



# How an Idea Becomes a Law in Florida

## Description:

This Prezi was designed to help teachers teach about the state lawmaking process. The Prezi is a flash-based program that can be used individually or by groups of students on computers leading their own way through the program, or by a teacher giving a presentation on the lawmaking process.

## Objectives and Purpose:

Students will use the Prezi and worksheets to learn skills and concepts related to Florida's state history and its legislative process, the role of the legislative branch in American government, and the differences between the federal and state legislative branches.

## Worksheets:

For the **How an Idea Becomes a Law in Florida Prezi**, two worksheets have been created for students. One is simpler and allows students to follow along with the Prezi and create a flowchart of the lawmaking process. The other sheet includes activities that go along with the Prezi and look at the responsibilities of the state legislative and executive branches in lawmaking.

## Vocabulary:

Because the activity involves legislative terms as well as the texts of the US and Florida Constitutions, there are vocabulary words that students may not be familiar with. Below are some of the words of particular importance for the **How an Idea Becomes a Law in Florida Prezi**:

Bicameral

Concerned citizen

Legislative bill

Debate

Legislator

Veto

Chamber

Companion bill

Legislative committees

Governor

Lawmaking & the legislative process

**Audience:** Grades 4-5th, Middle, High

**Location:** Online Resource

**Program Time:** 60 minutes

### **Florida's State Academic Standards for Social Studies:**

#### Fourth Grade

*SS.4.A.1.1 Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.*

*SS.4.A.1.2 Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media.*

*SS.4.CG.2.1 Identify and describe how citizens work with local and state governments to solve problems.*

*SS.4.CG.2.2 Explain the importance of voting, public service and volunteerism to the state and nation.*

*SS.4.CG.2.3 Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the state level.*

*SS.4.CG.3.1 Explain the structure and functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government in Florida.*

#### Fifth Grade

*SS.5.A.1.1 Use primary and secondary sources to understand history.*

*SS.5.CG.2.4 Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States' constitutional republic.*

*SS.5.CG.2.6 Explain symbols and documents that represent the United States.*

*SS.5.CG.3.3 Explain the role of the court system in interpreting law and settling conflicts.*

## Sixth Grade

*SS.6.W.1.3 Interpret primary and secondary sources.*

## Seventh Grade

*SS.7.CG.2.10 Explain the process for citizens to address a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue and determining a course of action.*

*SS.7.CG.3.7 Explain the structure, functions and processes of the legislative branch of government.*

*SS.7.CG.3.8 Explain the structure, functions and processes of the executive branch of government.*

*SS.7.CG.3.9 Explain the structure, functions and processes of the judicial branch of government.*

*SS.7.CG.3.11 Analyze the effects of landmark Supreme Court decisions on law, liberty and the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.*

*SS.7.CG.3.13 Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state and national levels.*

*SS.7.CG.2.10 Explain the process for citizens to address a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue and determining a course of action.*

*SS.7.CG.3.13 Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state and national levels.*

## Eighth Grade

*SS.8.A.1.5 Identify, within both primary and secondary sources, the author, audience, format and purpose of significant historical documents.*

*SS.8.A.1.6 Compare interpretations of key events and issues throughout American History.*

## Ninth-Twelfth Grades

*SS.912.W.1.3 Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources.*

*SS.912.W.1.6 Evaluate the role of history in shaping identity and character.*

*SS.912.CG.2.3 Explain the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state and national levels.*

*SS.912.CG.2.4 Evaluate, take and defend objective, evidence-based positions on issues that cause the government to balance the interests of individuals with the public good.*

*SS.912.CG.2.6 Explain how the principles contained in foundational documents contributed to the expansion of civil rights and liberties over time.*

*SS.912.CG.2.8 Explain the impact of political parties, interest groups, media and individuals on determining and shaping public policy.*

*SS.912.CG.3.11 Evaluate how landmark Supreme Court decisions affect law, liberty and the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.*

*SS.912.CG.3.15 Explain how citizens are affected by the local, state and national governments.*

## **Resources and References for Florida Lawmaking Process**

- Florida Senate Kids! <http://www.flsenate.gov/senatekids/bill-becomes-law.cfm>
- Rosenthal, Alan, “Beyond the intuition that says “I know one when I see one,” how do you go about measuring the effectiveness of any given legislature?” NCSL State Legislatures magazine, July/August 1999: The Good Legislature. Website: <http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/legislatures/the-good-legislature.aspx>
- Florida Education Association, “How a Bill Becomes a Law.” Website: <http://feaweb.org/how-a-bill-becomes-a-law>
- Florida House of Representatives, “Just for Students.” Under it are links to the “How an Idea Becomes a Law (Introductory)”; “How an Idea Becomes a Law (Intermediate)”; and, “How an Idea Becomes a Law (Advanced)” informational sheets. Website: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/PublicGuide/PublicGuide.aspx>