

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

cut into strips

A bill to spend \$20 million to improve airport screening is requested by the President of the United States.

This bill must originate in the House of Representatives since it is a finance measure. A member of the House of Representatives introduces the bill.

1st Reading: The bill (title only) is read in the House of Representatives and then referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by Speaker of the House and Ways and Means Committee. It could have been sent to the Energy and Commerce committee, but the chairman is opposed to using federal funds for airports.

The bill is referred to the subcommittee on transportation by the Chairman of the the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Since this bill is on the "fast track" the Subcommittee Chairman has agreed to put this on the top of the agenda. In return, he has been promised that his pet bill to promote the development new tractors will come out of the Agriculture Committee soon.

During discussion of the bill in subcommittee, the total is raised to \$25 million with \$5 million to be used to buy new machines.

The bill is referred back to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where it is put at the top of the agenda by the chairwoman. She is particularly interested in this bill since the screening machines are made in her district.

The total is raised to \$30 million with \$10 million to be used to buy new screening machines.

The Rules Committee, friendly with the president and behind this bill, puts it at the top of the agenda and limits debate to 15 minutes per representative.

2nd Reading: The House, in a committee of the whole, debates and amends the bill. At first the bill is almost killed, but when it is amended to include \$10 million to improve security at Reagan National Airport it is passed. It could have been returned to Committee, but the President intervened and convinced the House to vote immediately.

3rd Reading: After being put in final form the bill is passed in a roll call vote. Seeing that polls show that 75% of the American public supports increased security at airports, and with much logrolling (trading votes) many representatives join the bandwagon and it passes convincingly.

The bill is now sent to the Senate (if it has not already been introduced).

1st Reading: The bill is assigned to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. The Chairman of this committee refers it to the Transportation Subcommittee.

Seeing that the bill is popular the Chairwoman of the Transportation Subcommittee puts it at the top of the agenda. In the subcommittee \$30 million is added to make more secure the cockpit doors. The Chair people of both the Transportation Subcommittee and Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee like this since airplane manufacturers are in their states.

The bill is returned to the CS&T Committee. Here, \$5 million is added to the bill to improve security at ski resorts to gain the support of the Senator from Colorado.

2nd Reading: The Senate, in a committee of the whole, debates and amends the bill. To ensure passage the sponsors and supporters of the bill agree to send back to committee a controversial bill that would require tobacco companies to spend \$20 million to discourage teenage smoking. It passes.

3rd Reading: After being put in final form the bill is passed in a roll call vote. Senators are pleased to see that the media has commended them for such quick action. It only spent a month in the Senate before passage.

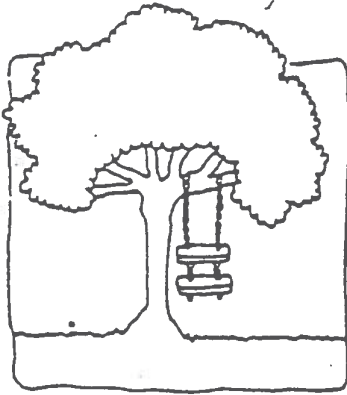
While the joint committee on the budget has discussed the bill, they were unable to come to agreement. Therefore, the bill is sent to a Conference Committee to iron out the differences between the House and Senate Bills. To achieve agreement the bill is amended to add \$50 million to improve the interstate highway system. Who can resist more highway funds for their state?

The House of Representatives and Senate both pass the bill as it comes out of the Conference Committee.

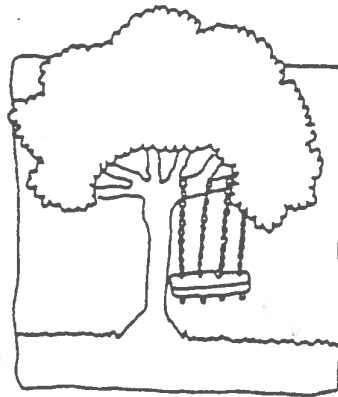
The bill is sent to the President to sign. However, seeing that his original \$20 million bill includes \$125 million in expenditures, he vetoes it.

The bill is sent back to the House of Representatives and Senate. Members of both houses find this bill just too good and it passes both houses by a 2/3 vote. The Airport Screening bill is now the law of the land.

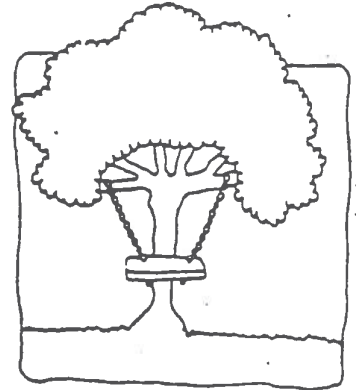
How A Bill Becomes Law



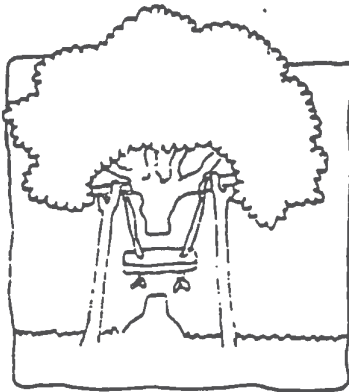
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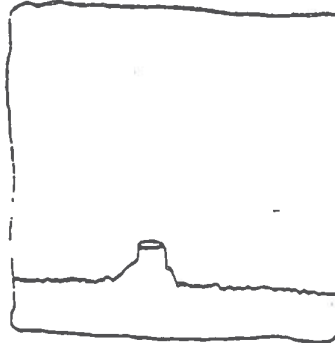
AS AMENDED IN COMMITTEE



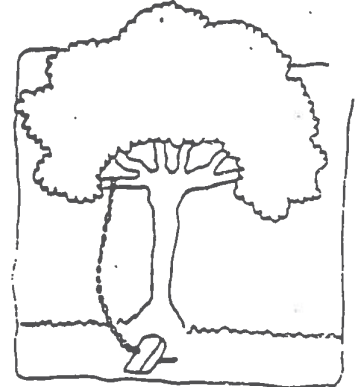
AS AMENDED ON SECOND READING



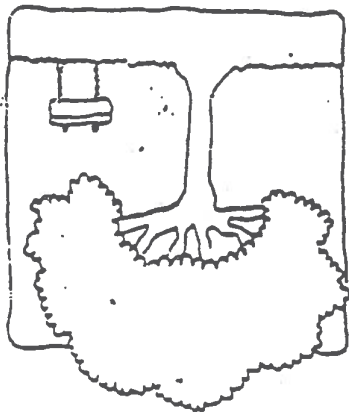
AS ENACTED



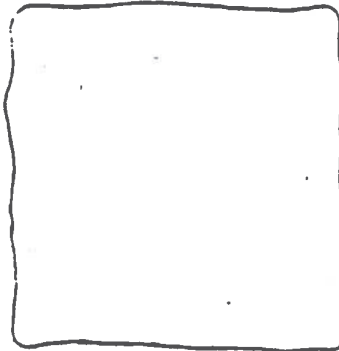
AS FUNDED BY JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE



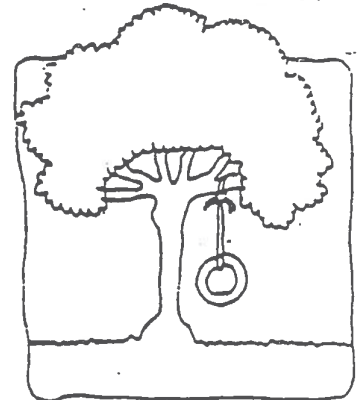
AS IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE AGENCY



AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA



AS UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC



WHAT WAS ACTUALLY NEEDED