



Key Stage 4

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.
- Explain the types of and role of Parliamentary committees in the Law-making process.

Curriculum Link

Extension of the following topics from Strand 5 of Key Stage 3 Social Studies Curriculum

GC 4.1: Recognise, describe the law and order and the process and institutional bodies involved in the lawmaking process

GC 3.1: Demonstrate understanding of the electoral process in the Maldives and the structure and functions of the government of Maldives

Success Criteria

Students will be able to:

- Explain in detail the sequential steps in the legislative process.
- Differentiate between standing committees and select committees and name a few of them.
- Use their critical thinking skills to express their own opinions on an issue in focus

Setting or Resources required

- Factsheet "How a bill becomes a law."
- PPT "Legislative Process - Path of a Bill to become a Law."
- Worksheet "Which committee does what?"

Procedure

Introduction (10 minutes)

Ask students about a recently implemented law or a current topic of debate in Parliament. Ask questions to check their understanding of the law-making process.

Explain the step-by-step process of how a bill is introduced to parliament and the process it goes through to become a law (Refer to Legislative Process Factsheet).

Explain that in today's lesson, students will learn about the details of the different stages of the law-making process in detail.

Activity (25 minutes)

Use the PPT "Path of a Bill to become a Law" to explain to students the details of each stage of the legislative process.

After the PowerPoint presentation, ask students to form groups of 4 or 5 and discuss completing the worksheet "Which Committee does what?" by writing the name of the committee that will be responsible to work for each scenario.

Closure (5 minutes)

Recap the stages a bill goes through from being introduced to the parliament to becoming published as a Law.

Highlight the role of committees at the heart of the legislative process. Members of the Parliamentary Committees study the Bill, research and consider every aspect of the Bill. Through this function, they are also responsible for getting expert opinion and input from different stake holders that may be impacted by the law.

WORKSHEET - Which Committee does what?

Read the scenarios given below. Choose ONE of the Standing Committees that best fits to work on the given scenario.

<p><i>Scenario 1: Examining matters related to parliamentary procedures, rules, and conduct, and proposing reforms for the efficient functioning of the legislative body.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 2: Addressing public concerns by reviewing and investigating petitions submitted by citizens on various issues, such as local community grievances, environmental concerns, or service delivery problems.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 3: Investigating allegations of ethical misconduct or breaches of parliamentary rules by members of the parliament</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 4: Reviewing regulations related to environmental protection and proposing amendments for better enforcement.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 5: Bill on Financial Accountability and Transparency Act, aimed at enhancing oversight of government expenditures and ensuring fiscal responsibility.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 6: Evaluating a proposed economic stimulus package to address the impact of a financial crisis.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 7: Social Welfare Enhancement Act, focusing on improving and expanding social services for vulnerable populations.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 8: Assessing a bill related to national defense and security, including budget allocations for the armed forces.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 9: Legislation to establish and define the powers and functions of a new independent regulatory body in a specific sector.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 10: Reviewing a bill aimed at preserving and promoting cultural heritage sites while facilitating sustainable development.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 11: The International Trade and Diplomacy Act, focusing on trade agreements and diplomatic relations with other nations.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 12: Assessing a bill to restructure or privatize a state-owned enterprise to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 13: The Local Governance Empowerment Act, aimed at devolving certain powers and responsibilities to local government entities.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 14: Reviewing amendments to the judiciary system to enhance its independence and efficiency.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 15: The Sustainable Development and Climate Action Act, focusing on mitigating climate change impacts and promoting eco-friendly practices.</i> Committee: _____</p>	<p><i>Scenario 16: Assessing a bill addressing gender equality and human rights issues, such as domestic violence prevention or equal pay.</i> Committee: _____</p>
<p><i>Scenario 17: Legislation to strengthen mechanisms for oversight of government activities, ensuring transparency and accountability.</i> Committee: _____</p>	