

EL/Civics Lesson Plan

Program Name
Staff Responsible for Lesson

Delaware Area Career Center
Viviane Bushong

Date(s) Used	April 2011
Civics Category	Gov. & Law
Civics Objective	3-1 Identify basic organization of federal govt.
Time Frame to Complete Lesson	45 minutes
EFL(s)	Levels 3-5
Standard(s)	Listen Actively Read for Understanding Convey Ideas in Writing Speak so Others can Understand
Benchmark(s)	S3.1,4.1,5.1 L3.1,4.1,5.1 R3.1,4.1,5.1 W3.1,4.1,5.1
Materials	Article on Fish Wish Law School worksheet
Activities	Read article together in class Go over new vocabulary Discuss how a bill becomes a law Do worksheet together-write sentences on board to answer the questions/Have students read their answers Brainstorm on what they would like to see become a law? What are the steps they would take? Discuss and write on the board.
Assessment/ Evidence	Give quiz on new vocabulary and concepts Have them write sentences on their own and write them on the board

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Reflection	Do the students understand how a bill becomes a law? Do they understand the various parts of the federal government? Are they able to verbalize other ideas that could become laws? Did they enjoy the lesson?
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Name _____

Law School

Fourth graders in Virginia are helping to reel in support to make the striped bass their state's official saltwater fish. As the students work with lawmakers, they are learning how a bill becomes a law in Virginia.

Now it's time to learn how a bill becomes a law for the entire United States. The diagram below shows one example of how a bill becomes a U.S. law. Study the diagram. Then answer the questions that follow.



<p>1. Anyone can come up with an idea for a law, but only members of Congress can introduce a bill to other lawmakers. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p>	<p>2. A committee, or group, from the House of Representatives reviews the bill. If the committee likes it, it sends the bill back to the House for all the lawmakers to consider.</p>	<p>3. Representatives can make amendments, or changes, to the bill. Then they vote. A yea vote means "yes." A nay vote means "no."</p>	<p>4. If the House approves the bill, it moves to the Senate. There, senators take similar steps to review the bill. If the Senate passes the bill, it goes to the U.S. president.</p>	<p>5. The president can sign the bill into law or veto it. To veto something is to refuse to approve it. If the president vetoes a bill, it can still become a law if two-thirds of Congress agree.</p>
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1. Which two groups make up Congress?

2. When members of Congress **amend** a bill, they _____.

3. In this example, in which part of Congress did the bill begin?

4. What happens after someone comes up with an idea for a law but before the bill is reviewed by a special committee?

5. What can you conclude about the U.S. president's role in creating laws?

A Fish Wish

Virginia students give the bass a boost.

Go, fish! Fourth graders in Virginia have hooked themselves a new mascot—the striped bass.

Thanks to the students, the bass (right) is set to become Virginia's official state saltwater fish. The students from Spratley Gifted Center in Hampton, Va., lobbied lawmakers on the swimmer's behalf. To lobby is to try to persuade a political group on a particular issue.

The striped bass is found in Chesapeake Bay. It faces threats including pollution, overfishing, and disease. To help the fish, the students wrote letters to Virginia's senators, asking them to support a bill to name the striped bass the state's saltwater fish.

Senator John Miller of Newport News, Va., agreed to sponsor, or

support, the bill with the students' help. So the fourth graders and their teacher Michele Ferrel made a trip to the state Capitol.

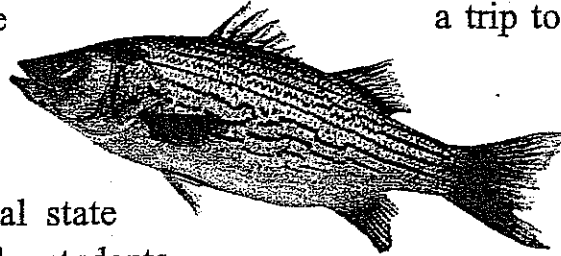
There, the students gave speeches in front of their state's senators.

"There was just so much excitement," Ferrel explained to *WR News*. "It was really an incredible experience, just seeing firsthand ... how they can participate."

Once the bill passed the Senate, the students lobbied the House of Delegates. Those lawmakers also voted in favor of the striped bass.

Now, the bill is on its way to Virginia's governor. He is expected to sign the bill into law. With its new state title, the striped bass would receive extra protection in the Chesapeake Bay.

Camryn Moore, 10, enjoyed sticking up for the fish. "It was fun to see how [a bill] becomes a law," she told *WR News*. "Our class changed history for our state."



Class: Courtesy of Michele Ferrel; Bass: Davies and Starr/Getty Images; Map: Leigh Heeger; Alaska: Lucas Payne/Alamy

