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HOW LEGISLATION IS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION

01 Any one of the 435 members can introduce a bill. The House Clerk then assigns the bill a number and the Speaker refers the bill to one or more of the 20 standing committees.

COMMITTEE WORK

02 The committee refers the bill to the appropriate subcommittee, which seeks input from relevant agencies and, if it is a major bill, holds public hearings with industry leaders and experts.

03 **Markup session:** The subcommittee studies the feedback, offers amendments, and votes to accept or reject the proposed amendments.

04 **Markup vote:** The subcommittee votes on how to report the bill to the full committee – favorably (with or without amendments), unfavorably, or without a recommendation (which rarely happens).

05 **Final committee action:** The full committee holds its own markup. If they draft numerous amendments, they can report the original bill with new text, or introduce a new bill with all of the proposed amendments (this is called a “clean bill”).

06 **Committee action to report a bill:** The committee votes on whether or not to report the bill to the full Senate. If the committee votes yes, they write a report, which outlines what the bill intends to accomplish, oversight findings, CBO cost estimate, and sometimes dissenting opinions from committee members.

DEBATE, AMENDMENT PROCESS, AND VOTING

07 **Scheduling floor action:** The bill is then placed in chronological order on the Union calendar if it is revenue related or the House calendar if it is not revenue related.

08 **Procedural rules adopted:** The Rules Committee decides how much time will be allowed for debate and whether members can offer amendments, or House leadership will schedule the bill for streamlined consideration.

09 **General debate opens:** The “Committee of the Whole,” which includes all members but only requires a quorum of 100, must consider all bills on the Union calendar. Each bill is then open for general debate, which lasts for around 1 hour and is split equally between parties.

10 **Amending process:** The Reading Clerk reads the bill section by section, members can propose amendments, and the “Committee of the Whole” votes on each amendment, although this only functions as a recommendation and the House must vote to officially adopt the bill and amendments.

11 **Final passage:** The House votes on each amendment and drafts a final bill. They can then “recommit the bill” to committee, approve the bill, or reject it. If approved, the House will send it to the Senate for consideration and approval.