



# The Adventures of Bill:

The Real-Life Account of How a  
Vermont Bill Becomes a Law!

Brought to you by:  
Deb Markowitz  
Vermont Secretary of State

Cartoons by Spencer Rothbell  
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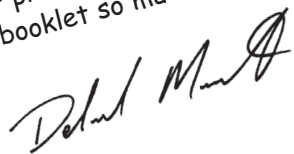
"The Adventures of Bill: A Real-Life Account of How A Bill Becomes A Law" is designed to make it fun to learn about the legislative process in Vermont.

We are lucky in Vermont because our government is easily accessible to everyone. In fact, you don't have to be an elected official, or even an adult, to make changes in our state!

Did you know that in 2003 Emily Lester, a student at Twinfield Union High School in Plainfield, saw one of her ideas become law? Emily wanted to ensure that foster children had the same opportunity to go to college as children who had parents who could help support them. She worked with her legislators to create a bill that would give foster children financial support if they met the requirements of a state college or university. It took three years of work and waiting, but eventually Emily's bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

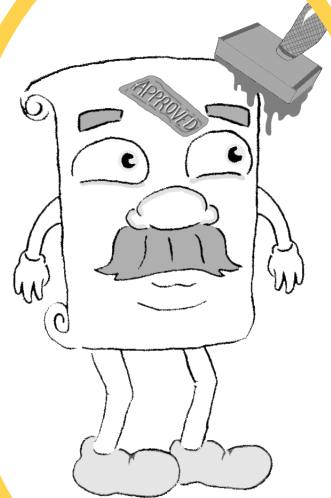
I hope you will keep Emily Lester in mind as you learn about the legislative process in this booklet, and maybe some day you will be a part of the action!

I want to thank three Montpelier High School students who were members of the team that put together this booklet. Spencer Rothbell created the "bill guy", as well as the rest of the illustrations in the book. Kate Sease and Aleah Starr provided research assistance and developed the activities that make this booklet so much fun!



Deb Markowitz  
Vermont Secretary of State

P.S. For more cool information about the State of Vermont and how government works, check out our website [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us)



This booklet connects to the following social studies grade expectations: H&SS5-6:14; H&SS7-8:14; H&SS5-6:15; H&SS7-8:15. For further grade expectation information, go to [http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pgm\\_curriculum/history.html](http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pgm_curriculum/history.html)

# Three Branches of Government

The founders of Vermont, like the founders of the United States, wanted to ensure that there was a strong government, but they did not want any one individual or group to become too powerful. Therefore, in the Vermont Constitution they established a government with three separate branches. Each branch of government operates independently from the others, and its power serves as a check and balance for the powers of the other branches. This ensures that no one branch can take too much control. This is called the "separation of powers."

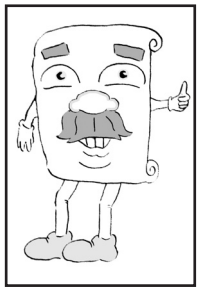
The three branches of government are:

**Executive** - The executive branch administers and enforces the laws passed by the legislature. The Governor is the head of the executive branch and oversees the many state agencies that do the work of the state government.

**Judicial** - The courts interpret the meaning of laws and apply those laws to specific cases. The court can also invalidate a law if it finds that it is inconsistent with the constitution.

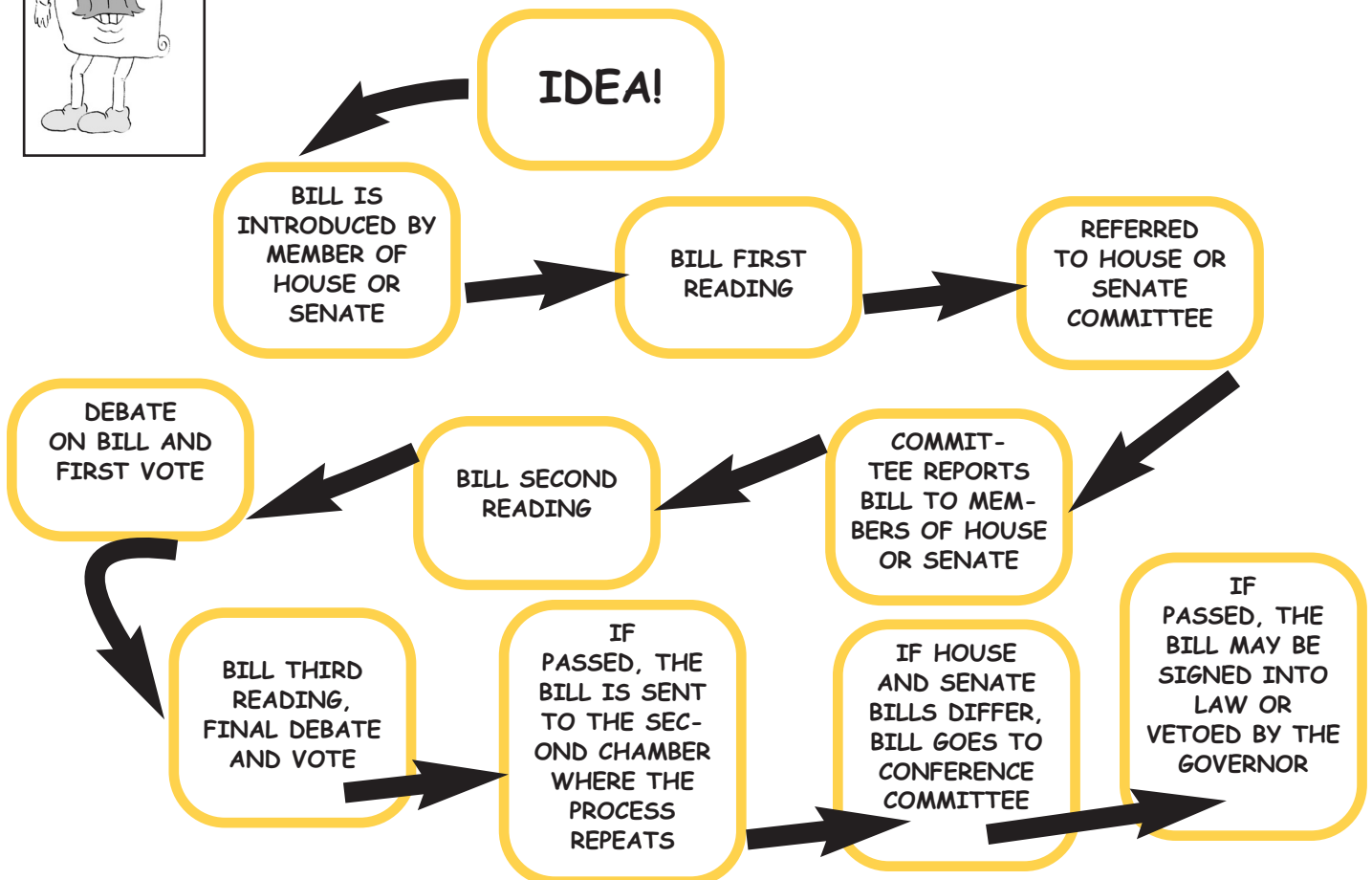


**Legislative** - The legislature adopts laws. Some laws establish rules and policies that govern our behavior, such as criminal laws or environmental laws. Other laws establish how the government will spend tax money (the budget bill), and how those taxes will be raised (the tax bill). Different laws are made every year to respond to the changing needs of Vermonters. This book is about the legislative process. Below is a chart that will help you understand how a bill becomes a law.



## HOW A BILL BECOMES A VERMONT LAW

It all starts with an idea...an idea which could be yours!



# How Vermont Laws are Made...

Let's take a walk through Vermont's State House and Senate to see how laws are really made.



Vermont's laws are prepared and adopted by legislators who are elected every two years by people in their communities. Vermont's **legislative session** runs from January until any time between mid-April and early June, depending upon when the legislators finish their work.

Vermont's legislature is **bicameral**, meaning that it has two chambers: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**. A bill can be introduced in either chamber (except for spending bills which can only start in the House). In order for it to become a law, both chambers must pass the bill with a majority of the vote, and the Governor must sign it or allow the bill to become a law without signature.

## WORDS TO KNOW

**Legislative Session:** The months in which legislators meet to discuss and pass laws for each of the two years. (A new legislature is elected every two years for a new legislative session.)

**Bicameral Legislature:** A legislature with two separate chambers, each of which participate in the making and adoption of laws.

**House of Representatives:** There are 150 representatives that make up the Vermont House and they each represent about 4,000 citizens.

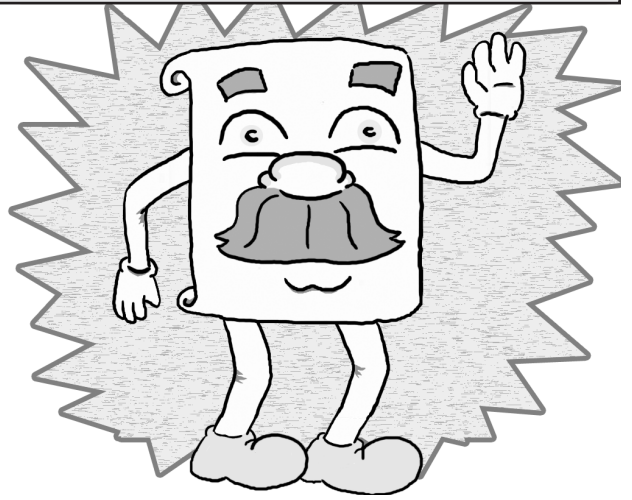
**Senate:** There are 30 senators in Vermont. Each senator represents about 20,000 people in a senatorial district (one or more counties).



## It All Starts With an Idea...



Once a legislator proposes an idea to the legislature, it becomes a bill.



**A**ll laws get their start as someone's idea. An idea begins as a bill, and once it is approved by the House and the Senate and the Governor, it becomes a law. An idea for a **bill** may come from anybody; however, only legislators can introduce a bill in Vermont's legislature. There is always a way to get a bill introduced if enough legislators support it.

Usually **resolutions** honor individuals or organizations, or express the opinion of the legislature on issues before the United States Congress or other national or international bodies. Resolutions can be done jointly between the House and Senate, or they can be made concurrently by each body. Simple resolutions come from only one of the bodies of the legislature.

Legislators take ideas for laws and ask the **Legislative Council** to write them up as bills. Once they are prepared, bills can be introduced in the House or the Senate - except for spending (\$\$\$) bills which start in the House as required by the Vermont Constitution.



### WORDS TO KNOW

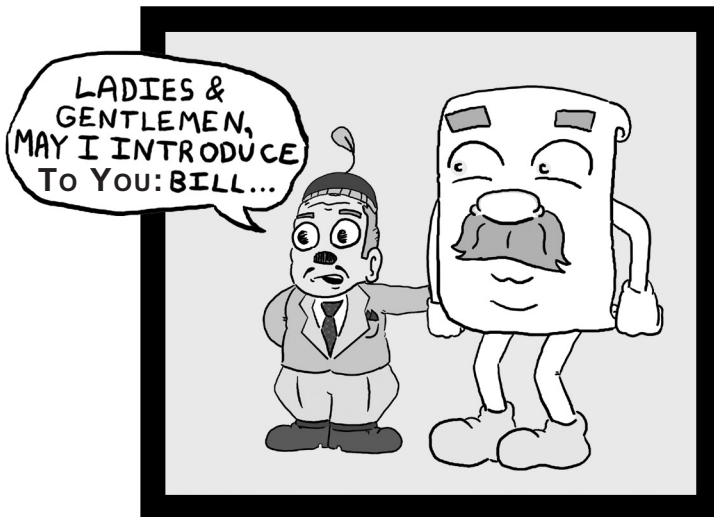
There are two types of legislation: bills and resolutions.

**Bill:** A bill is a proposed law.

**Resolution:** A resolution is a declaration of the legislative body.

**Legislative Council:** A team of lawyers and administrative staff who work with legislators to write bills and laws.

## The Idea Becomes a Bill...



### WORDS TO KNOW

**Introduce:** The first formal step in the process of lawmaking. A bill is introduced to the House or Senate for consideration and then sent to a committee for study.

**Sponsors:** Legislators who propose a bill.

**Legislative Committees:** A small group of legislators appointed to meet and discuss bills of a particular topic or type (e.g. Agricultural Committee).

**Speaker of the House:** Leader elected by the House of Representatives.

**Lieutenant Governor:** Elected by the voters. He or she presides over the Senate unless he or she is Acting Governor (in the event of the death or incapacity of the Governor and when the Governor is out of state).

**President Pro Tempore:** Serves in the Lieutenant Governor's place in his or her absence. Elected by members of the Senate.

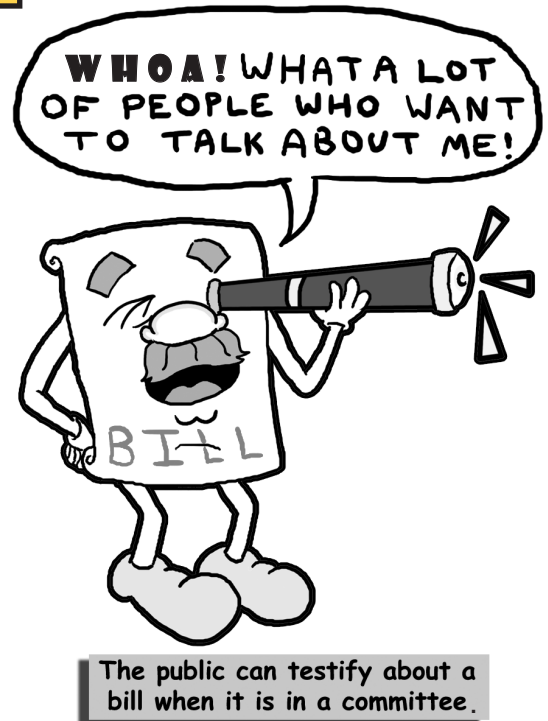
**A** legislator or committee of legislators must officially **introduce** the bill by becoming the bill's **sponsor**.

Representatives and Senators who sponsor bills will try to gain support for them by getting others to sign on as additional sponsors of the bill.

The title of the bill is read during a session of the House or Senate. This is called "first reading" of the bill.

Legislators are members of **legislative committees**. **Committees** address different areas such as education, agriculture and transportation, among others. After a bill is introduced, it is assigned to a committee by the **Speaker of the House** or by the **Lieutenant Governor**. The **President Pro Tempore** of the Senate assigns the bill to a committee if the Lieutenant Governor is unavailable.

## The Bill Goes to Committee...



**C**ommittees may hold **hearings** and invite members of the public and **lobbyists** to provide information and express their opinions on a bill. This is the only time the public can give **testimony** on a bill, although throughout the process, members of the public and lobbyists can talk or write to individual legislators to try to persuade them to support, reject or change a bill.

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Hearings:** Meetings of a committee where the public is invited to comment on proposed legislation, public issues or policy decisions.

**Lobbyists:** Individuals who are paid or who spend over \$500 to influence legislators to pass or prevent passage of particular laws and policies. Lobbyists often work closely with legislators to help shape bills.

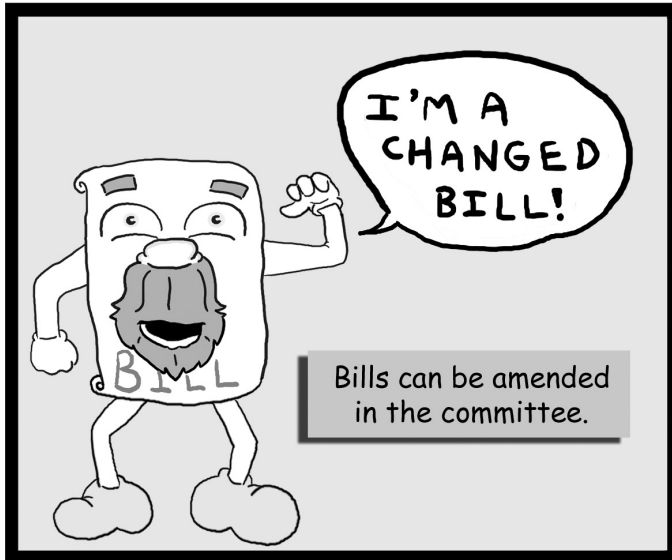
**Testimony:** Statements made by people who participate in a legislative hearing.

**Mark-up:** To amend or make changes to a bill while it is in committee.

Following testimony and discussion, the committee will decide what to do with the bill.

The committees often make changes to the bill which is referred to as "**marking up the bill.**"

## The Bill Leaves the Committee...



**N**ext, the committee decides what to do with the bill. It can pass a bill out **favorably**, **unfavorably**, or **without any recommendations**; or it can **table the bill** or choose not to discuss a bill (both of which mean that the bill **dies in committee**.)

Depending upon what the bill is about, a second committee (or even a third committee) can ask that the bill be sent to it for discussion and amendment (or to **kill the bill**).

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Passed out favorably:** A committee vote to return the bill to the House or Senate with a recommendation that it be approved.

**Passed out favorably with amendment:** A committee vote to return the bill to the House or Senate with a recommendation that it be approved with changes made by the committee.

**Passed out unfavorably:** A committee vote to return the bill to the House or Senate with a recommendation that it not be approved.

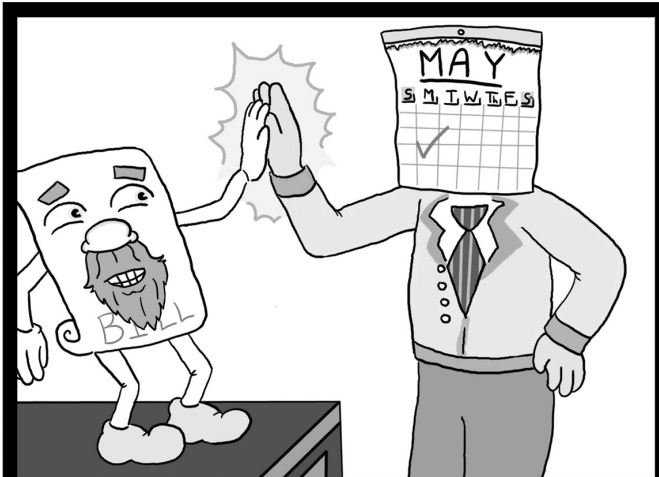
**Without any recommendations:** A bill that is sent back to the House or Senate for vote without a committee recommendation. This generally only happens when the committee cannot agree on what recommendations to make.

**Table the bill:** A bill that is tabled is kept in committee so that it never goes to a vote by the House or Senate. It can be called up again at any time.

**Dies in committee (Kill the bill!):** A bill that dies in committee is not returned to the House or Senate for debate and/or vote.



## The Bill is Read on the Floor for a 2nd and 3rd Time



The notice calendar lets everyone know when the bill will be debated and voted on.



Every bill gets debated and voted on twice by each chamber of the legislature. After going through the entire process, the bill (as amended by the committee) is sent to the floor for **second reading**, debate and **third reading**.

Before a bill is reported for the second or third time on the floor by the **reporter** of the House or Senate it is put on the **notice calendar** to warn legislators, lobbyists and the public when it will be debated and voted upon.

After the second reading and before the legislators vote on the bill, a **floor debate** may occur. Legislators argue in favor of or against the bill and they can propose amendments to the bill. The Speaker or Lieutenant Governor will only allow amendments that are **germane**.

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Second reading:** When the title of a bill is read on the floor of the House or Senate for the second time. (The first time is when it is introduced.)

**Third reading:** When a bill is read by title on the floor of the House or Senate for the third time. After third reading there is a final vote on the bill.

**Reporter:** A legislator who is a member of the committee that is bringing the bill to the floor for a vote.

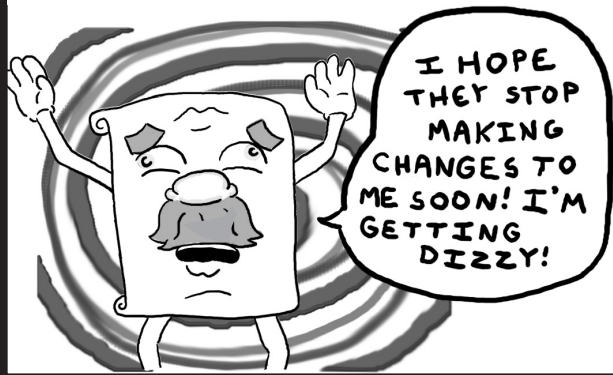
**Notice calendar:** The notice calendar is published every day by the Legislative Council. It lists all the bills that are going to be debated and voted on the following day.

**Floor debate:** Before a bill is voted on, legislators debate the bill by arguing in favor or against the bill. They also offer amendments.

**Germane:** Germane means "related to." An amendment is not germane if it is unrelated to the purpose of the bill.

## Legislators Debate, Amend & Vote on the Bill...

Any legislator can ask for an amendment to the bill during a debate during a second reading.



Legislators may ask members of the committee to explain parts of the bill. Sometimes the House or Senate will recess in the middle of a debate on a bill. During the **recess** members of the public, lobbyists and legislators try to convince other legislators to vote in support of or against the bill.

When the legislators are satisfied that there has been sufficient debate, they can call for a vote on the bill. If the bill is controversial, legislators can call for a **roll call vote**. A non-controversial bill has votes cast by voice vote ("all in favor say 'aye'").

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Recess:** A break from the meeting of the House or Senate.

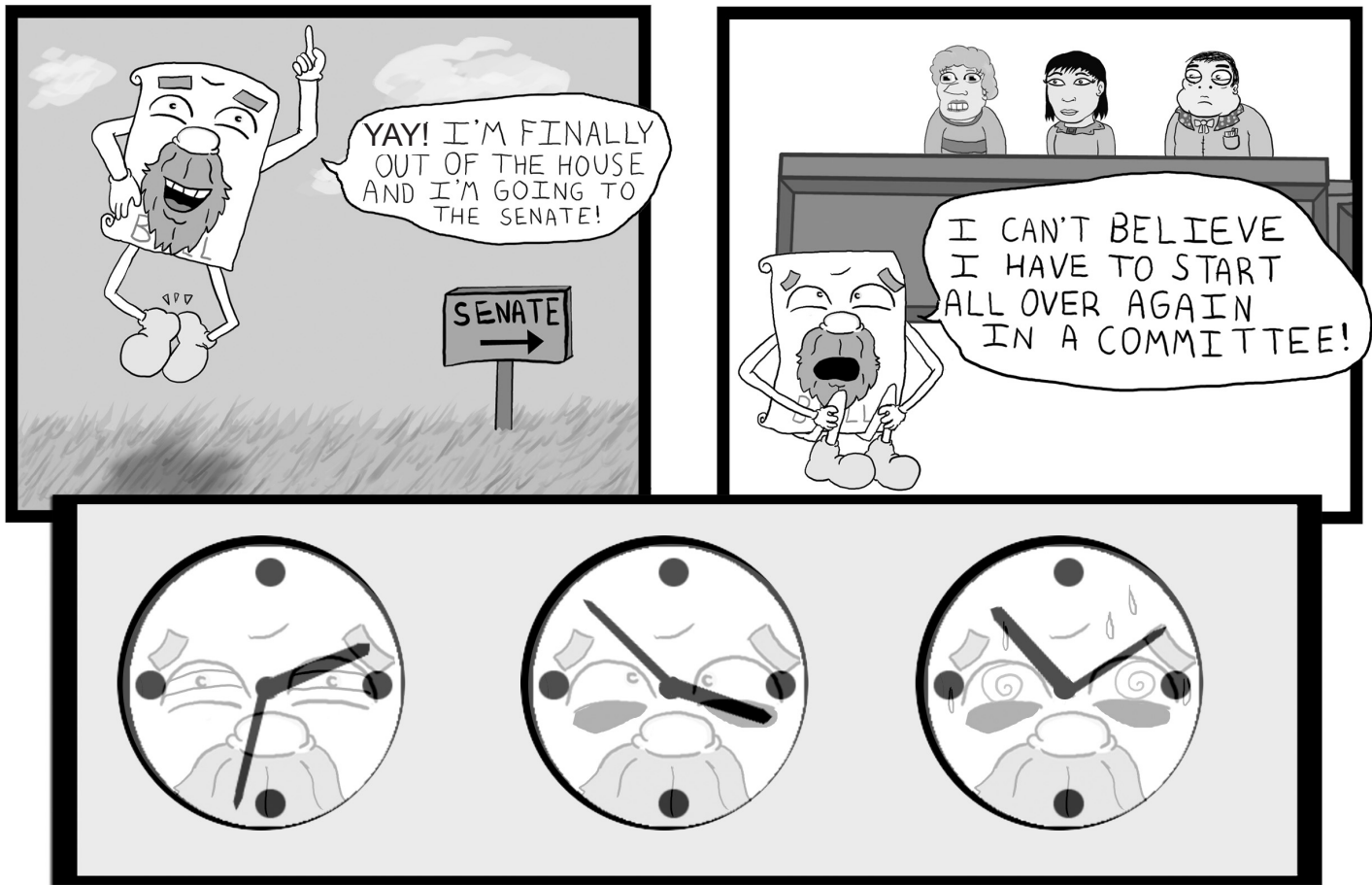
**Roll Call Vote:** When there is a roll call vote, the House Clerk or Secretary of the Senate reads off each legislator's name, and they answer Yea, Nay, or they can abstain (which means they do not vote). Only with a roll call vote will the public know how individual legislators voted on a particular bill.

**House Clerk and Secretary of the Senate:** The House Clerk and Secretary of the Senate are elected by the legislators to help keep track of bills, resolutions, votes and the proceedings of the legislators, and to prepare calendars and journals.

If the bill passes second reading and the majority of legislators vote yes on the bill, it is then put on notice calendar for third reading where additional debate may occur. After the third reading, no amendments can be made to the bill. Then a final vote is taken on the bill.

If the bill passes, it is sent by the **House Clerk** and **Secretary of the Senate** to the other chamber of Vermont's legislature. For example, House bills will be sent to the Senate and Senate bills will be sent to the House. If the vote is no, then the bill has been killed.

## The Bill Goes to the Second Chamber...



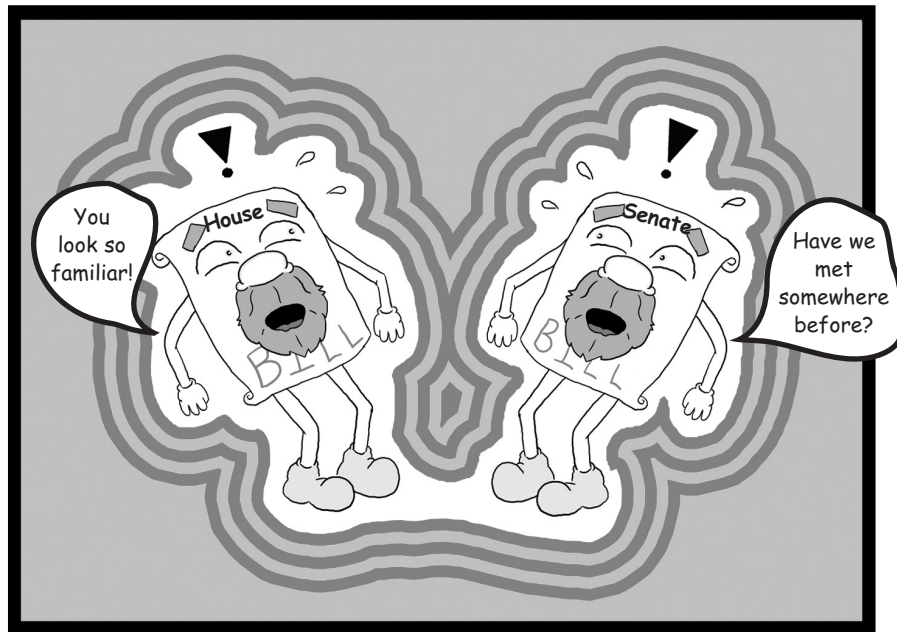
**W**hen a bill passes the House it is then sent to the Senate, and vice-versa. In the new chamber it is given first reading then it is referred to a committee.

The committee can choose whether they want to work on the bill or ignore it, just like in the committees of the first chamber. The public, lobbyists and legislators are once again given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. During this time, the committee can amend or even kill the bill.

Once the committee has completed its consideration of the bill it can choose to send it onto the floor for a vote, unless it is sent to another committee for additional review.

As in the first chamber, the bill is given second reading and is debated and perhaps amended. Finally, it is given a third reading and a final vote by the second chamber.

## The Bill Goes to Conference Committee and Is Given a Final Vote



If members of the House and Senate pass two bills that are exactly the same, it is sent to the Governor for signature. If the bill that passed the House is in any way different from the bill that was passed by the Senate (perhaps because it was amended by the committee or on the floor) then a **conference committee** is appointed to try to come up with a compromise that members of both the House and Senate would agree upon.

### WORDS TO KNOW

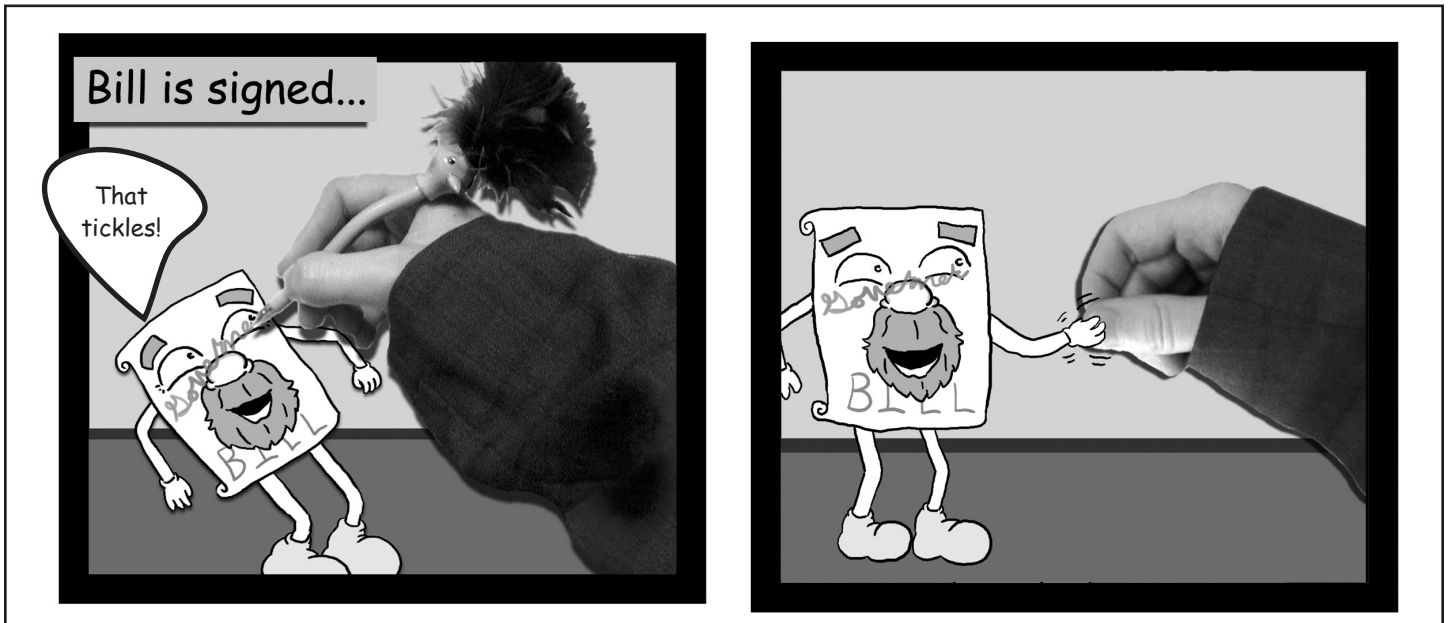
**Conference Committee:** A conference committee is made up of three senators and three representatives who are appointed by the leadership of their chambers.

**Abstain:** To choose not to participate.

If the conference committee comes up with a compromise, the bill is sent back to the House and the Senate for a final vote. Individual legislators can vote in favor of or against the bill or they may **abstain** from voting. If the bill passes with a majority of the vote in both chambers, it is sent to the Governor.



## The Bill Goes to the Governor...



**W**hen a bill goes to the Governor, the Governor must choose whether to sign the bill, **veto** it, or let it become a law without a signature.

If the Governor vetoes the bill, the House and the Senate can vote to override the veto. It takes a vote of 2/3 of the legislators in each chamber to override a veto. When the Governor signs the bill, it becomes a law. If the Governor does not sign the bill and does not veto it within five days after receiving it, it also becomes a law.

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Veto:** A veto is when the Governor decides not to sign a bill into law. The bill returns to the legislature where each house decides to sustain the veto or override it.

Generally, bills can be introduced only during the early part of the legislative session. Bills that are not passed within the two-year legislative session cannot be carried forward to the next legislative session, although a legislator can decide to reintroduce a bill.

DID YOU KNOW?

In an average legislative session (two years), about 1,000 bills are introduced. Generally less than 1/5 of those bills pass and become law.

# Do You Know Your Legislative Lingo?

(ANSWERS ARE ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER)

Let's see how well you remember how a bill becomes a law! Answer these questions about the legislative process. First, fill in the blanks in these sentences. Use these words to fill in the blanks:

**Committee \* House of Representatives \* Sponsor \* Anyone \* Senate \* Legislative Council**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ can think of an idea for a bill.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the two chambers of Vermont's Legislature.
3. A bill is drafted by the \_\_\_\_\_ after an idea for a bill has been developed. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a team of lawyers and administrative staff who work with legislators to take an idea and write it in the form of a bill.
4. The senator or representative that introduces the bill becomes its \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After being read for the first time, a bill is sent to \_\_\_\_\_ where members will amend, discuss and make recommendations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Try these True and False questions about Vermont's legislative process. Mark a T or F, then if it is incorrect, make the correction in the sentence.

1. Vermont's Legislature is unicameral. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Any legislator can introduce a bill in Vermont's Legislature. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The only time the public can testify about a bill is when it is in committee. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Co-sponsors are two or more legislators sponsoring a bill. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tabling a bill in committee often "kills the bill." \_\_\_\_\_
6. Legislators may only vote Yea or Nay when voting on a bill. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The bill is read four times in the House of Representatives. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Senators must vote on every bill that passes through the House to make a law. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Senate has more members than the House. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A conference committee is set up when a bill is changed in the Senate so it is different from what was passed by the House or vice versa. \_\_\_\_\_
11. A bill must pass both chambers with at least 1/4 of the vote. \_\_\_\_\_
12. The Governor cannot veto money bills. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The House and the Senate can override a veto with 2/3 of the vote. \_\_\_\_\_



# M VERMONTERS AND LAW MAKING

Many Vermonters have played an important role in the passage of ground breaking laws. George Aiken, Governor of Vermont from 1937-1941 and U.S. Senator from 1941-1975, stood up for rural America in many ways. He was a driving force behind the food-stamp program so that the poorest in our country would be guaranteed meals. He was a champion of farmers and worked to pass legislation granting them electricity, flood control and crop insurance. Senator Aiken's 34 years in the United States Senate changed the lives of many Americans.

Give  
it up for  
Senator  
Aiken!

Use the hints to complete the sentences about seven Vermonters who played an important role in the passage of legislation. (Answers on inside back cover.)



1. U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, our longest serving senator and a leader on environmental legislation, has procured over \$70 million in federal funding to clean up and protect \_\_\_\_\_. (Hint: Champ lives here)
2. Governor Howard Dean signed the historic \_\_\_\_\_ bill in 2000, the first state in the country to allow same-sex couples to enjoy the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as married couples. (Hint: Like a marriage)
3. Governor Philip Hoff signed the \_\_\_\_\_ law in 1968, making Vermont one of only two states in the country without these \_\_\_\_\_. (Hint: Large, outdoor advertising)
4. Congressman Matthew Lyon, "Spitting Lyon," was imprisoned in 1798 for violating the controversial Sedition Act, which prohibited any American citizen from making defamatory comments about the \_\_\_\_\_. This imprisonment led to protest which led to the repealing of the Sedition Act, as well as the defeat of John Adams in the next election. (Hint: Head of Executive Branch)
5. Congressman and later Senator Justin Smith Morrill was responsible for the Land-Grant College Act of 1862, which provided \_\_\_\_\_ for agricultural colleges. (Hint: Real estate owned by the people)
6. Senator Ralph Flanders was the first U.S. senator to \_\_\_\_\_ the tactics of Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism. (Hint: Another word for "counter")
7. In his first year in Congress, then Congressman Jim Jeffords wrote what would later become the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which ensures that American \_\_\_\_\_ with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education. Throughout his three decades representing Vermont in the House of Representatives and the Senate, Senator Jeffords has continued to work to improve IDEA. (Hint: Not teachers)

**For Teachers:** Have your students research one of these Vermonters to further explore how this person's work affects their lives.

# VERMONT WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

In 1920, one month after the ratification of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote, Edna Beard was nominated as a Republican candidate for Orange Town Representative. Despite successful service on the school board and as town treasurer, she lost the primary. She did not give up, however, and she won the spot in the general election by running under the "Citizen Party" label.

Beard was given her choice of empty seats in the House. When she chose seat number 146, no man had the courage to pick the adjacent seat number 145. After an hour, Horatio E. Luce was dared by his friends and took the seat amidst laughter and applause.

Beard had a successful career as a representative. She introduced a bill to provide more child support to mothers whose husbands had incurable diseases. The bill passed. In 1923, Beard was elected to the State Senate and became Chair of the Library Committee.

GO  
GIRL!



Check out these hints about other Vermont women in government to help you complete the activity at the end of the page!

STELLA  
HACKEL  
WAS GOOD  
AT MATH!

CONSUELO  
NORTHUP  
BAILEY  
SERVED AS  
THE LEADER  
OF BOTH  
CHAMBERS  
OF THE  
LEGISLA-  
TURE.

DEB  
MARKOWITZ  
LIKES TO  
MAKE  
CIVICS  
BOOKS FOR  
KIDS!

MADELINE KUNIN  
SIGNED DR. DYNOSAUR, A  
STATE HEALTH PROGRAM  
THAT PROVIDES HEALTH  
INSURANCE FOR ALMOST  
EVERY VERMONT CHILD,  
INTO LAW!

MAYBE  
THIS  
WOMAN  
WILL BE  
YOU OR  
YOUR  
SISTER!

DENISE  
JOHNSON  
TAUGHT AT  
VERMONT  
LAW  
SCHOOL.

## Find the Firsts

Follow the lines to find these other Vermont Women "firsts" in government.

1. First woman elected State Treasurer? (1974) ..... Stella Hackel
2. First woman elected to the Vermont State Legislature? (1921) ..... Denise Johnson
3. First woman Governor of Vermont? (1985) ..... Edna Beard
4. First female Congressional representative from Vermont? ..... Madeline Kunin
5. First woman to serve on the Vermont Supreme Court? (1990) ..... Consuelo Northrop Bailey
6. First woman to be elected Secretary of State of Vermont? (1998) ..... There is none!
7. First woman Speaker of the House? (1953) ..... Deb Markowitz
8. First woman Lieutenant Governor in the nation? (1955) .....

**For Teachers:** Your students can do research projects on any of these Vermont women to learn more about their impact on Vermonters' lives today.



# A-Mazing Laws

Every time you ride in a car, you have to buckle your seatbelt. Right? And your baby brother or sister has to ride in a car seat. Why? It's safe, and it's the law in Vermont! Where do laws like these come from? Let's hit the trail together and find out. Follow the maze clues and the arrows to reach the finish line and make a law!

## Maze Clues

**Ideas** for new laws come from Vermont citizens like you.

Lawmakers discuss the ideas in the Vermont **Capitol** in Montpelier.

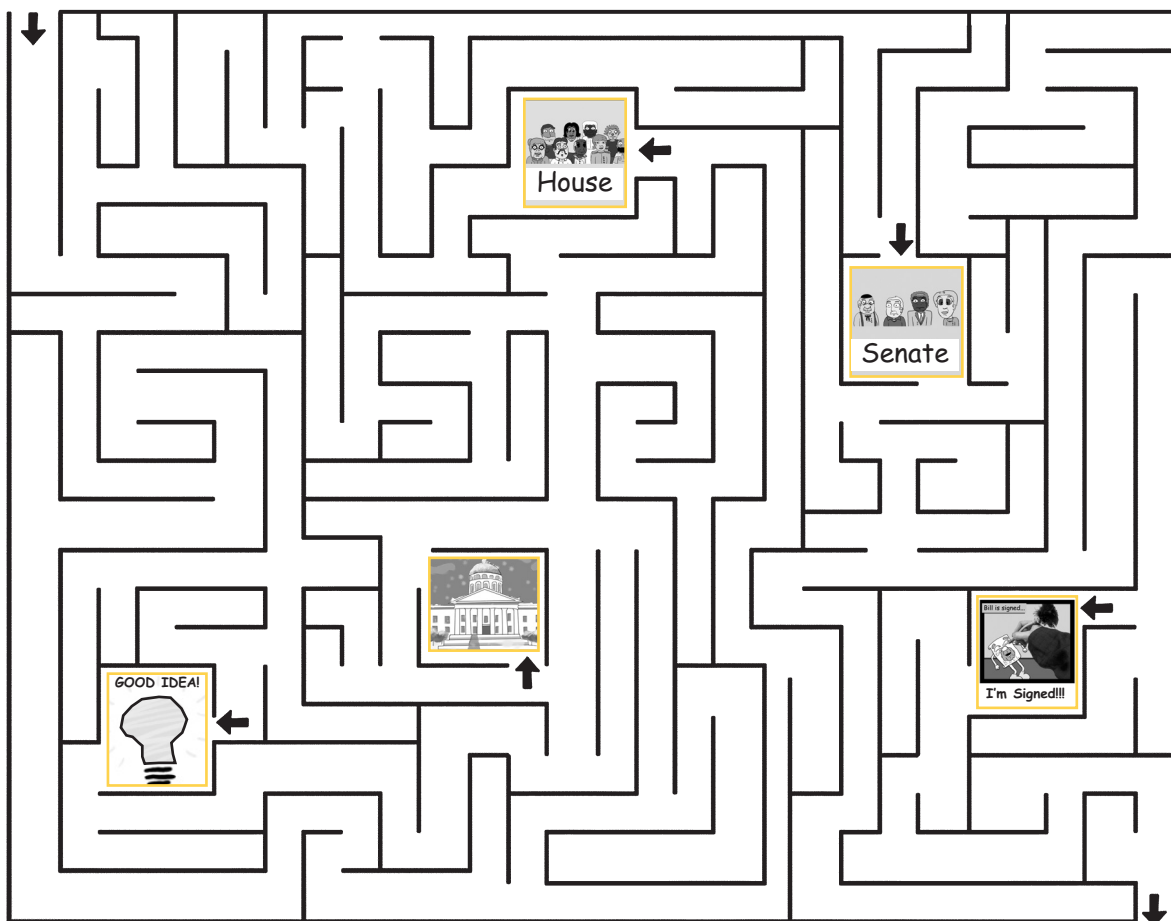
To make a new law, a majority of the legislators in the **House** of Representatives must vote "yes" on the idea.

To make a new law, a majority of the senators in the **Senate** must vote "yes" on the idea.

To make a new law, the **Governor** must also agree. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the legislature can vote to override the veto.

The idea becomes a **law**.

START



FINISH:  
A Law is Born!



# Law Squad

## Welcome to Lawlessville...Now Go Home!

If there were no laws, things would be a mess in our cities and towns - just like in this picture. But you can start to clean up this mess in Lawlessville. All you need are a few good laws.

On the opposite page are close-ups of the big picture for you to study. And here's a list of the laws that are missing in Lawlessville. Now—before Lawlessville gets any worse—write the kind of law under each picture that would fix the problem it shows.



## LAWLESSVILLE'S MISSING LAWS

**A Leash Law:**  
Keep pets on a leash  
in public places

**A Traffic Law:**  
Drivers and pedestrians  
must obey street lights  
and traffic signs

**A Public Nuisance Law:**  
Do not disturb the peace  
of others in public

**A Zoning Law:**  
Businesses serving "adults only"  
must not be placed near school  
buildings

**An Assembly Law:**  
Do not block public  
entrances while  
demonstrating

**A Litter Law:**  
Place trash in  
proper containers

**A Graffiti Law:**  
Do not damage or  
deface the property  
of others

**A Larceny Law:**  
Customers must pay for  
any merchandise they take  
from a store

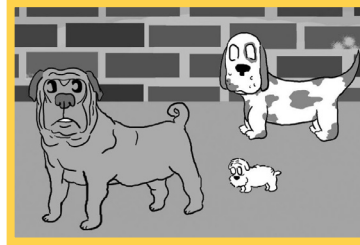
Match the laws from the opposite page to the dastardly rule-breakers below!



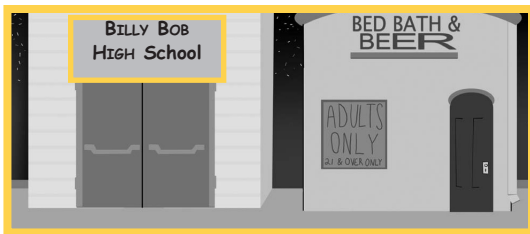
1. \_\_\_\_\_



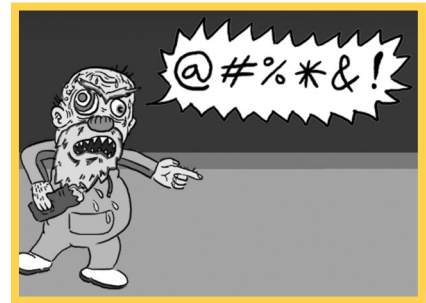
2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_  
What would happen if we didn't have leash laws?



4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Why is it not a good idea to put an adult business next to a school?



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do we have laws against graffiti?



8. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on Inside Back Cover

**For Teachers:** Have your students choose one of the laws and explain the law's impact on their community.

# Be Part of the Action!

Have you got some ideas to share? Although at times you may not think so, you really do have a say about what happens in Vermont. It's not just the adults who have a voice! Here is **your** chance to speak up.

Legislators want to hear your ideas. How can we make Vermont a better place? Is there a law in Vermont that you think should be changed or a new one you feel should be added? Listening and then acting on these suggestions is a legislator's job!

Use the space below to draft a letter to your senator or house member. Share with them your ideas and goals for the state of Vermont. Throughout this booklet you have been learning all about the legislative process. **Now speak up and be part of it!**



I think there should be a law requiring legislators to have a mustache like mine.

To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, visit [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_



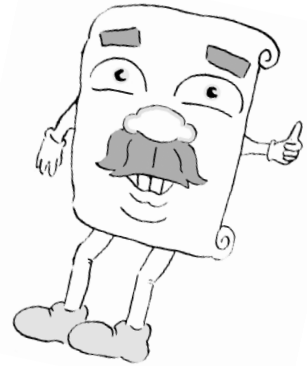
# Mad-Laws Activity

Fill out the blanks below, and then turn the page and re-write your answers into the story! Have fun!

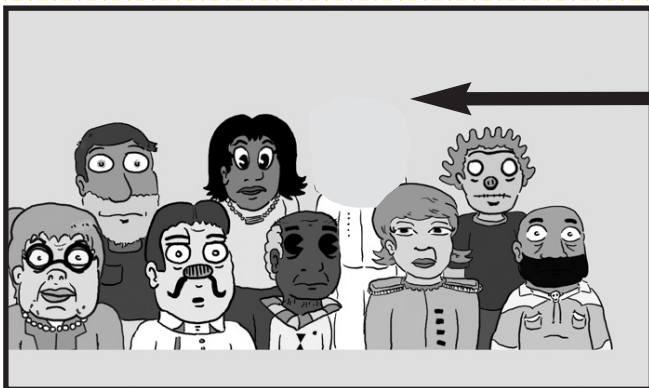
1. Verb ending in "ing" \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Career/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
4. Town \_\_\_\_\_
5. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name of School \_\_\_\_\_
7. First Name in #1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
9. Year \_\_\_\_\_
10. Number \_\_\_\_\_
11. Last name from #1 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Animal \_\_\_\_\_
13. Verb ending in "ing" \_\_\_\_\_
14. Name in #1 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Food \_\_\_\_\_
16. Plural Noun \_\_\_\_\_
17. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
18. Name of person in room (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Name of newspaper or magazine \_\_\_\_\_
20. Number \_\_\_\_\_
21. Name in #1 \_\_\_\_\_
22. Place \_\_\_\_\_
23. Noun \_\_\_\_\_

Now put your answers from the previous page  
into these blanks!

# Senator Mad Law



Before 1\_\_\_\_\_ for senator, 2\_\_\_\_\_,  
was a(n) 3\_\_\_\_\_ in 4\_\_\_\_\_, Vermont. He/She  
went to a 5\_\_\_\_\_ school called 6\_\_\_\_\_.  
7\_\_\_\_\_ always dreamed of becoming a(n) 8\_\_\_\_\_.  
In 9\_\_\_\_\_ he/she was elected as senator to represent  
District 10\_\_\_\_\_. Senator 11\_\_\_\_\_ has a pet  
12\_\_\_\_\_, loves 13\_\_\_\_\_, and spending time  
with his/her family. As a senator, 14\_\_\_\_\_ passed bills that  
improved the 15\_\_\_\_\_ shortage and raised money to build  
16\_\_\_\_\_ across the state. He/She was such a(n)  
17\_\_\_\_\_ senator, said Vermonter 18\_\_\_\_\_ in an  
interview with 19\_\_\_\_\_ last week. After an  
20\_\_\_\_\_ year term, 21\_\_\_\_\_ retired to  
22\_\_\_\_\_ and became a successful 23\_\_\_\_\_.



Draw your senatorial  
picture here!

\_\_\_\_\_, State Senator

# Answer Page

## Legislative Lingo, page 12

1. Anyone
  2. House of Representatives, Senate
  3. Legislative Council
  4. Sponsor
  5. Committee
- 
1. F, it is bicameral
  2. T
  3. T
  4. T
  5. T
  6. F, or abstain from voting
  7. F, three times
  8. F, House bills can die in committee
  9. F, 150 Representatives; 30 Senators
  10. T
  11. F, 2/3 of the vote
  12. F
  13. T

## Vermonters & Law Making, page 13

1. Lake Champlain
2. Civil Unions
3. Billboard
4. President
5. Public lands
6. Oppose
7. Students

## Law Squad, page 17

1. Traffic Law
2. Assembly Law
3. Leash Law
4. Zoning Law
5. Public Nuisance Law
6. Litter Law
7. Graffiti Law
8. Larceny Law

## Vermont Women in Government, page 14

1. Stella Hackel
2. Edna Beard
3. Madeline Kunin
4. There is none!
5. Denise Johnson
6. Deb Markowitz
7. Consuelo Northup Bailey
8. Consuelo Northup Bailey

**Visit [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us) to find other ways to learn about Vermont's legislature!**

**At this website there are links to:**

- ☐ Sign up for State House tours and a visit to the legislature
- ☐ A virtual tour of the State House
- ☐ Arrange for a legislator to visit your classroom
- ☐ The 8th grade legislative page program

**Also check out:**

- ☐ The Secretary of State's Office website for lots more civics curriculum programs. Check out Vermont Votes for Kids and booklets on town meeting and Vermont history and symbols ([www.sec.state.vt.us/kids/kids\\_index.htm](http://www.sec.state.vt.us/kids/kids_index.htm)).
- ☐ "The People's Guide to the Vermont Legislature", a 27-minute video available for purchase through the Vermont Public Television website (go to [www.vpt.org](http://www.vpt.org) and click on SHOP).
- ☐ Project Citizen, a middle school curriculum program that promotes participation in state and local government. Visit [www.projectcitizenvt.org](http://www.projectcitizenvt.org) to learn more.
- ☐ [www.vtbar.org](http://www.vtbar.org) and click on Center for Public Education for information on We the People, The Citizen and the Constitution, and the Mock Trial Program.

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