

Prepared by the Alabama Law Institute

Compliments of:

Marshall County Legislative Office

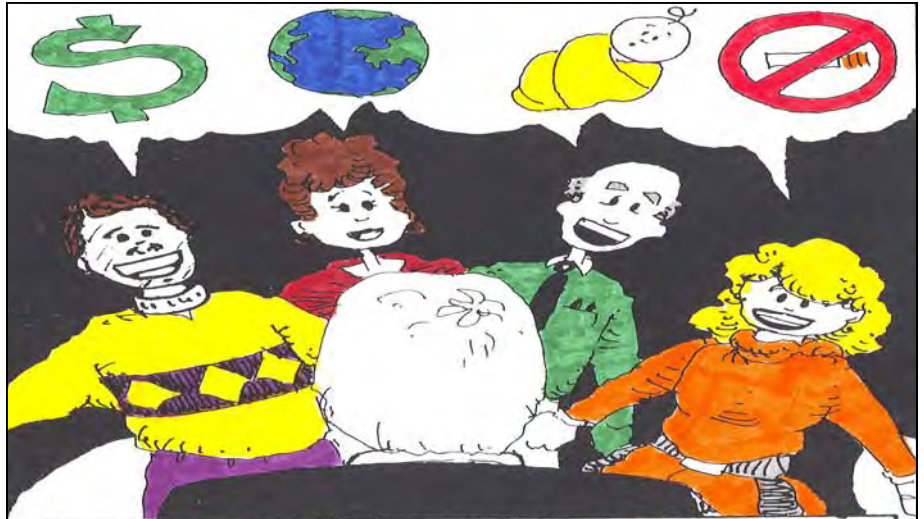
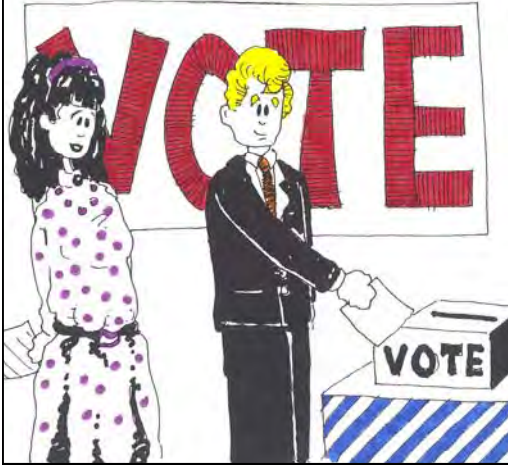
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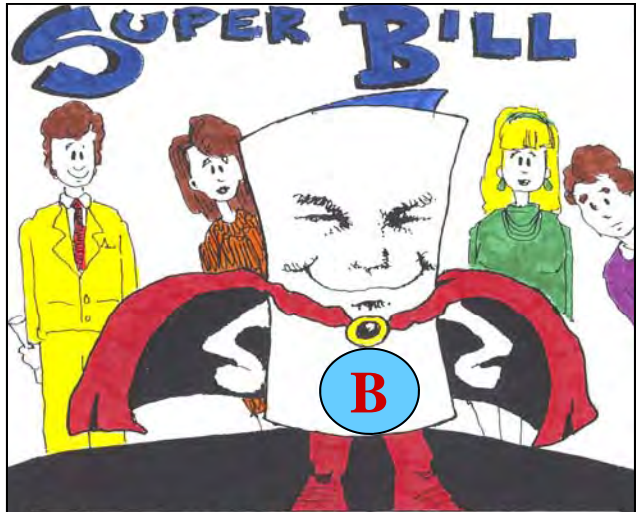
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THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA ELECT 35 STATE SENATORS AND 105 MEMBERS TO THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



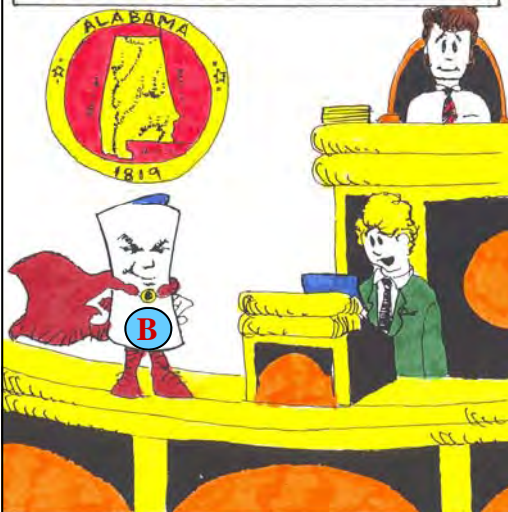
LEGISLATORS MEET WITH THEIR CONSTITUENTS TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS TO BE INTRODUCED AS BILLS

THE LEGISLATOR WILL THEN WORK WITH A LEGISLATIVE STAFF TO DRAFT A BILL.



THE LEGISLATOR, AS THE PRIMARY AUTHOR, SHARES THE BILL DRAFT WITH OTHER MEMBERS TO GET CO-SPONSORS.

THE FIRST READING OF THE BILL IS MADE WHEN THE LEGISLATOR FILES THE BILL AND READS IT BY ITS TITLE



THE BILL IS SENT TO A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE TO RECOMMEND PASSAGE, DEFEAT OR OFFER AMENDMENTS



THE COMMITTEE CHAIR FORWARDS A REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION TO THE CHIEF CLERK. THE REPORT IS READ TO THE HOUSE.

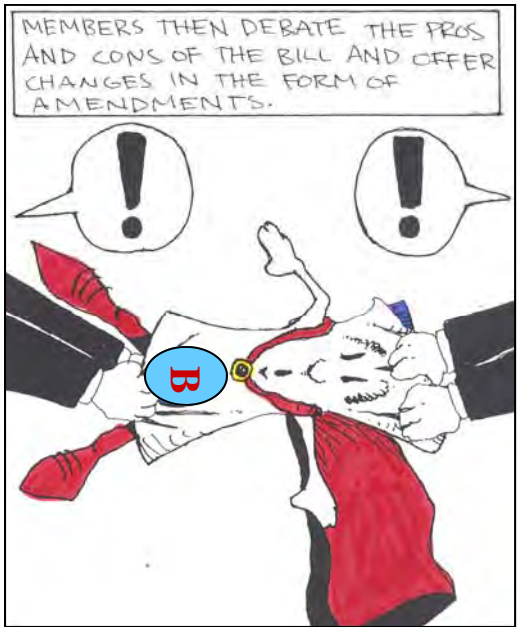




THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE FLOOR BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.



ON THE DAY THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR DEBATE, THE CHIEF CLERK READS THE TITLE OF THE BILL AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION



MEMBERS THEN DEBATE THE PROS AND CONS OF THE BILL AND OFFER CHANGES IN THE FORM OF AMENDMENTS.



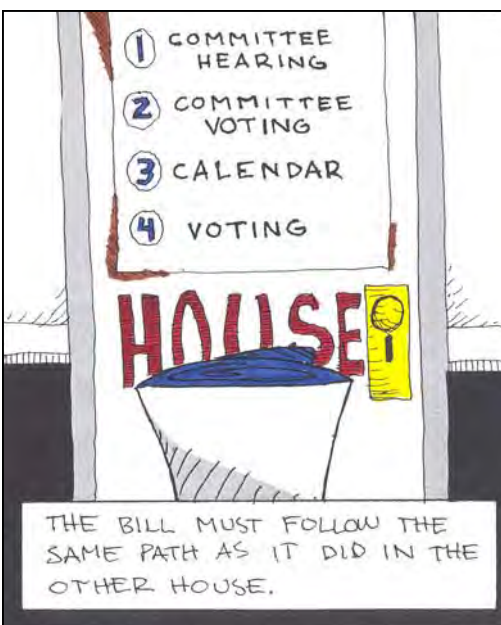
AT THE THIRD READING THE BILL IS READ AT LENGTH AND VOTED ON



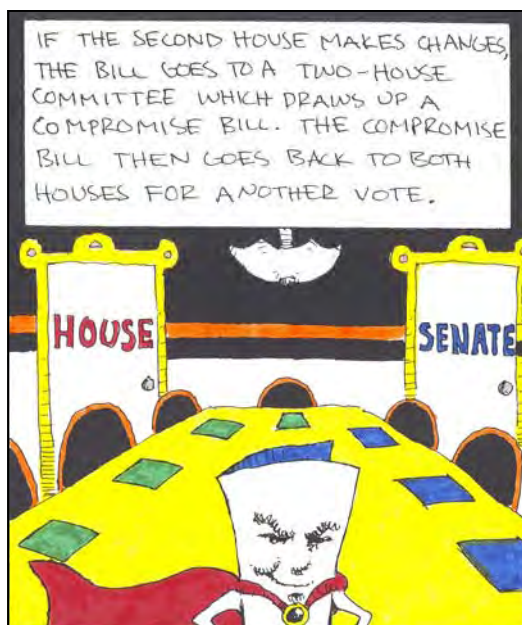
THE BILL IS EITHER PASSED OR REJECTED WITH OR WITHOUT CHANGES BY A MAJORITY VOTE.



IF THE BILL SURVIVES ALL TESTS IN THE HOUSE WHICH IT IS INTRODUCED, IT GOES TO THE OTHER HOUSE.



THE BILL MUST FOLLOW THE SAME PATH AS IT DID IN THE OTHER HOUSE.

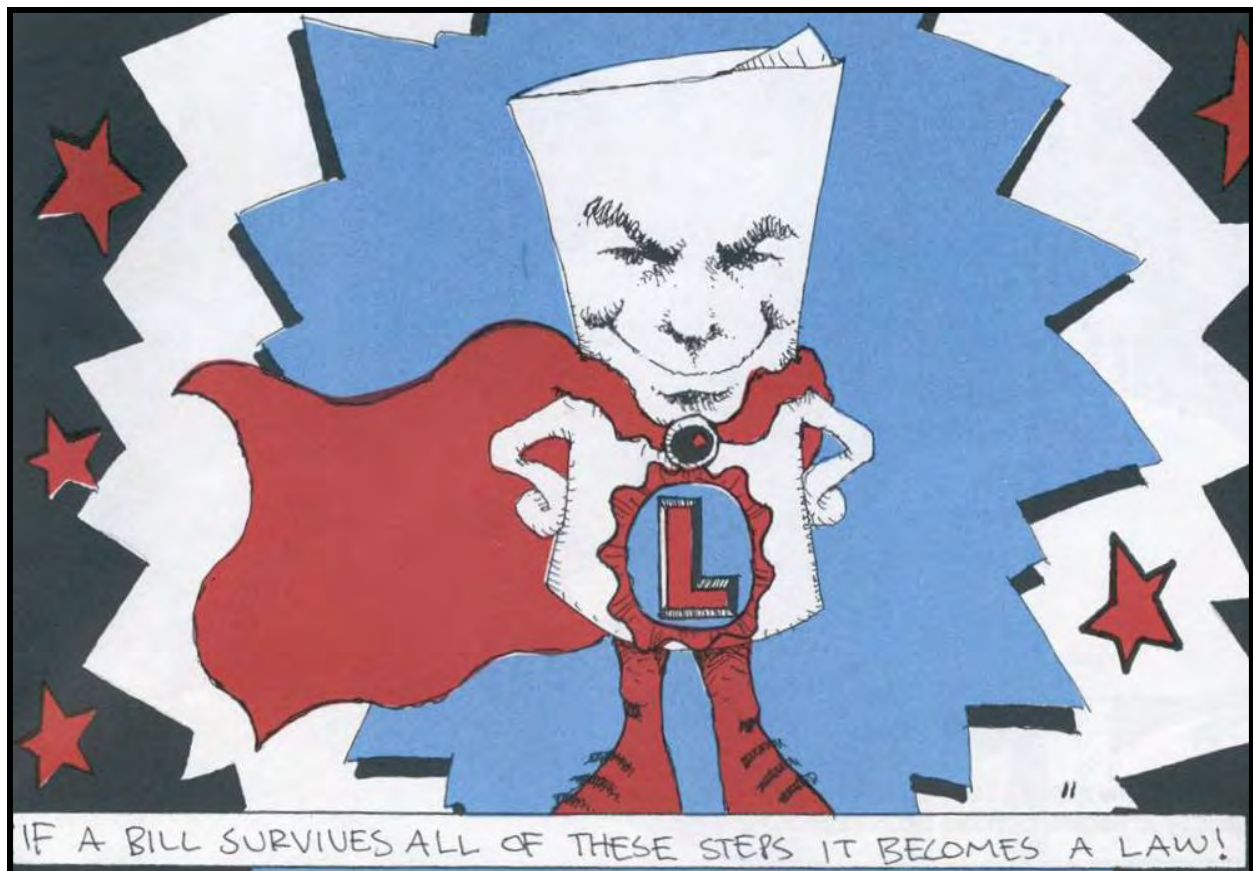


IF THE SECOND HOUSE MAKES CHANGES, THE BILL GOES TO A TWO-HOUSE COMMITTEE WHICH DRAWS UP A COMPROMISE BILL. THE COMPROMISE BILL THEN GOES BACK TO BOTH HOUSES FOR ANOTHER VOTE.



IF THE GOVERNOR SIGNS HIS NAME TO THE BILL, IT BECOMES A LAW.

IF THE GOVERNOR DISLIKES THE BILL AND VEToes IT, THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BECOME A LAW IS FOR BOTH HOUSES TO OVERRIDE THE VETO BY SIMPLE MAJORITY.



~ ***History of the Alabama Legislature*** ~

The Alabama Legislature was established in 1819, the same year Alabama became a state. The Alabama Legislature consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives which meets annually in Montgomery for regular sessions. The regular session lasts for 30 legislative days, over 105 calendar days. However, the Governor may call a special session which would last for an additional 12 legislative days.

To be eligible to run as a legislator, one must have lived in Alabama for three years before running for office. The person must also be at least 35 years old to be a state senator, and at least 21 years old to be a representative. Legislators are elected to four year terms.

There are separate chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives. The Alabama State Capitol has been located in different towns; initially in Cahaba, then Tuscaloosa, before moving to Montgomery in 1846. The present capitol building was built in 1851, replacing the original building which was destroyed by fire in 1849. This historical building was restored to its original beauty and the legislature moved across the street to the Alabama State House.