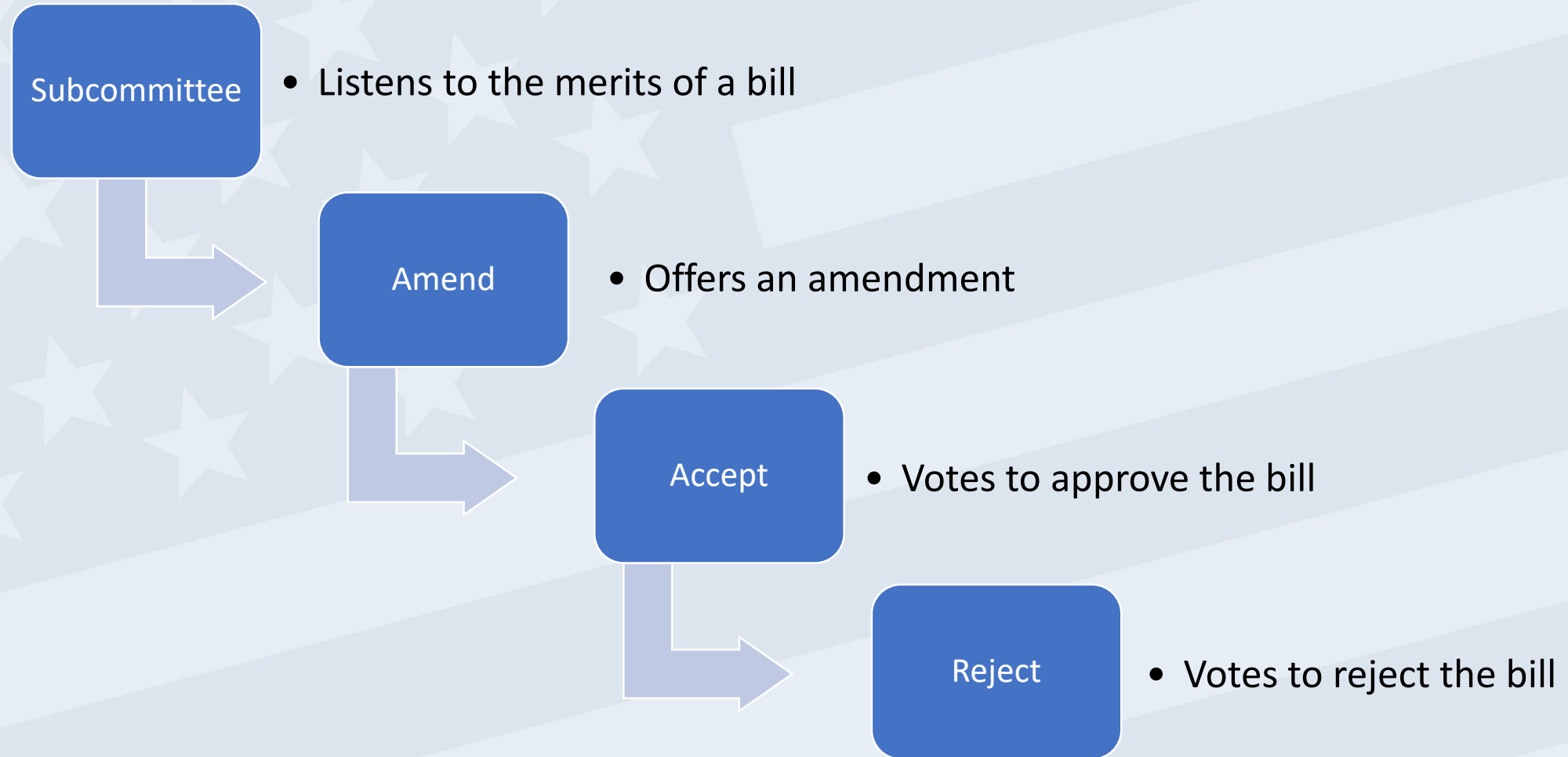
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
Health, Education  
Labor & Pensions

United States House Committee on  
**Ways & Means**  
CHAIRMAN JASON SMITH

## Committee Membership & Structure

- Members express interest
- Lead by the majority party
- High demand committees
- Leadership
  - Chairman/Chairwoman
  - Ranking members

# Subcommittee Logistics





# Committee Logistics

Full  
Committee

- Listens to the merits of a bill



Amend

- Offers an amendment



Accept

- Votes to approve the bill



Reject

- Votes to reject the bill



# Consideration & Debate

## House of Representatives

Ready for consideration

Governed by a “rule”

Floor debate

Yay’s & Nay’s

Off to the Senate

## US Senate

Scheduled for debate

Unanimous consent

Unlimited debate/Filibuster

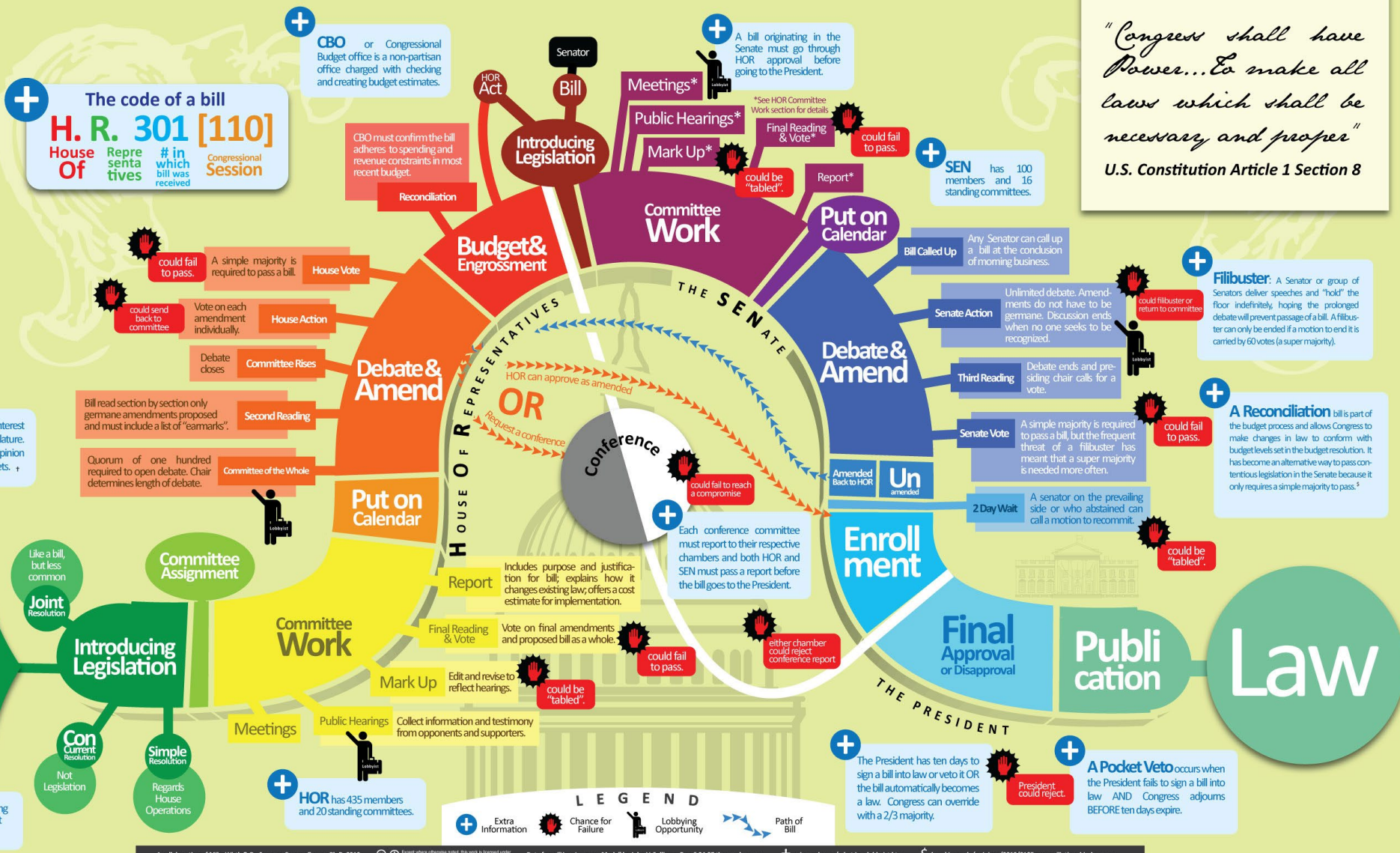
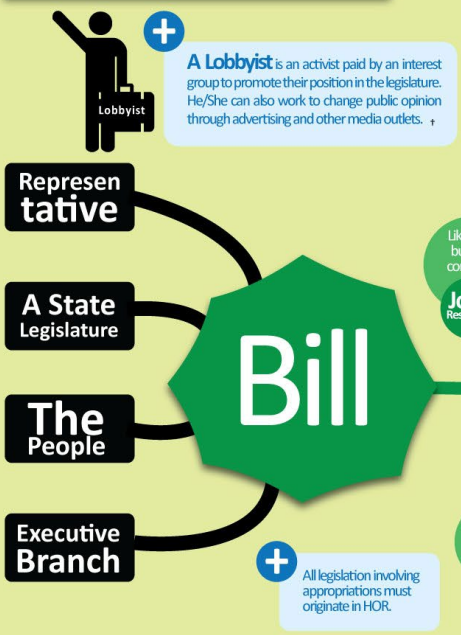
Cloture

To the President



# HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE

*"Congress shall have Power...To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper"*  
**U.S. Constitution Article 1 Section 8**





A black and white photograph capturing a significant moment in history. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is seated at a desk in the foreground, focused on signing a document with a pen. He is surrounded by a group of approximately 15 men, likely members of his cabinet or high-ranking officials, who are standing and observing the process. The men are dressed in formal suits and ties. The setting appears to be an office or a formal chamber, with a window and some architectural details visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of solemnity and official business.

# President Signs Into Law

# Oversight

- Oversight of the Executive Branch is an important Congressional check
  - House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
  - Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs
- Congressional investigative organization – Government Accountability Office (GAO)
  - 64 Inspector Generals
    - Regularly Audit and Report on attached agencies



# THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

Veterans Agenda for the 118th Congress



## Budget

- President's Budget
  - Runs on Fiscal Year
- Independent Budget (IB)
  - PVA, DAV, VFW

# Budget Areas

Two Major Spending Areas:

1. Discretionary Spending
2. Mandatory Spending



# Authorizations

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- There are 12 appropriation subcommittees that have varying times to reauthorize funding
  - Some budgets are not reauthorized every year

## FAA REAUTHORIZATION



COMMITTEE ON  
**TRANSPORTATION  
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

SAM GRANES, CHAIRMAN

# Q&A

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Again, this was just an overview of certain aspects of the Government



# Webinar Code

- For participants viewing the recording that would like credit for session one, please email the code 2A2LG to Lisa Elijah at [lisae@pva.org](mailto:lisae@pva.org)
- Join us next time on Thursday, June 22<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm
  - We will cover: Understanding the Issues and Becoming a Change Agent

