

What is LegSim?

- Ready-made lawmaking simulations since 2001
- 24/7 access via computers, tablets and phones
- Easy setup and low cost
- Assignments, exercises and sample syllabi
- Students who are excited about learning!



LEGSIM

Just add students for an immersive simulation

LegSim: US Senate John Wilkerson (Log Out) Home Tutorials Instruction

 Members  Organizations  Clerk  Committees  Floor  White House

Membership > US Senate



Senator
Minnesota



California



Alaska



Connecticut



Alabama



Senator
Arizona



Colorado



Florida




Delaware




Montana


Students register and create member profiles




Members




Organizations




Clerk



Committees




Floor



White House

Public Office > Ben Lennon



Ben Lennon
Michigan (MI)

Personal

Constituency

Legislation

Groups

Personal Statement

Greetings from the Great Lakes State! My name is Ben Lennon, and I have the pleasure and privilege of representing the state of Michigan.

Our country has seen some hard times, but over the past seven years we've made our way back from the brink. Even with all of this progress, however, we have a long way to go. We need to continue rebuilding our economy based on sustainable practices that will allow us to be prosperous for generations to come. We need to protect American jobs and encourage the growth of small businesses. Finally, we need environmentally-friendly policies that will ensure that our children, and their children, can enjoy this beautiful land and all of its resources.

Governing a country of our size presents its fair share of challenges, but we can't continue with the same styles of partisan politics. That's why I will make it a priority to work across the aisle on issues we can all agree on. No, we might not see eye-to-eye on every issue, but we can set some common goals, such as providing a world-class education for our children, that will guide our work.

Things like providing for our families, putting our kids through college, and cultivating a successful career are challenging tasks that help us develop to our full capacity. They shouldn't be easy, but they should be a little easier than they are now. I want to work together to lower the barriers that stand in our way, and I believe that working with Congress can be a great place to start. As a wise political philosopher once said, "When politics goes well we know a good in common that we cannot know alone."

Tutorials and on-line quizzes get them up to speed on congressional procedures



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Tutorials >

[Senate Rules of Procedure](#)

[The Big Picture](#)

[How a Filibuster Works in LegSim](#)

[Member Tutorial](#)

[Committee Chair Tutorial](#)

[Chamber Leader Tutorial](#)

[House Rules of Procedure](#)

Sidebars provide instructions and links to additional information

Order Code RS21667
Updated January 4, 2005

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

“Dear Colleague” Letters: A Brief Overview

R. Eric Petersen
Analyst in American National Government
Government and Finance Division

Summary

“Dear Colleague” letters are official correspondence distributed in bulk to Members in both chambers. Primarily, they are used by one or more Members to persuade others to cosponsor or oppose a bill (generally, prior to introduction). Dear Colleague letters might also inform Members of an event connected with congressional business, of new or modified House procedures, or of some other matter. The use of the phrase “‘Dear Colleague’ letter” to refer to a widely distributed letter among Members dates at least to the start of the 20th century. New technologies and expanded use of the Internet have increased the speed and facilitated the process of preparing Dear Colleague letters. This

They organize the legislature by creating their own caucuses and parties



Members



Organizations



Clerk



Committees



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White House



List All Caucuses



List All Parties



Create a New Caucus



Create a New Party

Elephant Tea Party Caucus >

Caucus Leader

Senator [Perkins](#)

Public Announcements

[Manage Caucus](#)

Membership

Senator [Perkins](#)

Caucus Description

The biggest bloc, a pragmatic, establishment-supporting wing of the party that has for years produced its presidential nominees. We are arguably the most loyal to the party and its most reliable voters, but we are conservatives first, Republicans second. On certain issues we represent the more radical Tea Party wing possessing a deep mistrust of current Democratic standings on issues. We tend to see issues in stark black and white; have an appetite for compromise, but won't be strong-armed into anything against our principle conservative values. At times a firm stance is necessary to be heard, especially as a minority in Congress.

Issue Areas

MOTIVATING ISSUES

The ECONOMY

Slash the National deficit, taxes, regulations

And by choosing leaders and committees

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Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions >

Chair

Senator [Joassin](#)

Public Announcements

Sen.27: The Flint Water Crisis Relief Act has been reported out of Committee.

[Manage Committee](#)

Membership

Senator [Grandgeorge](#)
Senator [Joassin](#)
Senator [Moso](#)
Senator [Nichols](#)
Senator [Perkins](#)
Senator [Stapnes](#)

Committee Description

Our Committee is in charge of Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. This involves legislating on matters such as aging, biomedical research and development, higher education, occupational safety and health, private pension plans, public health, student loans, wages and hours of labor, equal employment opportunity as well as individuals with disabilities and arts and humanities.

The HELP Committee jurisdiction encompasses most of the agencies, institutes, and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Administration on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Furthermore, it has jurisdiction over various issues related to education and workforce development, including Head Start, the No Child Left Behind Act, Higher Education, Job and Vocational Training and the Workforce Investment Act. The HELP Committee also has primary jurisdiction over the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation through the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Issue Areas

In recent years, the Committee has been presented with issues as diverse as mental health research, tobacco and marijuana use, newborn screenings, promoting access to college to students with disabilities, retirement plan options for small businesses, lyme disease, the No child left behind Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Every Child achieves Act and of course the common core set of standards and the Affordable Care Act.

The most polemical issues of the past few years have been about public school and charter school funding. GI bills. the drug company industrv's patent monopolies. the age of retirement

They research and sponsor bills



Members



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White House

[Submit Legislation](#) > Propose legislation for consideration by the chamber

A bill cannot be withdrawn or edited once it has been submitted. Please draft bills off-line and proofread carefully before you submit. A sample bill can be found under the Instruction tab.

Types of Legislation.

(S.) Bills that become public law revise the U.S. Code (below). Bills can vary dramatically in terms of their importance.

(S. Res) Simple Resolutions do not have the force of law. They are often used to make statements of support or opposition, and are also used to propose changes in internal legislative procedures.

(S.J. Res) Joint Resolutions become law in the same manner as public bills. The exceptions are Joint Resolutions that propose amendments to the Constitution, which require 2/3rds support of Congress to be referred to the states for ratification.

Legislative Title

Legislative Type

None



Legislative Text

With guidance from provided tutorials

H.R. 100 (S. 100) : The National Science Education Act	
Short Title: This Act may be cited as the National Science Education Act	A Bill (H.R. or S.) has the force of law. A Resolution (H. Res. or S. Res.) does not.
Findings and Purposes	Title should be broad and comprehensive but limited to a single subject.
<p>It is estimated that more than half of the economic growth of the United States today results directly from research and development in science and technology. The effectiveness of the United States in maintaining economic growth will be largely determined by the intellectual capital of the United States.</p> <p>New methods of teaching science, mathematics, and technology are required, as well as improved training of teachers. Students should learn science primarily by doing science. Teachers need to be knowledgeable of their content area, and of techniques that can be used to connect that information to their students in the classroom.</p>	Findings convey the importance and general intentions of the bill.
Section 1. Master Teacher Grant Program	Each provision gets its own section to facilitate amending.
<p>The Director of the National Science Foundation shall make grants to public or private K-12 schools for the purpose of hiring a master teacher. To be eligible to receive a grant, the school must submit a description of the relationship of the master teacher to other staff, the qualifications of a master teacher, and the master teacher's job responsibilities as they relate to the development of innovative science curricula.</p> <p>Grants shall be made from National Science Foundation funds available for education. There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2004 through 2006.</p>	Each section provides all of the specifics required for implementation. For example:
Section 2. Evaluation of Teaching Technologies.	What is proposed?
<p>The Director of the National Science Foundation shall enter into an agreement</p>	Who will administer it?
	How will they administer it?
	Are there penalties for non-compliance?
	Who enforces these penalties?

All bills are easily accessed



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US Senate > Browse Legislation

Browse Submitted Legislation

All submitted legislation is listed here. A bill can have only one sponsor. However, other legislators can indicate their support for a bill by co-sponsoring it.

The Speaker, in consultation with the Parliamentarian, refers each bill to committee for initial consideration. For information about committee consideration, consult the Committees page.

[Introducing a Senate Bill or Resolution](#)

[Member Sponsorship and cosponsorship activities in Congress](#)
[Edit Content](#)

[S.41: Working Americans Gain Economic Security Act \(WAGES Act\)](#)

Sponsor: Senator [An](#)

Submitted: March 7, 2016 10:27 PM

Cosponsors: 5

Proposed Amendments: 0

REFERRED



[S.40: The Social Security Adjustment on Funds and Earnings Act \(SAFE\)](#)

Sponsor: Senator [Lennon](#)

Submitted: March 2, 2016 10:14 PM

Cosponsors: 11

Proposed Amendments: 5

PASSED: Yes / No / Present

[View Vote Detail](#)



[S.39: Act to Provide Appropriations for the Veteran](#)



Committees review, markup and report



Members



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Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Chair

Senator [Joassin](#)

Public Announcements

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Senator [Perkins](#)

Senator [Stapnes](#)

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Floor scheduling captures chamber dynamics

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Legislative Holds > US Senate

An informal practice by which a Senator informs his or her floor leader that he or she does not wish a particular bill or other measure to be considered on the floor in its current form. The chamber leader need not follow the Senator's wishes, but a hold puts the leadership on notice that a Senator may be prepared to engage in a filibuster.

In LegSim, in order to filibuster a bill or a related motion to proceed (see Tutorials), a Senator must place a hold on the bill BEFORE a vote on the motion to proceed has been scheduled. [Edit Content](#)

Place a Legislative Hold

S.9: An Act to End Corporate Tax Deferral

Place Hold

My Holds

You have no current holds.

Current Holds

Title

- S.9: An Act to End Corporate Tax Deferral
- S.13: Offshore-Drilling Expansion and Fracking Prohibition Act of 2016
- S.4: Military Working Dog Veterans Act of 2016
- S.10: Equal Pay Act of 2016
- S.35: Education Equality and Teaching Proficiency Act (Clean Bill)
- S.6: Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Reform Act

Draft Special Rule

B *I* U ABC | [List Icons] Paragraph [Clipboard] [Undo] [Redo] [Link] [Image] [Table] [Quote] [Code] [Fullscreen] [Print] [Help]

a bill to your left, Enter the substance of a proposed Special Rule here. To send a Rule to the chamber, the committee must also vote to report it on a Motion to Report scheduled by the chair.

Rules can propose just about anything in a Special Rule, but whatever is proposed is meaningless unless it is subsequently approved by a majority of the House. Open rules do little more than move a bill up the calendar. Closed rules can effectively cut off all amendments and debate.

Open. Allows any Member to offer an amendment under the five minute rule, provided that the amendment is germane.

Modified Open. Permits general debate and allows any Member to offer a germane amendment under the five minute rule subject only to an overall time limit on the amendment process, and/or a requirement that amendments be submitted in advance on LegSim.

Structured (Modified Closed). The Rules Committee limits the amendments that may be offered to those designated in the special rule or Rules Committee report to accompany the special rule.

Path: p

Propose For Committee Deliberation

The Senate (or House) decides



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Vote Regarding S.21 > Cloture

Vote on Motion Regarding S.21

Type: Cloture

Starts: March 9, 2016 10:44 PM

Concludes: March 10, 2016 10:44 AM

Vote Threshold: 60%

FAILED: 10 Yes / 3 No / 1 Present

Motion Text

S.21: Immigration Reform and Economic Opportunity Act of 2016



Sponsor: Senator An

Submitted: February 14, 2016 10:08 PM

Cosponsors: 3

Proposed Amendments: 3

CALENDAR

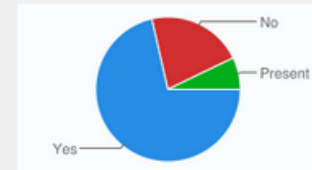
Debate Status

This motion is being considered under limited debate and cannot be filibustered.

Ballot Overview

Vote Type

Vote Type	Cast	Percentage
Yes	10	71.43%
No	3	21.43%
Present	1	7.14%
No Vote	20	



Ballot Details

Member

Senator Abid

Vote

YES

The President weighs in

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President > Pres. Obama (not really)

Legislation **Governing Priorities** Personal Statement



Pres. Obama (not really)
ovaloffice@wh.net
[Edit Profile](#)

President's Desk

Enrolled Legislation

- H.R.11: Livestock Antimicrobial Act
[Sign](#)
[Veto](#)

Signed Legislation

- H.R.16: Protection of Veteran Education Benefits Act
- H.R.18: Benefit Families and Homeowners Act of 2014
- H.R.30: Rightful Americans Act

Behind the scenes, the instructor customizes and administers



System Settings

Settings

Modify chamber-wide settings such as member titles and procedural settings.

Constituencies

Specify the constituencies available to student users.

Instructional Resources

Page Content

Add or modify content snippets on the different pages of the website.

Tutorials

Edit tutorial pages available under the Tutorial menu.

Instructions

Edit instructional resources available under the Instruction menu.

Download Member Statistics

Download a CSV file with details for each member. It is also possible to download per group from the group's management page.

User Management

Reset User Passwords

Manage users with the member role. Members are users who can vote and engage in legislative activities.

Mass Member Import

Add several new member accounts at once based on a list of names.

Manage Members

Delete a member and all submissions and interactions by that member from the chamber.

Group Management

Assign Leaders

Designate leaders of the chamber, committees, parties and caucuses.

Committees

Choose the committees to be created, and assign or remove committee members.

Sections

Create sections, and assign students and instructors to manage them.

Caucuses

Create informal caucuses, and assign or remove caucus members.

Parties

Create official parties and assign or remove party members (only one party per member).

Legislation Management

Schedule Floor Votes

Create floor scheduling priorities to consider bills out of their order on the calendar.

Assignments ensure that students ask the right questions

Committee Request Assignment

Under *Committees* you can indicate committee preferences to the leadership and to other legislators. Committee assignments are important because they signal your policy priorities to constituents, and they provide opportunities for extraordinary influence over legislation within particular policy areas. Committees have negative and positive agenda control. With rare exceptions, only bills that are favorably reported from committee are taken up on the floor. In addition, the committee's version of a bill (not the bill as introduced) is usually the focus of debate when a bill is taken up on the floor.

In one single spaced page, explain the motivations behind your committee requests and how they relate to your representational and policy goals.

Exercises promote collaborative learning

Overview: Balance the Budget

Legislating is not easy. This lesson about democracy takes time for students to appreciate. Citizens and the legislators who represent them have conflicting values and policy priorities. Legislatures enable societies to move forward despite intense conflicts, by providing a framework for making collective choices.

The budgeting exercises described below can be illuminating and fun starting points, especially for students who have never participated in a collective decision-making exercise such as LegSim. Through these exercises they will learn more about:

- government spending and taxing priorities, deficits and debts
- how government priorities compare to their own
- the importance of agenda setting, negotiation, and compromise in democratic processes

Instructor and student testimonials

“I found LegSim to be the most valuable pedagogical tool for teaching the legislative process that I’ve come across. The feedback from students has been tremendous and I witnessed some serious learning (lots of “oh yeah” moments) going on during class. I learned quite a bit, especially regarding procedures (something I always avoided like the plague) which surprised me.”

*Professor Jeff Peake
Clemson University*

“I have never taken a class like this before in my entire life, and probably will never have this much fun in a class ever again!”

“There’s only so much you can learn about Congress, but LegSim adds more and keeps you on your feet. Something about actually legislating and looking at bills that a 300 page textbook just can’t convey.”

Anonymous students

How much does it cost?

Colleges and Universities

Students pay a \$16 fee during registration

High Schools

School pays a \$250 annual site license

How to order

For more information contact support@legsim.org

To order a session

- 1. Your name and email address
- 2. The preferred name of your LegSim session (e.g. U of Washington Summer 2010)
- 3. Version (e.g. U.S. House or U.S. Senate)
- 4. Approximate start and end dates for the class
- 5. Payment method: Student pays (\$16) or School Pays

Thank you for taking the time to learn about LegSim!

★ RE★ELECT ★

Rep. Brian Mann



MA (7) Tax Money Destination

**And know exactly where your
hard-earned tax dollars
end up**