From Bill to Law: Simplified

Congress is comprised of two law-making bodies, or chambers. In both chambers, an idea may be submitted by a member on behalf of citizens or the president.

A bill is introduced in the house when it is dropped in the hopper, a wooden box in the front of the chamber.

Once the bill has been received, it is assigned to a committee for further conversation in each chamber.

If the committees approve the bill, the bill is transferred to the conference committee for joint approval. If approved by both the House and Senate, the bills go to the president!

The president has 10 days to sign or veto the bill. If the president does not sign (i.e. doesn’t touch the bill), then the bill goes into law without his signature. If he signs, the bill is considered law. If the bill is vetoed, the bill goes back to the proposing chamber and a majority vote in both chambers can override the presidential veto, but that is rare.