

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

SENATE

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## HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE

Revised and Updated

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U.S. House of Representatives



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affirmative to pass the bill, the measure becomes the law of the land notwithstanding the objections of the President, and it is ready for publication as a binding statute.

#### LINE ITEM VETO

The Line Item Veto Act provides the President authority to cancel certain individual items contained in a bill or joint resolution that he has signed into law. The President may cancel only three types of fiscal items: a dollar amount of discretionary budget authority, an item of new direct spending, and a tax change benefiting a class of 100 or fewer. The cancellations must be received by the House and Senate within five calendar days of the enactment of such a law and are effective unless disapproved. The President submits a single message to both Houses containing all the cancellations per law. The Act also provides special expedited procedures by which the House and Senate may consider a bill or joint resolution disapproving a President's cancellation. Such a "disapproval bill" may be passed by a majority vote in the House and Senate and presented to the President for his signature or veto under the Constitution. If the disapproval bill were vetoed by the President, the House and Senate could override the veto by a two-thirds vote in each House in which case the President's cancellations would be null and void. The constitutionality of the Line Item Veto Act is the subject of pending litigation at the time of publication of this edition.

### XIX. PUBLICATION

One of the important steps in the enactment of a valid law is the requirement that it shall be made known to the people who are to be bound by it. There would be no justice if the state were to hold its people responsible for their conduct before it made known to them the unlawfulness of such behavior. In practice, our laws are published immediately upon their enactment so that the public will be aware of them.

If the President approves a bill, or allows it to become law without signing it, the original enrolled bill is sent from the White House to the Archivist of the United States for publication. If a bill is passed both Houses over the objections of the President, the body that last overrides the veto transmits it. It is then assigned a public law number, and paginated for the Statutes at Large volume covering that session of Congress. The public and private law numbers run in sequence starting anew at the beginning of each Congress and since 1957 are prefixed for ready identification by the number of the Congress. For example, the first public law of the 105th Congress is designated Public Law 105—1 and the first private law of the 105th Congress is designated Private Law 105—1. Subsequent laws of this Congress also will contain the same prefix designator.

#### SLIP LAWS

The first official publication of the statute is in the form generally known as the "slip law", in this form, each law is published separately as an unbound pamphlet. The heading indicates the

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