

Different Processes for Passing Legislation, Regulation, but Same Force of Law

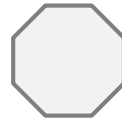
Differences Between Legislation and Regulation



Introduced by...



Altered by...



Can be stopped by...



Finalized when...



Has the effect of...

Legislation

Lawmakers
Any senator or congressperson can introduce legislation

Congress
Committees in either chamber can alter proposed legislation through the amendment process

Stalling/Failing in Congress
Legislation may be stopped in its tracks if it stalls in the committee phase, fails a vote or cloture motion, is vetoed, or is not brought up by the other chamber

Signed by President or Congress Overrides Veto
The president can sign the bill into law, or congress can override a presidential veto by two-thirds majorities in both chambers

Law
Finalized legislation has the binding force of law

Regulation

Federal Agencies
A federal agency may draft a regulation after reviewing or finding ambiguity in a law and realizing a clarifying regulation is necessary; regulations must be based in laws already passed

The Public
The public and interested parties may attempt to change a proposed regulation by submitting comments, which require consideration and response by the agency

Congress/The Public
A proposed regulation may be stopped in its tracks by strong, nearly unanimous or very influential public comments, or a resolution of disapproval by Congress (which can be vetoed by the president)

Published
A regulation becomes a rule when it is published into the Federal Register after final consideration of comments and adjustments

Law
Exactly the same as legislation; a finalized regulation has the binding force of law