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the united states congress first organized in 1789 is an elected bicameral democratic legislative body established by article i of the united states constitution ratified in 1788 laws begin as ideas first a representative sponsors a bill the bill is then assigned to a committee for study if released by the committee the bill is put on a calendar to be voted on debated or amended if the bill passes by simple majority 218 of 435 the bill moves to the senate congress of the united states the legislature of the united states of america established under the constitution of 1789 and separated structurally from the executive and judicial branches of government the united states congress is the legislature of the federal government of the united states it is bicameral composed of a lower body the house of representatives and an upper body the senate the first step in the legislative process is the introduction of a bill to congress anyone can write it but only members of congress can introduce legislation some important bills members of the house serve a fixed term of two years with each seat up for election before the start of the next congress special elections also occur when a seat is vacated early enough the house s composition was established by article one of the united states constitution the articles of confederation composed in 1777 and ratified in 1781 granted powers to congress as the first written constitution of the united states here we ve traced the pre congressional career of every house member in the 116th congress showing the narrow but well trodden paths through prestigious schools lucrative jobs and local this online resource provides a basic outline of the numerous steps of our federal law making process from the source of an idea for a legislative proposal through its publication as a statute the legislative process is a matter about which every person should be well informed in order to understand and appreciate the work of congress the making of the u s constitution transcription of the introduction and the u s constitution from the first volume of the annals of congress when joseph gales compiled the early debates and proceedings of congress for publication in 1834 he chose to introduce the first volume with a brief history of the making of the constitution followed the house explained house gov 118th congress 2nd session the house is not in session the house explained we the people of the united states as per the constitution the u s house of representatives makes and passes federal laws but many members of congress came from real professions before being elected there have been actors comedians talk show hosts journalists and various types of doctors who have served in the house of representatives and u s senate former president william howard taft testified before congress frequently as a result of his service as co chair of the national war labor board during world war i and chief justice of the united states from 1921 to 1930 congress is the lawmaking branch of the federal government learn how a bill becomes a law and how the process is different in the house of representatives and in the senate bills and resolutions in congress there are 15 632 bills and resolutions currently before the united states congress but of those only about 7 will become law brief videos about introducing legislation committee and house and senate consideration conference committees and presidential vetoes while most know that george washington was the first president of the u s he actually succeeded 14 men who served as leader of the continental congress the 1st united states congress comprising the united states senate and the united states house of representatives met from march 4 1789 to march 4 1791 during the first two years of george washington s presidency first at federal hall in new york city and later at congress hall in philadelphia with the initial meeting of the first it has been over a decade since democrats

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