

The Legislative Process: How it Works and How You Can Get Involved

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American Society of
Travel Advisors

Introduction

- **You don't need to be an expert on the legislative process!**
- **Know where to go to get more information if you need it:**
 - ASTA Advocacy Toolkit
 - ASTA Advocacy Team
 - ASTA Chapter Network

Public Policy & Travel Advisors

- Local, state, and federal governments have processes for enacting and changing the public policies and laws that affect your business!
- These public policies, bills, and regulations are enacted at the local, state, or federal level.

Basics of Government



Legislative
Branch Makes
Laws

City Council, General
Assemblies, House
and Senate



Executive
Branch Carries
out Laws

Mayors, Governors,
the President, Cabinet
members.



Judicial Branch
Interprets Laws

Courts at all levels
(Circuit Courts, Courts
of Appeal, Supreme
Court)

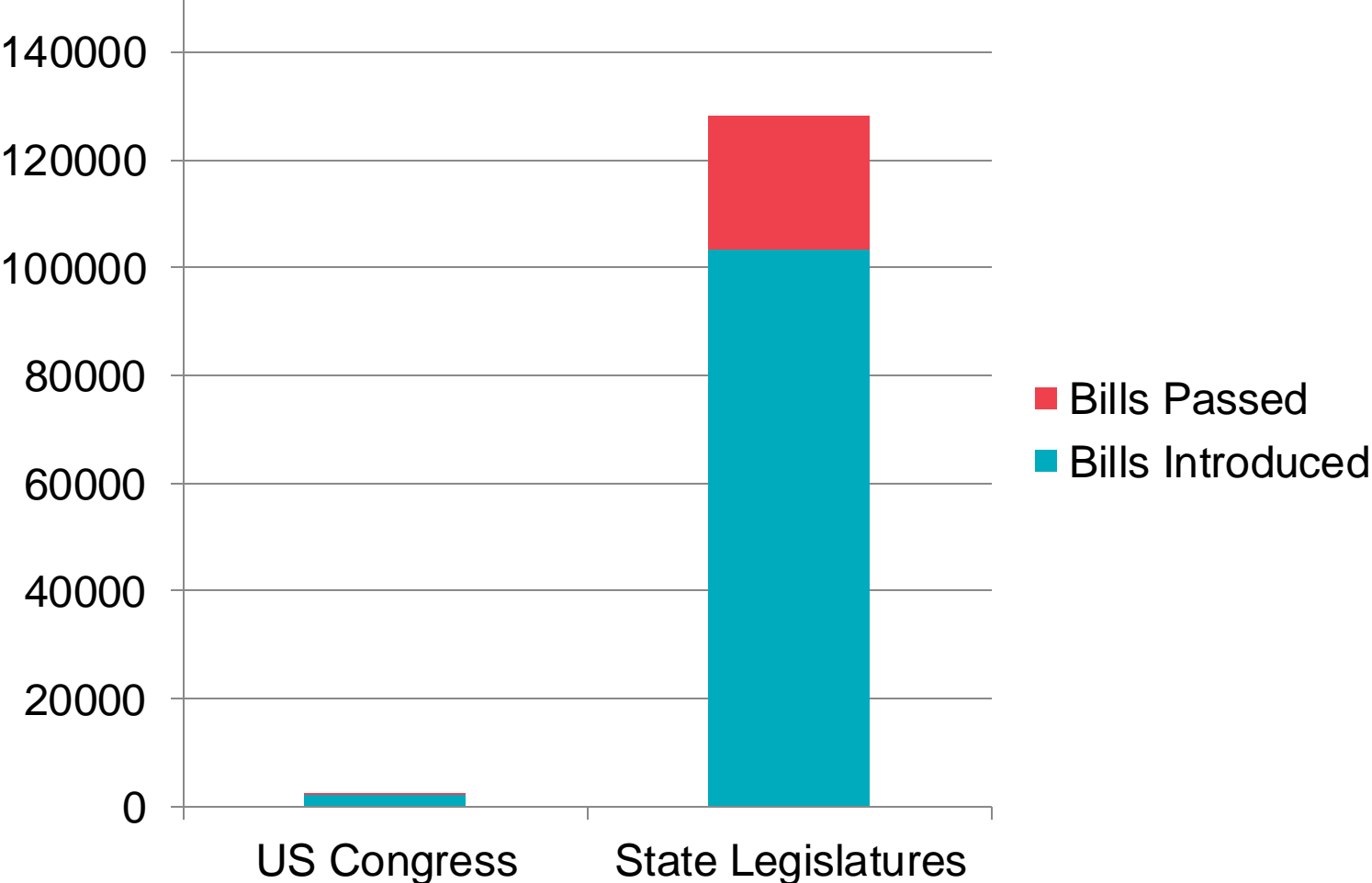
Local Lawmaking

- **Municipalities—including towns, cities, and counties—make laws and set budgets that affect travel agencies.**
 - Business registration and licensing requirements
 - Zoning, building codes, and lease considerations
 - Local Minimum wage

State Lawmaking

- Forty-nine states have bicameral, or 2 chamber legislatures.
 - The exception is Nebraska, which is unicameral, or 1 house.
- Legislative sessions vary from state to state and year to year.
- The governor is the chief executive and is responsible for administration of the government

State Lawmaking



Overview of Federal Lawmaking



Senate

- 6 year terms
- 2 per state



House of Representatives

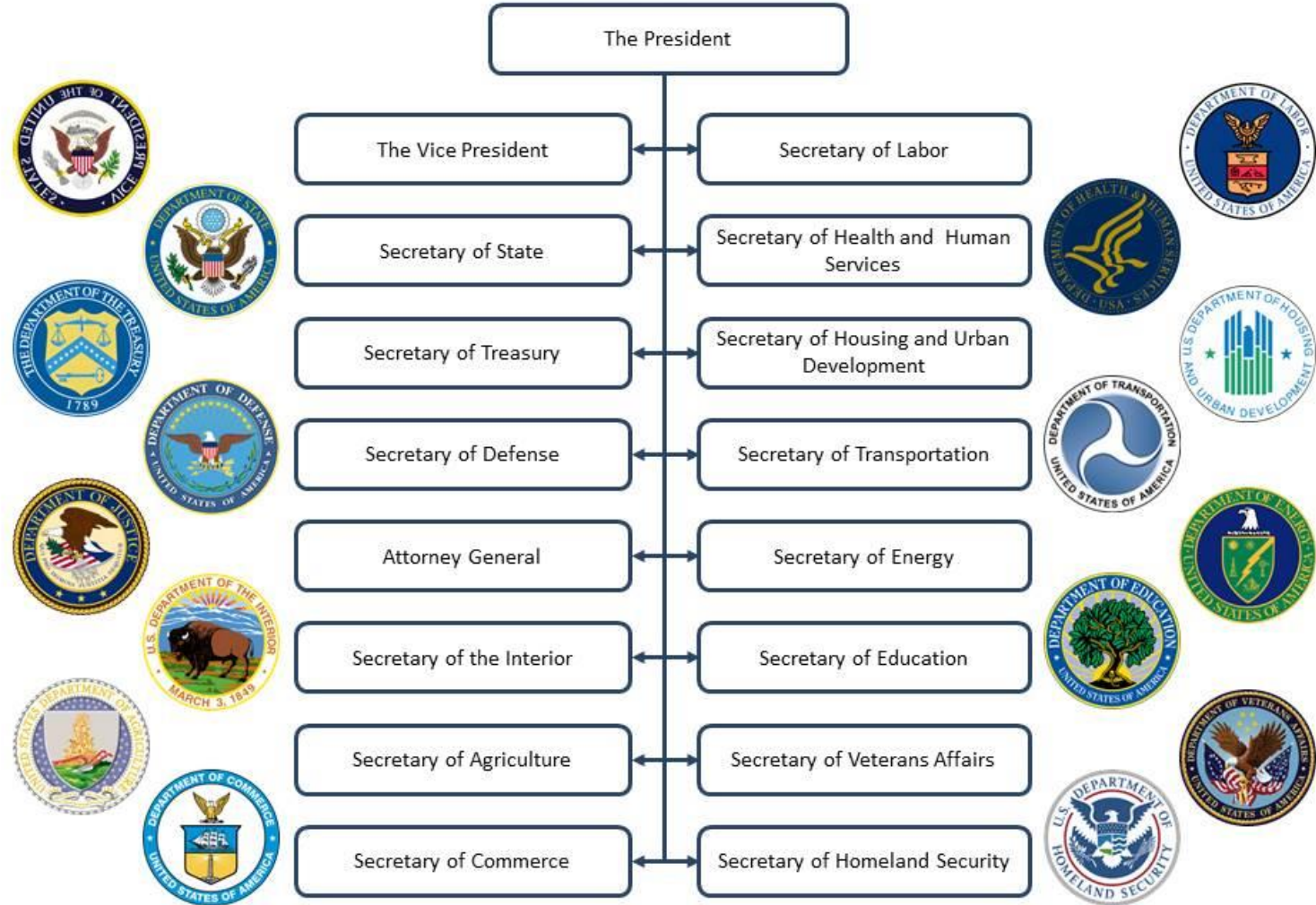
- 2 year terms
- Number per state depends on population

Federal Lawmaking

- The executive branch consists of the president and the various departments of the federal government.
- Each department is headed by a secretary who is a member of the president's cabinet.

Federal Lawmaking

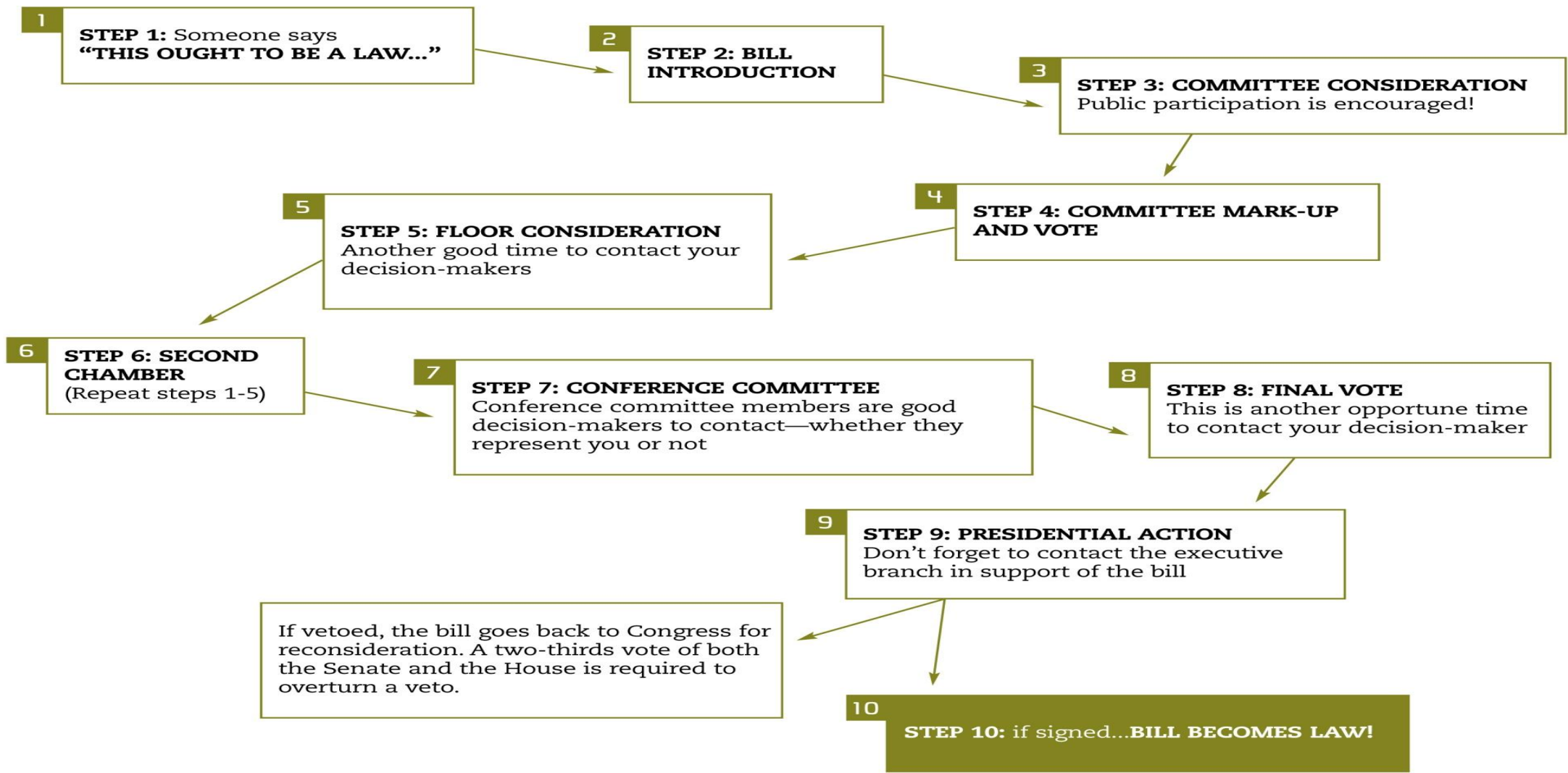
Executive Branch



<http://blendedgov.w.eebly.com/gate-4-executive-branch-departments-agencies-and-more.html>

How A Bill Becomes a Law

- Whether you are working at the local, state, or federal level, each decision-making body has a process they go through to take an idea and turn it into a law.
- The process will differ somewhat by state or municipality.



<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/CPTI/Pages/Advocacy-Training-Modules.aspx>



Making a Difference

- You don't have to be a legislative expert to effect change.
- Decision-makers do not necessarily know your business or the travel industry and **need to hear from people to do!**

Making a Difference

- **When to weigh-in:**
 - During committee hearings
 - Before key votes
 - During the budget process
 - Before a bill reaches the governor's desk
- **Decision-makers that need to hear from you:**
 - Your own decision-maker(s)
 - Committee members and conference committee members
 - Governors and other members of the executive branch

Questions?



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Next Month's Webinar

- **March 28, 2:00 PM ET**
- **Get to Know The Issues:** What Matters to Your Business and Bottom Line
- **Please reach out!**
 - gstrand@asta.org or 703-739-8711