In a typical year, more than 5,000 bills are introduced in Congress. But only about 150 of them become law.

The diagram below shows a bill going through the House and Senate at the same time. That can happen. But often, a bill is passed by one house of Congress, then goes to the other for action.

After a bill passes both houses, it goes to the President, who either can approve or veto (reject) it. If the President vetoes a bill, it still can become law—if two thirds of the House and the Senate vote to override it. This rarely happens.