



# Congressional Dynamics and the Legislative Process

*Get a crash course in legislation in just one day.*

If understanding and following legislation is now part of your staff's job, here's your chance to help them get up to speed in a single information-packed day. They will hear the fascinating behind-the-scenes story of how bills become law.

- How the House and Senate are two different animals—and their vital procedural differences
- Where the ideas for bills really come from and how bills are introduced
- The inside scoop on committee hearings, markups and reports
- How legislation survives to the floor and the rules and procedures that help or harm it
- How the two chambers hammer out agreements
- The president's options and Congress' recourse

Make sure the next time your staff give a legislative briefing or visit the Hill, they know their stuff.

## Sample Agenda

### 9:00 Welcome and Introduction

#### 9:05 Overview of the Legislative Process

- The dynamics of the House and Senate
- Differences between House and Senate procedures
- What drives today's legislative process
- How it has changed with the Republican majority

#### 9:40 Introduction and Referral of Legislation

- Where do the ideas for bills come from
- Drafting of legislation
- Introduction and obtaining cosponsors
- Referral of bills to committees
- Types of Referrals: multiple, joint, sequential, split, additional-initial

#### 10:10 Break

#### 10:25 The Work of Committees: Hearings, Markups and Committee Reports

- Types of committees: standing, select, special, joint
- Membership of committees
- The work of subcommittees
- Hearings
- Markups
- Committee reports
- 14-minute video of "Congress in Committees" shown

### 12:00 Lunch

#### 1:00 How Legislation Gets to the House Floor and House Floor Procedures

- Rules Committee, open, closed, modified rules
- Calendars
- Committee of the Whole
- House procedures and the amendment process
- The videotape "A Day in the House" will be shown

#### 2:30 Break

#### 2:45 How the Senate Schedules and Votes on Legislation

- Scheduling procedures and the amendment process
- Unanimous consent agreements; the "hold"
- Filibusters; cloture motions

#### 3:30 Reconciling Differences Between the House and Senate, and Presidential Action

- Reconciling differences "ping-pong" style
- Conference committee procedures
- Conference reports
- Presidential action
- Veto override

#### 4:25 Complete Evaluations

#### 4:30 Conference Concludes

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**Sample Agendas:** See how others have used our training; selected sample agendas from actual programs designed for previous clients are on our web site at [www.SampleAgendas.com](http://www.SampleAgendas.com)

**When:** Requires one full day (usually 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

**Where:** Your location

**Who:** This course is appropriate for junior, rising and senior-level staff.

**Course Fee:** Inside the Washington, DC metropolitan area, when the course is offered on the client's site with all breaks provided by the client, this course is cost-effective with as few as fifteen attendees.

