



# Law-making process

## Objectives

By the end of the session, students will better understand how a bill is scrutinized and passed by the Legislative Council, and the role of Legislative Council Members in the legislative process.

## Overall duration

Two 45-minute sessions

## Session 1

### Activity 1 – Focus: What are laws?

- (a) Split your class into groups;
- (b) Ask students to list out the rules in various places [assign each group with one place, e.g. "school", "classroom", "playground", and "library"] and suggest a new rule for the place;
- (c) Each group presents its suggestion and explain what problems the suggested rule will solve;
- (d) Ask the question: "what is the name that we give 'rules' that are in place in Hong Kong?"; and
- (e) Whole class discussion: students list laws that they are familiar with.

### Time needed:

15 minutes

### Online resources:

- (a) *Bills*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → LegCo Business → Council → Bills

### Activity 2 – Focus: How laws are made?

- (a) One of the functions of the Legislative Council is enacting laws. Make use of the animation under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website to give students a general introduction;
- (b) Ask students to name the stages of the law-making process;
- (c) Further introduce the law-making process using a diagram of the process and examples of bills passed;
- (d) Identify a few bills [see exhibition panels on "Enact laws" and "Law-making process" under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website] that students may be interested in and state the dates on which the bills were introduced into and passed by the Council; and
- (e) Select one bill and ask students to discuss "what would be the consequences if the Legislative Council had not made the law?".

### Time needed:

20 minutes

**Online resources:**

- (a) *Legislative Council in Brief*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Understand  
[Legislative Council in Brief](#)
- (b) *Animations and videos*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Understand →  
[Animations and videos](#)
- (c) *Exhibition panels*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Understand →  
[Exhibition panels](#)
- (d) *Bills*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → LegCo Business → Council → [Bills](#)

**Activity 3 – Focus: Voting on bills**

- (a) Ask students where they prefer to go on the next Picnic Day. Write their suggestions on board;
- (b) Ask students how they prefer to make the decision [randomly select a student to decide; select a few (two to three) students to decide for the class; discuss until a consensus is reached; majority rule]. Ask students to explain their preferences;
- (c) Ask the question: "what form of decision making does the Legislative Council use for passing bills?" [majority rule]; and
- (d) Compare the procedures for voting on bills introduced by the Government and individual Members.

**Time needed:**

10 minutes

**Online resources:**

- (a) *Legislative Council in Brief*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Understand →  
[Legislative Council in Brief](#)
- (b) *PowerPoint slides*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Teach →  
[PowerPoint slides](#)

**Session 2****Activity 4 – Revision: Law-making process**

- (a) Revise the law-making process with students; and
- (b) Ask students to name in sequence the different stages of the law-making process.

**Time needed:**

5 minutes

**Online resources:**

- (a) *Exhibition panels*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Understand → [Exhibition panels](#)
- (b) *PowerPoint slides*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Teach → [PowerPoint slides](#)

**Activity 5 – Focus: Role-play on law-making process**

- (a) Refer to DIY role-play on the law-making process under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website. Follow the instructions and choose a mock bill and its corresponding script to go through the law-making process;
- (b) Select a President of the Legislative Council, a Clerk to the Legislative Council and a public officer;
- (c) Divide the rest of the class into Members returned by (i) the Election Committee; (ii) functional constituencies; and (iii) geographical constituencies through direct elections [(i) Members returned by the Election Committee broadly represent different sectors and classes of the community; (ii) Members returned by functional constituencies represent sectors which are substantial and important to the development of the community; and (iii) Members returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections represent different territories of Hong Kong]. Students may work in groups and decide which constituency they represent;
- (d) Brief students on the rules of role-play which have been set out in reference to the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council;
- (e) Brief students on the stages of the law-making process that are to be covered during the role-play [to simplify the activity, proceedings of committee of the whole Council are not covered in the script];
- (f) Allow time for groups to prepare their speeches and determine their position. Students are encouraged to express their own views freely in accordance with the roles of stakeholders they represent, not just following scripts; and
- (g) After the role-play, ask students to research and identify bills that are currently undergoing the three-reading procedure at the Legislative Council.

**Time needed:**

40 minutes

**Online resources:**

- (a) *PowerPoint slides*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Teach → [PowerPoint slides](#)
- (b) *DIY role-play on the law-making process*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → Education → Teach → [DIY role-play on the law-making process](#)
- (c) *Bills*  
Legislative Council Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) → LegCo Business → Council → [Bills](#)

## Extension activities

Extend classroom teaching to the Legislative Council by:

- (a) Participating in a guided tour of the Legislative Council Complex to enhance students' understanding of the work of the Council. For details, please visit the "Visiting" section of the Legislative Council Website at [www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk); and
- (b) Observing a Council meeting (usually held on Wednesdays while the Council is in session) at the Public Gallery of the Legislative Council Chamber. Please call 3919 3399 for seat reservation.