**Chapters 4 & 5: Congress at Work**

I. How a Bill Becomes a Law

* **Step 1**
* Only members of Congress may introduce a bill
* Must be written out and sponsored
* **Step 2**
* Bill is dropped into a hopper
* Assigned letters and numbers
* **Step 3**
* Bill is sent to a committee
* Speakers of the House decides which committee
* Always goes to a standing committee
* **Step 4**
* Studies the bill
* Committee calls people to debate the passage of the bill
* Makes necessary changes – Hearing and markup
* Recommends if the bill should be voted on or rejected
* **Step 5**
* Bill is placed on the House Calendar
* **Step 6**
* Entire House considerers the bill
* House debates the bill

* Members may offer amendments
* **Quorum** –
* **Step 7**
* House votes on the bill
* **Recorded Vote–**
* If passed the bill goes to the Senate
* **Step 8**
* Senate goes through steps 2-7
* **Filibuster –**
* **Cloture –**
* **Step 9**
* Two houses usually pass different versions of the bill
* Bill is ping pongs back and forth between the two houses
* Send compromise bill to the President
* **Step 10**
* If the President signs the bill it becomes a law
* **Step 11**
* If the president vetoes a bill it goes back to Congress
* **Pocket Veto –**
* If Congress is in session the bill pass
* If Congress is out of session the bill fails
* **Step 12**
* Congress has the power to override a president’s veto
* Congress overrides a veto with a 2/3rd majority vote

**Does a bill really become a law after the president signs it?**