

Key Stage 3

# Legislative Process- How a bill becomes a law

Lesson Plan

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## Legislative Process - HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

### Objectives

By the end of the session, students would be able to:

- Understand the legislative process.
- Describe the sequential steps involved in the legislative process from the introduction of a bill to its enactment into law.
- Recognize the role and importance of critical thinking and questioning in the democratic system.

### Curriculum Link

Social Studies Curriculum Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship (Grade 7, 8)

GC 4.1: Demonstrate understanding of the term law, the law making process and the importance and law and order in the country.

### Success Criteria

Students will be able to:

- Accurately define and explain key terms related to the legislative process.
- Create a flowchart that accurately represents the sequential steps a bill takes from introduction to becoming law.
- Use their critical thinking skills to express their own opinions on an issue in focus.

### Setting or Resources required

- Topics of recent or ongoing debate in Parliament
- PPT "Legislative Process: Path of a Bill to become a Law."
- Factsheet "Legislative Process - How a bill becomes a law."
- Worksheet "Path of a Bill to become a Law"

# Procedure

## Introduction (15 minutes)

Ask students about their knowledge of any recent issues that have been debated in the Parliament. Discuss how they might have seen, heard or read about those issues in the media. Explain that all the general parliament Sittings are made public via Majlis You Tube channel. (In addition to this, minutes of these Sittings are written and published on Majlis website.)

Raise the question "Why are parliamentary debates made public?" (To make the public aware of the issues and understand the advantages and disadvantages of the bill; to make known the views of different parties or members; to make the public see how well their MPs are representing them)

Ask students to think of how our country might be different if Parliament made laws in secret?

## Activity (20 minutes)

Have the students make groups of 4 or 5 students. Distribute a copy of the worksheet "Path of a Bill to become a Law" for each group.

Ask students to think of a new law they would like to propose to Parliament. It can be any creative suggestion of how to improve something about the school, or the community at large. (Eg.; about making Physical Education classes an everyday subject at school, to change the age of maturity from 18 to 16 years, to find a solution for the problem of stray cats across Male', etc.)

Ask students to discuss in their group what will happen at each stage of this law-making process and fill the worksheet accordingly.

Have students present their ideas to the class.

## Closure (5 minutes)

Recap the stages a bill goes through from being introduced to the Parliament to becoming published as a Law. Highlight on the idea of public participation in the law-making process and also why its important to have MPs who actually represent the people in a Parliament.

## WORKSHEET - Path of a bill to become a law

### Stage 1: Drafting and Introduction:

The MP that introduces the Bill to the Majlis is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bill.

### Stage 2: First Reading:

The bill is presented to the parliament with the "first reading" - only the title of the Bill is read out in the Parliament.

Title of Bill: \_\_\_\_\_

(Write your proposed idea here)

### Stage 3: Second Reading:

1. Preliminary Debate Stage: where the ideas behind the proposed bill are discussed and debated in the Majlis.

Discuss and write some ideas for and against the proposed Bill

<i>Ideas/Reasons supporting the proposed idea</i>	<i>Arguments against the proposed idea</i>
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2. Committee Review Stage: Committees examine the details of the bill, gather input from experts and stakeholders and propose any changes to the Bill. A report on the bill is then sent back to Parliament for further debate.

Write down any professionals or offices that you think can help provide expert opinions about the advantages and disadvantages of making this Bill a Law :

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## WORKSHEET - Path of a bill to become a law

Who will be impacted if this Bill becomes a Law? (Stakeholder 1)

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Who from the public might like this idea proposed in the Bill? (Stakeholder 2)

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Who might not like this idea? Or who might have a disadvantage if this rule becomes a Law?  
(Stakeholder 3)

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### Stage 4: Third Reading:

The Bill is debated one last time with the changes proposed. And is subjected to a vote by the whole Majlis whether to pass the Bill.

There are 3 options of what might happen to the Bill at this stage during the voting:

1 -----

2 -----

3 -----

### Stage 5: Presidential Assent:

Bill becomes a Law when it is ratified by the President of Maldives.

President has 2 choices to either;

1 ----- , or

2 -----

## WORKSHEET - Path of a bill to become a law

### Stage 6: Publication and Enforcement:

Once the bill is approved by the President it becomes Law.

It is published in an official document called a \_\_\_\_\_ when it becomes a Law