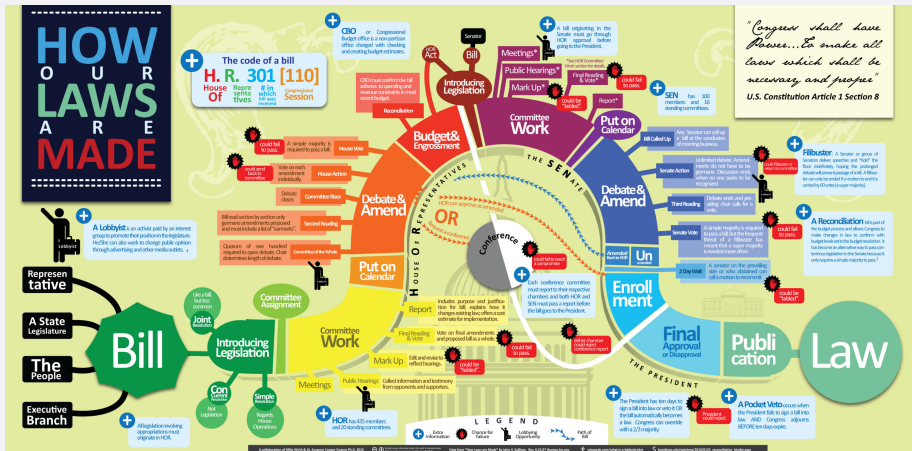


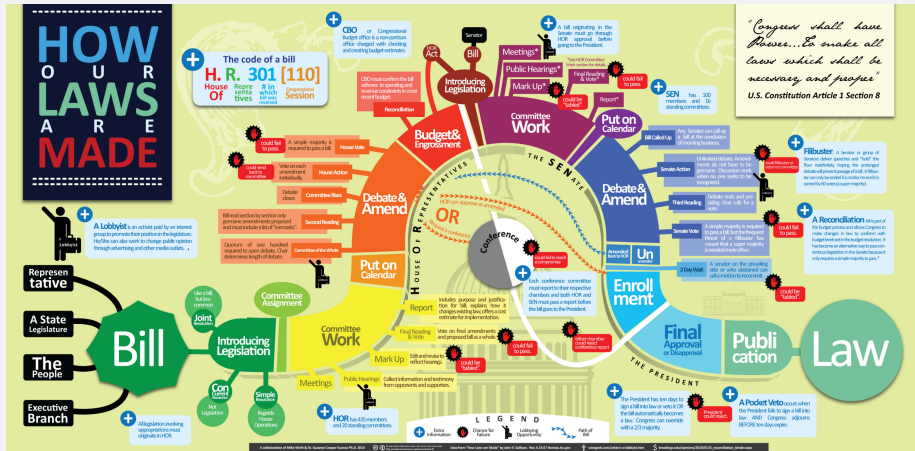
Federal Policy & Rulemaking Processes

February 10, 2026

Federal Legislative Process



Federal Legislative Process



- Committees in the House and Senate have two main roles in the legislative process. What are they?

Federal Legislative Process

Senate Committees with Health Jurisdiction

Of the Senate's 20 standing committees, 12 have significant health jurisdiction. They include:

Committees	Health Jurisdiction
Appropriations	Allocates discretionary spending, mostly via the Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies spending bill.
Armed Services	Makes policy for health care for active-duty military and dependents, as well as retired military.
Budget	Receives the President's budget request, writes the annual budget resolution, and oversees the budget reconciliation process.
Commerce, Science and Transportation	Handles issues related to consumer protection, health IT and other technology issues, and tobacco policy.
Finance	Oversees Medicare, Medicaid, the insurance portions of the Affordable Care Act, the Children's Health Insurance Program, as well as tax policies related to employer-provided health insurance, health savings accounts, and flexible spending accounts.
Foreign Relations	Handles global health issues, including AIDS, Ebola and other infectious diseases, as well as international family planning and reproductive health issues.
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions	Oversees programs of the U.S. Public Health Service Act; aging issues, and labor issues including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
Indian Affairs	Native American health, including the Indian Health Service (IHS).
Judiciary	Medical malpractice, anti-trust, and health care provided in federal prisons.
Small Business	Small business health insurance issues.
Veterans Affairs	Oversees the Veterans' Health Administration, which provides care to an estimated nine million enrolled veterans.
Select Committee on Aging	Does not direct legislative jurisdiction, but conducts oversight and investigations of issues related to aging and older Americans.

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House Committees with Health Jurisdiction

In the House, 13 of 21 standing committees have jurisdiction over some health issues. They include:

Committees	Health Jurisdiction
Agriculture	Same as Senate
Appropriations	Same as Senate
Armed Services	Same as Senate
Budget	Same as Senate
Education and the Workforce	This House committee has the same labor and pension jurisdiction as the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.
Energy and Commerce	Oversees the U.S. Public Health Service agencies, plus the Medicaid program. Shares jurisdiction with Ways and Means over Medicare parts B, C, and D.
Foreign Affairs	Same as Senate
Judiciary	Same as Senate
Natural Resources	Native American Health
Oversight and Accountability	The primary investigative committee in the House is a watchdog for all federal agencies, including HHS. It also has direct jurisdiction over the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan.
Small Business	Same as Senate
Ways and Means	Exclusive jurisdiction in the House over Medicare Part A and health-related tax policy, plus shared jurisdiction over Medicare Part B, C, and D with Energy and Commerce.
Veterans Affairs	Same as Senate

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Senate Finance Committee

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Finance Committee Republican Staff

November 2025

Economics

Becky Cole – Chief Economist
John Kashuba – Senior Oversight Counsel
Lara Rosner – Senior Retirement Policy Advisor

The team covers issues including, but not limited to, the debt limit; unemployment insurance; Social Security; and oversight of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Social Security Administration. It also provides economic advice across the Committee's jurisdiction.

Tax

Randy Herndon – Chief Tax Counsel
Moshe Dlott – Tax Counsel / IRS Detailee
Michael Gould – Senior Tax Counsel
Michael Hawthorne – Tax Counsel
Kate Lindsey – Senior Tax Policy Advisor
Clancy Lyles – Tax Policy Advisor
James Williams – Senior Tax and Economic Policy Advisor

The team covers issues including, but not limited to, domestic and international tax policy; pensions and retirement tax policy; and tax administration. The team also exercises oversight of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and its sub-agencies.

Health Care

Kellie McConnell – Health Policy Director
Gable Brady – Senior Health Policy Advisor
Erin Dempsey – Deputy Health Policy Director
Anna Rose Moore – Senior Health Policy Advisor
Amy Nabozny – Senior Health Policy Advisor
Caitlin Wilson – Senior Health Counsel

The team covers issues including health programs under the Social Security Act, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund. It also exercises oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Treasury.

Trade

Molly Newell – Chief International Trade Counsel
Mary Kate Carter – International Trade Policy Advisor
John O'Hara – Trade Policy Director and Counsel

The team covers matters including, but not limited to, customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; tariff and import quotas, and related matters thereof; the transportation of dutiable goods; and oversight of agencies within the Committee's purview.

Communications

Amanda Critchfield – Communications Director
Alexander Hughes – Press Assistant
Staci Lancaster – Staff Writer

Staff Director

Gregg Richard

Senate Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Health, Education
Labor & Pensions

CHAIR

RANKING MEMBER

HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

ABOUT



CHAIR

Bill Cassidy



RANKING MEMBER

Bernie Sanders



Majority Members (by Rank)

Rand Paul, M.D. (R - KY)

Lisa Murkowski (R - AK)

Roger Marshall, M.D.
(R - KS)

Josh Hawley (R - MO)

Jim Banks (R - IN)

Ashley Moody (R - FL)

Susan Collins (R - ME)

Markwayne Mullin (R - OK)

Tim Scott

(R - SC)

Tommy Tuberville (R - AL)

Jon Husted (R - OH)

Minority Members (by Rank)

Patty Murray (D - WA)

Chris Murphy (D - CT)

Maggie Hassan (D - NH)

Ed Markey (D - MA)

Lisa Blunt Rochester (D - DE)

Tammy Baldwin (D - WI)

Tim Kaine (D - VA)

John Hickenlooper (D - CO)

Andy Kim (D - NJ)

Angela Alsobrooks (D - MD)

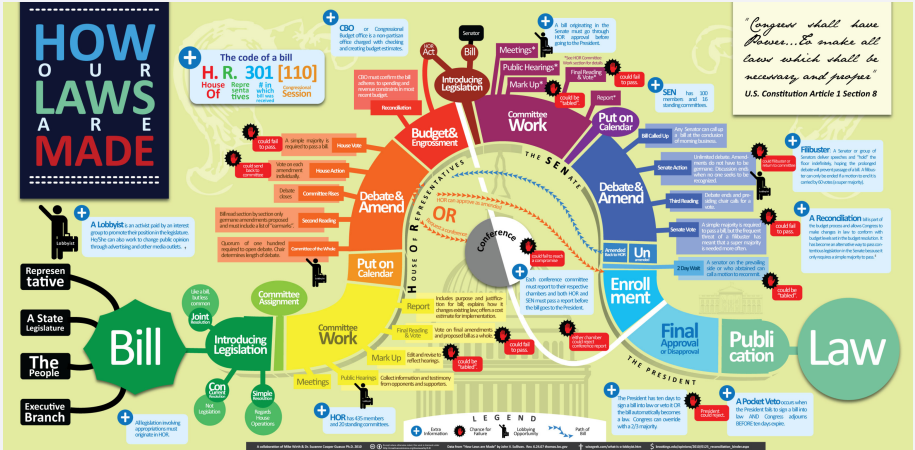
House Energy and Commerce Committee

House Energy and Commerce Committee

House Ways and Means Committee

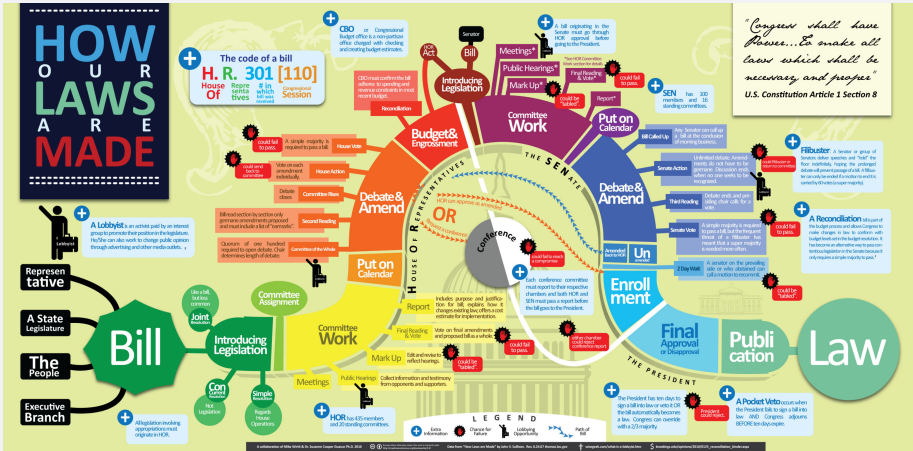
House Ways and Means Committee

Federal Legislative Process



- According to the CRS report, “Perhaps the modern Senate’s defining feature is the potential difficulty of reaching a final vote on a matter.” Why might it be difficult to reach a final vote in the Senate?

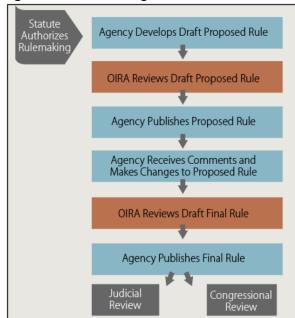
Federal Legislative Process



- Why are the Senate cloture rules different for legislation and nominations? What prompted the rule changes in 2013 and 2017?

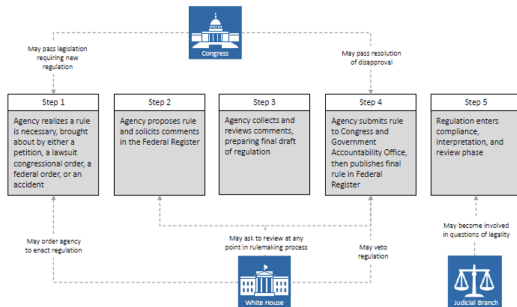
Federal Rulemaking Process

Figure 1. The Rulemaking Process



Source: Graphic created by CRS.

Federal rulemaking process



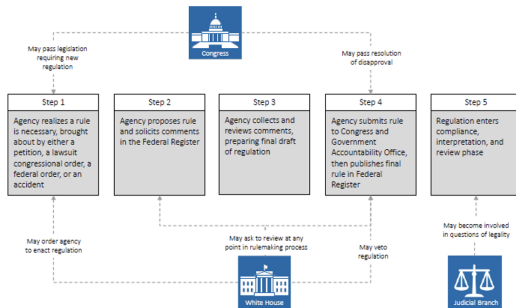
Federal Rulemaking Process

Figure 1. The Rulemaking Process



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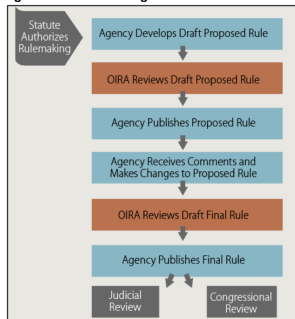
Federal rulemaking process



- Why might a policy be enacted through regulation instead of through legislation? What are some potential consequences of choosing regulation over legislation?

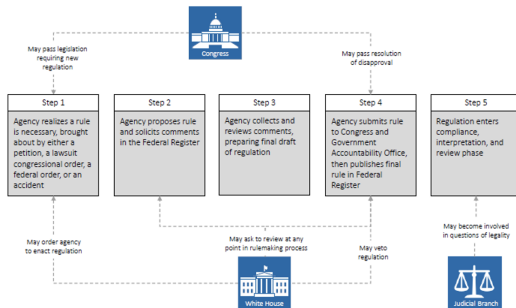
Federal Rulemaking Process

Figure 1. The Rulemaking Process



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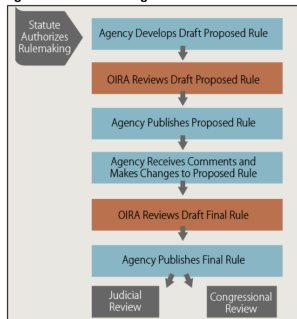
Federal rulemaking process



- What is the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the rulemaking process?

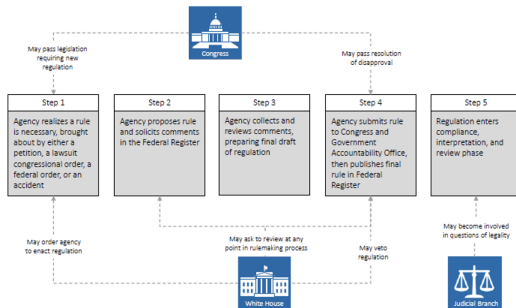
Federal Rulemaking Process

Figure 1. The Rulemaking Process



Source: Graphic created by CRS.

Federal rulemaking process



- What oversight do Congress and the judiciary maintain over agency rulemaking?

Justices Limit Power of Federal Agencies, Imperiling an Array of Regulations

A foundational 1984 decision had required courts to defer to agencies' reasonable interpretations of ambiguous statutes, underpinning regulations on health care, safety and the environment.



By **Adam Liptak**

Reporting from Washington

June 28, 2024

The Supreme Court on Friday [reduced the power of executive agencies](#) by sweeping aside a longstanding legal precedent, endangering countless regulations and transferring power from