

Influences ON **LAWMAKING**

COMMITTEE SYSTEM

- Where 90+% bills die (Pigeonhole)
- Committee Leadership:
Seniority



THE BILL

- *Delegate* or *Trustee*?
- *Pork Barrel Riders*
- *Sunset Legislation* or *Continuing Resolution*?

INTEREST GROUPS

- PACs = \$\$
- *Lobbyists*
- *Influential* or not?

CONSTITUENCY

- SMDP Electoral System
- Impact of *Redistricting*
- *Safe* or *Swing* Seat?

PARTY POLITICS

- *Ideology/Platform*
- *Party Leadership*
- *Logrolling*
- *Seniority*
- *President's Position*

Influences ON **LAWMAKING**



House Committees

Exclusive: members may not serve on any other committee (exception Budget)

Appropriations
Rules
Ways & Means

Major: members may only serve on one

Nonmajor: members may serve on one major & one nonmajor committee OR on two nonmajor committees

Senate Committees

Major: no senator is supposed to serve on more than two - but some do.

Minor: no senator is supposed to serve on more than one - but some do.

Select: ad hoc, temporary bodies

Congressional Support

Congressional Research Office (CRS)

General Accounting Office (GAO)

Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

The Committee System

- “Gatekeepers” or “Little Legislatures”
- Division of Labor (+5,000 bills/term)
- Oversight of Executive Branch (a check!)
- Seniority System
 - Majority = Chairman, Minority = Ranking
 - 1970s “*Bill of Rights*”
 - (*Sub-Committees set agendas*)
- House = policy specialists
- Senate = policy generalists