

Glossary, Explanation, Website and Reference

House of Representatives¹

House of Representatives is the name of legislative bodies in many countries and sub-national entities. In many countries, the House of Representatives is the lower house of a bicameral legislature, with the corresponding upper house often called a "Senate". In some countries, the House of Representatives is the sole chamber of a unicameral legislature. The function of a house of representatives can vary greatly from country to country, and depends on whether a country has a parliamentary or a presidential system. Member of a House Representatives are typically appointed according to population rather than geography.

Name of Legislatures²

The names of the legislatures differ from country to country. The most used name seems to be National Assembly, but Parliament and Congress are often used too. The name Parliament is in some cases even used when in political science the legislature would be considered a congress. The upper house of the legislature is often named the Senate. In some cases, countries use very traditional names. In Germanic countries variations of Thing (e.g. Folketinget) are used. A thing or ting was the governing assembly in Germanic societies, made up of the free men of the community and presided by lawspeakers. A variant is the use of the word Tag or Dag (e.g. Bundestag), used because things were held at daylight and often lasted all day. Other traditional names are the Estates General and variations of Sejm. In Islamic countries Arabic words like Majlis and Shura are often included in the name. Majlis can be translated as "Council" or "Assembly". Shura can be translated as "Consultation."

System of Government³ - The way in which the state's power is distributed between the three branches of government (the legislature, the executive and the judiciary) and the way in which these branches exercise checks on the others.

- 1) Presidential/Separated Republics - These are systems in which a president is the active head of the executive branch of government and is elected and remains in office independently of the legislature. The following list includes democratic and non-democratic states

Full	In full presidential systems, the president is both head of state and head of government. There is generally no prime minister, although if one
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¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Representatives

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legislatures_by_country

³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_system_of_government

presidential system	exists he or she serves purely at the pleasure of the president. (Palau, Philippines)
Presidential systems with a prime minister	Presidential systems with a prime minister (Republic of Korea)
Semi-presidential systems	In semi-presidential systems, there is usually both a president and a prime minister. In such systems, the president has genuine executive authority, unlike in a parliamentary republic, but some of the role of a head of government is exercised by the prime minister.

- 2) Parliamentary Republics - A parliamentary republic is a system in which a prime minister is the active head of the executive branch of government and also leader of the legislature. The president's degree of executive power may range from being reasonably significant to little or none at all. Where the president holds little executive power, his or her function is primarily that of a symbolic figurehead. (Australia, Samoa, Singapore, and Vanuatu)
- 3) Mixed Republican Systems - A combined head of state and government is elected by the legislature, however they are not subject to parliamentary confidence during their term (although their cabinet is). (Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Nauru)
- 4) Directorial System - The directorial system contains elements of the presidential and the parliamentary system. In a directorial republic a council jointly exercises both presidential and governmental powers (the council is the collective head of state). The council is elected by the parliament, but it is not subject to political confidence during its term which has a fixed duration.
- 5) Constitutional Monarchies - These are systems in which the head of state is a constitutional monarch; the existence of their office and their ability to exercise their authority is established and restrained or held back by constitutional law.

Constitutional monarchies with ceremonial monarchs	Systems in which a prime minister is the active head of the executive branch of government. In some cases the prime minister is also leader of the legislature, in other cases the executive branch is clearly separated from legislature although the entire cabinet or individual ministers must step down in the case of a vote of no confidence. The head of state is a constitutional monarch who only exercises his or her powers with the consent of the government, the people or their representatives. (Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu)
Constitutional monarchies with active monarchs	The prime minister is the nation's active executive but the monarch still has considerable political powers that can be used at their own discretion. (Tonga)

Absolute monarchies	The prime minister is the nation's active executive but the monarch still has considerable political powers that can be used at their own discretion. (Brunei)
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- 6) Theocracies – States based on a state religion where the head of state is selected by some form of religious hierarchy.
- 7) Single political movement states - States in which political power is by law concentrated within a single political party whose operations are largely fused with the government hierarchy (as opposed to states where the law establishes a multi-party system but this fusion is not achieved anyway through electoral fraud or simple inertia). However, some do have elected governments. ([Lao People's Democratic Republic](#), [People's Republic of China](#), [Vietnam](#))
- 8) Military junta states - The nation's military control the organs of government and all high-ranking political executives are also members of the military hierarchy. ([Fiji](#))
- 9) Transitional - States which have a system of government which is in transition or turmoil and are classified with the current direction of change.

Unicameral vs. Bicameral parliament

- 1) Unicameral parliament – A legislative body comprising a single chamber is called a unicameral parliament.
- 2) Bicameral parliament – A legislative body comprised of two chambers or houses.

Which are more common: unicameral or bicameral parliament? Which re more common between unicameral or bicameral parliaments? Unicameral parliaments in the world (n=110), Bicameral parliaments (n=75), parliaments in transition (n=5), and Countries with no parliaments (n=3, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Papua New Guinea).

Countries with smaller populations are more likely to have unicameral parliaments. 75% of parliaments in countries with less than 1 million inhabitants are unicameral, while 76% or those over 50 million are bicameral. Countries with a population of between 10 million and 50 million are fairly evenly split between unicameral and bicameral parliaments. Unicameral parliaments tend to be smaller than bi-cameral parliaments. 69.2% of parliaments that have fewer than 245 members are unicameral.⁴

How many parliamentarians are there in the world? The global average number of parliamentarians per country is 245. Parliaments in 130 countries (68.42%) have fewer members than the global average. 22 parliaments (11.58%) have less than 50 members. 8 of the 10 biggest parliaments are

⁴ Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, 30 September 2011.

bicameral. The exceptions are those of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Members of the world's largest parliament => The Chinese National People's Congress (n=3,000), Members of the world's smallest parliament => The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (n=14)

How often does parliament meet in plenary? Two sessions per year is the most frequently observed configuration across all type of parliament. Nearly 1 in 5 chambers sit continuously, meaning that there is no formal break in parliamentary proceedings. Unicameral parliaments and lower chambers meet more often (75.52 days in 2010) in plenary session than upper chambers (58.20 days). The number of sitting days varies from 8 days in Cambodia (Senate) to 217 days in Brazil (Senate).

How many committees does parliament have? The vast majority of chambers have between 5 and 20 committees. Upper chambers of bicameral parliaments tend to have fewer committees than unicameral parliaments and lower chambers. 41.86% of upper chambers had fewer than 10 committees, compared to 28% of unicameral parliaments and lower chambers.

Website/Homepage of Parliament

Member States	Website/Homepage of Parliament
APPF	Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum http://www.appf.org.pe/map.htm
Republic of Korea	National Assembly, http://www.assembly.go.kr/
Australia	Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia http://www.aph.gov.au/ House of Representatives http://www.aph.gov.au/house/ Senate http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/
Japan	House of Representatives http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/index.nsf/html/index_e.htm House of Councillors http://www.sangiin.go.jp/eng/
New Zealand	House of Representatives http://www.parliament.govt.nz
Singapore	Parliament http://www.parliament.gov.sg/
Cambodia	National Assembly No information
China	China web site http://www.china.com/npc
Lao People's Democratic Republic	National Assembly No information
Malaysia	Malaysian parliament http://www.parlimen.gov.my/

Mongolia	Mongolia web site http://www.parl.gov.mn
Philippines	House of Representatives http://www.congress.gov.ph Senate www.senate.gov.ph
Viet Nam	National Assembly No information

Basic Parliament Data of Western Pacific Region⁵

Country	Structure 1: unicameral 2: lower chamber 3: upper chamber	Population (in thousands)	MPs (total / country)	MPs/capita (in thousands)	Parliament's budget in USD (World Bank rate)	Staff (total / state)	Staff / total MPs
AUSTRALIA	2	21293	226	94.2168142	162903687.2	309.7	1.37
Brunei Darussalam *	1	406	28	14.5			
CAMBODIA	2	14805	184	80.4619565	34145216.63	1692	9.20
CHINA	1	1345751	3,000	448.583667			
COOK ISLANDS *	1	11	24	0.45833333			
FIJI *	2	837	102	8.20588235			
JAPAN	2	127156	722	176.116343	1706925944	2989	4.14
KIRIBATI	1	98	46	2.13043478			
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	1	6320	132	47.8787879	2905991.185	350	2.65
MALAYSIA	2	27468	292	94.0684932	24216081.96	300	1.03
MARSHALL ISLANDS	1	62	33	1.87878788	1870010	24	0.73
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	1	111	14	7.92857143	3440714	47	3.36

⁵Source; International Organization of Parliaments, <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/gpr.htm>, * ; referred from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, <http://www.mofat.go.kr/countries/>

MONGOLIA	1	2671	76	35.1447368			
NAURU	1	10	18	0.55555556	626505.5788	18	1.00
NEW ZEALAND	1	4266	122	34.9672131	122082556.3	1329	10.89
NIUE *	1	1	20	0.05			
PALAU	2	20	29	0.68965517			
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	6732	109	61.7614679			
PHILIPPINES	2	91983	304	302.575658	168710507.6	3922	12.90
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1	48333	299	161.648829	447633075.3	1454	4.86
SAMOA	1	179	49	3.65306122			
SINGAPORE	1	4737	99	47.8484848	25478978.86	43	0.43
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1	523	50	10.46			
TONGA	1	104	28	3.71428571	1946274.921	40	1.43
TUVALU	1	10	15	0.66666667	404891.2159	5	0.33
VANUATU	1	240	52	4.61538462			
VIET NAM	1	88069	500	176.138			

Women in national parliaments (situation as of 31 July 2012)⁶

Rank	Country	Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats *	Women	% W	Elections	Seats *	Women	% W
25	New Zealand	11 2011	121	39	32.2%	---	---	---	---
44	Lao People's Democratic Republic	4 2011	132	33	25.0%	---	---	---	---
45	Australia	8 2010	150	37	24.7%	8 2010	76	29	38.2 %
"	Viet Nam	5 2011	500	122	24.4%	---	---	---	---
52	Singapore	5 2011	98	23	23.5%	---	---	---	---
55	Philippines	5 2010	284	65	22.9%	5 2010	23	3	13.0 %
63	China	3 2008	2978	635	21.3%	---	---	---	---
66	Cambodia	7 2008	123	25	20.3%	1 2012	59	8	13.6 %
"	Republic of Korea	4 2012	300	47	15.7%	---	---	---	---
97	Mongolia	6 2012	69	9	13.0%	---	---	---	---
110	Japan	8 2009	480	52	10.8%	7 2010	242	45	18.6 %
113	Malaysia	3 2008	221	23	10.4%	N.A.	66	15	22.7 %
119	Kiribati	10 2011	46	4	8.7%	---	---	---	---
"	Tuvalu	9 2010	15	1	6.7%	---	---	---	---
135	Samoa	3 2011	49	2	4.1%	---	---	---	---
136	Tonga	11 2010	28	1	3.6%	---	---	---	---
"	Marshall Islands	11 2011	33	1	3.0%	---	---	---	---
139	Papua New Guinea	6 2012	111	3	2.7%	---	---	---	---
141	Vanuatu	9 2008	52	1	1.9%	---	---	---	---

⁶ URL: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

144	Micronesia (Federated States of)	3 2011	14	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Nauru	6 2010	18	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Palau	11 2008	16	0	0.0%	11 2008	13	2	15.4 %
"	Solomon Islands	8 2010	49	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---

Voting Systems by Countries

Country	Body	System	Seats per District	Total seats	Threshold
Australia	Senate	STV ⁷	6 per state per election, 2 per territory	76	
	House of Representatives	IRV ⁸		150	
Cambodia	National Assembly	D'Hondt method ⁹	1-18	123	
Fiji	House of Representatives	D'Hondt method(open lists ¹⁰)	50	50	5%
Hong Kong	Legislative Council	Parallel ¹¹ District constituencies: Largest remainder ¹² (Hare quota ¹³) Functional	4-8 (District constituencies) / 1-3 (Functional)	60	

⁷ Single transferable vote (STV) is a voting system designed to achieve proportional representation through ranked voting in multi-seat constituencies (voting district). Under STV, an elector has a single vote that is initially allocated to their most preferred candidate and, as the county proceeds and candidates are either elected or eliminated, is transferred to other candidates according to the voter's stated preference, in proportion to any surplus or discarded votes.

⁸ Instant-runoff voting (IRV), alternative vote (AV), transferable vote, ranked choice voting, or preferential voting is an electoral system used to elect a single winner from a field of more than two candidates. It is a preferential voting system in which voters rank the candidates in order of preference rather than voting for a single candidate.

⁹ The D'Hondt methods (mathematically but not operationally equivalent to Jefferson's method) is a highest average method for allocating seats in party-list proportional representation. Proportional representation systems aim to allocate seats to parties in proportion to the number of votes received. For example, if a party wins one-third of the votes then it should gain one-third of the seats.

¹⁰ Open list describes any variant of party-list proportional representation where voters have at least some influence on the order in which a party's candidates are elected. This as opposed to closed list, which allows only active members, party officials, or consultants to determine the order of its candidates and gives the general voter no influence at all on the position of the candidates placed on the party list.

¹¹ Parallel voting describes a mixed voting system where voters in effect participate in two separate elections for a single chamber using different systems, and where the results in one election have little or no impact on the results of the other. Specifically, it usually refers to the semi-proportional system, sometimes known as the Supplementary Member system or, by some political scientist, Mixed Member Majoritarian (MMM), which combines first-past-the-post voting with party-list proportional representation.

¹² The largest remainder method (also known as Hare-Niemeyer method or as Vinton's method) is one way of allocating seats proportionally for representative assemblies with party list voting systems. It contrasts with the highest average method.

¹³ The Hara quato (also known as the simple quota) is a formula used under some forms of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system and the largest remainder method of party-list proportional representation. In the voting systems the quota is the minimum number of votes required for a party or candidate to capture a seat.

		constituencies ¹⁴ : FPTP ¹⁵ , Bloc voting ¹⁶ , IRV ¹⁷	constituencies)		
Japan	House of Representatives	Parallel: D'Hondt method (180 seats) / FPTP (300 seats)	6-29 / 1	480	
	House of Councillors	Parallel: D'Hondt method (48 seats) / SNTV ¹⁸ (73 seats)	24 / 1-4 per election	121 per election	
Kiribati	President	FPTP			
	House of Assembly	Modified runoff		40 + 1 delegate from Banaba Island and 1 ex officio	
Laos	National Assembly	Bloc voting		115	
Macau	Legislative Council	Party list ¹⁹ / Functional constituencies ²⁰ / Appointed	12	29	
Malaysia	Dewan Rakyat	FPTP	1	222	

¹⁴ In the political systems of Hong Kong, a functional constituency is a professional or special interest group involved in the electoral process. Eligible voters in a functional constituency may include natural persons as well as other designated legal entities such as organizations and corporations.

¹⁵ The plurality voting system is a single-winner voting system often used to elect executive officers or to elect members of a legislative assembly which is based on single-member constituencies. This voting method is also used in multi-member constituencies in what is referred to as an exhaustive counting system where one member is elected at the time and the process repeated until the number of vacancies is filled.

¹⁶ Plurality-at-large voting, also known as block vote or multiple non-transferable vote (MNTV), is a non-proportional voting system for electing several representatives from a single multimember electoral district using a series of check boxes and tallying votes similar to a plurality election. Although multiple winners are elected simultaneously, block voting is not a system for obtaining proportional representation, instead, the usual result is that the largest single group wins every seat by electing a slate of candidates, resulting in a landslide.

¹⁷ Instant-runoff voting (IRV), alternative vote (AV), transferable vote, ranked choice voting, or preferential voting is an electoral system used to elect a single winner from a field of more than two candidates.

¹⁸ The single non-transferable vote or SNTV is an electoral system used in multi-member constituency elections.

¹⁹ Party-list proportional representation systems are a family of voting systems emphasizing proportional representation (PR) in elections in which multiple candidates are elected (e.g. elections to parliament) through allocations to an electoral list. They can also be used as part of mixed additional member system.

²⁰ The functional constituency is a professional or special interest group involved in the electoral process, they make up part of the political systems of Macau in legislative branch. Eligible voters in a functional constituency may include natural persons as well as other designated legal entities such as organizations and corporations.

Marshall Islands	Legislature	FPTP		33	
Federated States of Micronesia	Congress	FPTP (10 seats), PR (4 seats)		14	
Mongolia	President	FPTP			
	State Great Khural	FPTP		76	
Nauru	Parliament			18	
New Zealand	House of Representatives(Parliament)	MMP ²¹ : Sainte-Laguë method ²² (51+ seats) / FPTP (69 district seats which also includes 7 seats reserved for Maori)		120 + overhang seats	5% or 1 district seat
Niue	Assembly	Bloc voting(6 seats)	1–6	6 + 14 representatives of the villages	
Palau	President				
	House of Delegates	FPTP		16	
	Senate	FPTP		9	
Papua New Guinea	National Parliament	IRV	1	109	
Philippines	President	FPTP			
	House of Representatives	Parallel: Party list(closed lists; modified Hare quota with 3-seat cap and no remainders) /FPTP(229 districts in 2010, 232 in 2013)	57 / 1 (2010), 58 / 1 (2013)	286 (2010), 292 (2013)	2%; parties with less than 2% of the vote may win seats if the list seats haven't been

²¹ Mixed-member proportional representation, also termed mixed-member proportional voting and commonly abbreviated to MMP, is similar to other forms of proportional representation (PR) in the overall total of party members in the elected body is intended to mirror the overall proportion of votes received, it differs by including a set of members elected by geographic constituency who are deducted from the party totals as to maintain overall proportionality.

²²Sainte-Laguë method is a highest quotient method for allocating seats in party-list proportional representation used in many voting system. The Sainte-Laguë method is quite similar to the D'Hondt method, but uses different divisors. In most cases the largest remainder method delivers almost identical results. The D'Hondt method gives similar results too, but favors largest parties compared to the Sainte-Laguë method.

					completely distributed.
	Senate	Bloc voting	12 / 1	24	
Samoa	Fono	FPTP / Bloc voting	1–2	47	
Singapore	President	FPTP			
	Parliament	Bloc voting / FPTP	1 or 4 or 5 or 6 (depending on constituency)	87 + 9 appointed + 9 NCMP ²³	
Solomon Islands	National Parliament	FPTP		50	
South Korea	President	FPTP			
	National Assembly	Parallel: Party list (54 seats) / FPTP (245 seats)		299	
Tonga	Legislative Assembly	Runoff ²⁴		9 + 9 elected by nobles + 10 members of Privy Council + 2 governors	
Tuvalu	Parliament	FPTP or SNTV	1–2	15	
Vanuatu	Parliament	SNTV		52	
Vietnam	National Assembly			498	

²³ A Non-constituency Member of Parliament (NCMP) is a member of an opposition political party who, according to the Constitution of Singapore and Parliamentary Elections Act, is declared to have been elected a Member of the Parliament of Singapore despite having lost in a general election by virtue of having been one of the best performing losers.

²⁴ The two-round system (also known as the second ballot, runoff voting or ballotage) is a voting system used to elect a single winner where the voter casts a single vote for their chosen candidate. However, if no candidate receives the required number of votes (usually an absolute majority or 40-45% with a winning margin of 5-15%), then those candidates having less than a certain proportion of the votes, or all but the two candidates receiving the most votes, are eliminated, and a second round of voting occurs.

List of Legislatures by Country²⁵

Country	Overall name of legislature	Name of house	House level	Term (years)	Voting system	Seats	Population per seat	GDP per seat (million USD)	Link
 Australia	Parliament of Australia	House of Representatives	Lower	3	preferential instant-runoff voting	150	143,384	6,096	aph.gov.au
 Australia	Parliament of Australia	Senate	Upper	6	single transferable vote	76	282,995	12,032	aph.gov.au
 Brunei		Legislative Council	Unicameral	no time frame	popular vote and appointed by the sultan	36	11,355	582	majlis-mesyuarat.gov.bn
 Cambodia	Parliament (សភាតំណាងរាស្ត្រព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា)	National Assembly (វគ្គប្រឹក្សាជាតិ; <i>Rotsaphea</i>)	Lower	5	popular vote	123	108,852	272	national-assembly.org.kh
 Cambodia	Parliament (សភាតំណាងរាស្ត្រព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា)	Senate (ព្រឹទ្ធផ្ទះសភា; <i>Protsaphea</i>)	Upper	5	appointed by the monarch, elected by the National Assembly and commune councils	61	219,490	548	senate.gov.kh
 China		National People's Congress (全国人民代表大会 <i>Quánguó Rénmín Dàibiǎo Dàhuì</i>) ^[5]	Unicameral	5	elected by municipal, regional and provincial congresses, and People's Liberation Army	2,987	448,518	3,783	npc.gov.cn

²⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legislatures_by_country

 Micronesia, Federated States of		Congress	Unicameral	4	10 by FPTP and 4 by Proportional representation	14	7,642	25	fsmcongress.fm
 Fiji	Parliament (dissolved, did not meet since 2006)	House of Representatives (dissolved)	Lower	5	popular vote	71	11,792	58	Archive
 Fiji	Parliament (dissolved, did not meet since 2006)	Senate (dissolved)	Upper	5	appointed by the President and parties	32	26,164	129	Archive
 Japan	Diet (国会 Kokkai)	House of Representatives (衆議院 Shūgiin)	Lower	4	proportional and majority	480	266,783	9,250	shugiin.go.jp
 Japan	Diet (国会 Kokkai)	House of Councillors (参議院 Sangiin)	Upper	6	proportional	242	529,157	18,348	sangiin.go.jp
 Kiribati		House of Assembly (Maneaba ni Maungatabu)	Unicameral	4	popular vote and appointed by Rabi Council of Leaders	46	2,239	13	parliament.gov.ki
 Laos		National Assembly (Sapha Heng Xat)	Unicameral	5	one-party state closed list	115	48,148	151	na.gov.la
 Malaysia	Parliament (Parlimen)	House of Representatives ^[11] (Dewan Rakyat)	Lower	5	First-past-the-post	222	127,631	2,014	parlimen.gov.my
 Malaysia	Parliament (Parlimen)	Senate ^[12] (Dewan Negara)	Upper	3	26 appointed by the State Legislative Assemblies , 2 for each state and 44 appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan	70	404,773	6,389	parlimen.gov.my

					Agong , of which 4 are for the Federal Territories .				
 Marshall Islands		Legislature (Nitijela)	Unicameral	4	Single and multi-member constituencies	33	2,060	4	rminitijela.org
 Nauru		Parliament	Unicameral			18	521	3	naurugov.nr
 New Zealand		House of Representatives	Unicameral			120	33,566	1,018	parliament.nz
 Palau	National Congress (Olbiil era Kelulau)	House of Delegates ^[2]	Lower		majority rule	16	1,309	17	palaugov.org
 Palau	National Congress (Olbiil era Kelulau)	Senate ^[2]	Upper		majority rule	9	2,328	31	palaugov.org
 Papua New Guinea		National Parliament	Unicameral			109	56,766	154	parliament.gov.pg
 Philippines	Congress (Kongreso)	House of Representatives (Kapulungán ng mga Kinatawán / Mababang Kapulungán / Cámara de Representantes)	Lower	3	closed list and first-past-the-post	292	355,393	1,365	congress.gov.ph
 Philippines	Congress (Kongreso)	Senate (Senado / Mataás na Kapulungán)	Upper	6	bloc voting	24	4,323,958	16,267	senate.gov.ph
 Samoa		Legislative Assembly ^[4] (Fono)	Unicameral			49	3,965	22	parliament.gov.ws
 Singapore		Parliament	Unicameral			99	52,360	3,180	parliament.gov.sg

 Korea, South		National Assembly (국회 <i>Gukhoe</i>)	Unicameral	4	majority and proportional	300	166,691	5,180	korea.na.go.kr
 Tonga		Legislative Assembly	Unicameral			26	3,962	29	parliament.gov.to
 Vanuatu		Parliament (Parlement)	Unicameral	4		52	4319	14	parliament.gov.vu
 Vietnam		National Assembly (Quốc hội)	Unicameral			498	176,385	602	na.gov.vn
 Mongolia		State Great Assembly (Улсын Их Хурал <i>Ulsyn Ich-Chural</i>)	Unicameral			76	36,245	174	parliament.mn

Legislatures of non-sovereign countries, dependencies and other territories

Country	Overall name of legislature	Name of house	House level	Term (years)	Voting system	Seats	Population per seat	GDP per seat (million USD)
 American Samoa	Legislative Assembly ^[4] (Fono)	House of Representatives	Lower			21	2,643	21
		Senate	Upper			18	3,084	31
 French Polynesia		Assembly of French Polynesia (Assemblée de la Polynésie française)	Unicameral			57	4,859	82
 Guam		Legislature of Guam (Liheslaturan Guåhan)	Unicameral			15	10,623	
 Hong Kong		Legislative Council (立法會)	Unicameral			70	101,481	5,015
 Macau		Legislative Assembly (立法會, Assembleia Legislativa)	Unicameral			29	19,610	636

 New Caledonia		Territorial Congress (Congrès Territorial)	Unicameral			54	4,547	58
 Northern Mariana Islands	Commonwealth Legislature	House of Representatives	Lower			20	2,694	45
		Senate	Upper			10	5,388	90
 Pitcairn Islands		Island Council	Unicameral			10	6	
 Tokelau		Parliament	Unicameral			20	70	1
 Wallis and Futuna		Territorial Assembly (Assemblée Territoriale)	Unicameral			20	650	3

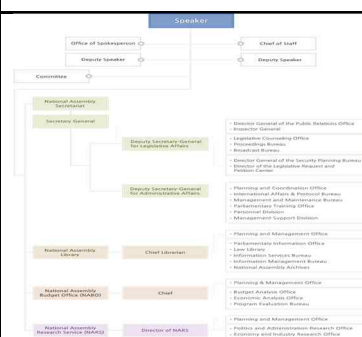
Legislatures of non-UN states (including unrecognized and disputed territories)

non-UN state	Overall name of legislature	Name of house	House level	Term (years)	Voting system	Seats	Population per seat
 Republic of China		Legislative Yuan (立法院 <i>Lìfǎ Yùàn</i>)	Unicameral	4	first past the post with some seats via closed party list or single non-transferable vote	113	117,360
 Cook Islands		Parliament	Unicameral			24	815.375
 Niue		Assembly	Unicameral			20	69

Parliament in the overall government structure

National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

- The latest elections were held on 11 April 2012 (19th National Assembly).
- System of government - presidential system with a prime minister, Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state – Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Presidency is independent of legislature
- 300 Seats (Saenuri Party 156, The New Politics Alliance for Democracy 130, Progressive 6, Justice 5, Independents 3), all members serve a four-year term
- Voting system – parallel voting (first-past-the post, party-list proportional representation), 246 elected by a plurality of votes from electoral districts and 54 through proportional representation system where seats are distributed to parties based on the percentage of total votes they garnered.
- Speaker – Kang Chang-hee, NFP, Vice Speaker – Lee Byung-suk, Park Byeong-seung (since 3 July 2012)



Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

1) Legislation	• Convene regulator session and extraordinary session • Right to propose and decide upon amendments to the Constitution • Right to enact and amend law • Right to consent to the conclusion and ratification of treaties
2) Financing	• Deliberation on budget bills • Deliberation on the settlement of accounts • Deliberation on funds • Legislative power to finance • Other powers (right to decide upon continuing expenditure, right to approve spending from reserve funds, right to consent to government bonds, right to consent to government contract with possible burden to the treasury)
3) National Administration	• Inspection and investigation of state administration • Power to organize Constitutional institutions

ation	• Impeachment power • Other powers (power to approve emergency orders and emergency financial and economic action or Presidential orders, power to request the termination of martial law, power to consent to Presidential granting of general amnesty etc.)
4) Parliamentary Diplomacy	• Invitation of foreign Parliamentary delegation • Overseas visits • Inter-Parliamentary groups (Inter-Parliamentary Council, Parliamentary Friendship Group, Republic of Korea-China Regular Inter-Parliamentary Exchange

3. Committees

1) Standing Committee	
Type and Duty	The Standing Committees shall examine bills and petitions falling under their respective jurisdictions, and perform other duties as prescribed by relevant laws. There are 16 standing committees.
List of Standing Committees	• House Steering Committee • Legislation and Judiciary Committee • National Policy Committee • Strategy and Finance Committee • Science, ICT, Future Planning, Broadcasting and Communications Committee • Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee • Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee • National Defense Committee • Security and Public Administration Committee • Agriculture, Food, Rural Affairs, Oceans and Fisheries Committee • Trade, Industry and Energy Committee • Health and Welfare Committee • Environment and Labor Committee • Land, Infrastructure and Transport Committee • Intelligence Committee • Gender Equality and Family Committee
Appointment and Selection of Member	The Speaker shall appoint or select members of a Standing Committee at the request of the members representing each negotiation group, in proportion to the number of assemblymen in the negotiation group. Those who do not belong to any negotiation group shall be appointed by the Speaker.
Sub-committee	Committees may have sub-committees to examine certain matters. Each Standing Committee (except the Intelligence Committee) may appoint three standing sub-committees to assume partial responsibility for examining specific matters under its jurisdiction.

Chairman	The chairman of each Standing Committee shall represent the Standing Committee, regulate its proceedings, maintain order, and supervise its affairs. The chairman shall be elected by the National Assembly by secret ballot, with the attendance of a majority of all the registered members and by the largest votes of members present. The term of the chairman shall be two years. The chairman shall resign his or her office with the consent of the plenary session while the parliament is in session: if the National Assembly is not in session, he or she may resign with the approval of the Speaker.
Vice Chairman	Each committee shall have a vice chairman from each negotiation group to replace the Chairman if he or she is unable to perform his or her duties.

2) Special Committee	
Types and Duties	• Standing Special Committee : The Special Committee on Budget and Accounts and the Special Committee on Ethics • Non-standing Special Committee : in charge of the matters that fall under multiple jurisdictions, or that are deemed particularly necessary
Appointment and Selection of Members	• Special Committee members shall be appointed or selected by the Speaker from among the Standing Committee members within five days after the resolution on the establishment of the Special Committee is made at the plenary session in the same way as members of the Standing Committee shall be. • The members of the Special Committee on Budget and Accounts shall be appointed by the Speaker, at the request of the members representing each negotiation group, according to the ratio of the numbers of the members belonging to the negotiation groups and that of the members of the Standing Committee.
Chairman	Each Special Committee shall elect a chairman from among its members (Chairman of the Special Committee on Budget and Accounts or the Special Committee on Ethics shall be elected at the plenary session), and his or her name shall be reported to the plenary session. The chairman of a Special Committee may resign his or her office with the consent of the Committee concerned, or he or she may resign with the approval of the Speaker if the National Assembly is not in session.

3) Negotiation Group					
Organization	Any political party with 20 or more members in the National Assembly shall organize a negotiation group. And 20 or more members who do not belong to other negotiation groups may organize a separate negotiation group.				
Purpose and Role	• The purpose of organizing a negotiation group is to provide for a negotiation channel among members from different political parties or groups, thereby facilitating parliamentary proceedings by working in advance to collect and fine-tune agenda items from the members belonging to political parties or floor groups. • The ratio of members belonging to a negotiation group shall be the basis for determining the number of speakers at the Plenary Session and appointment of members to a Standing Committee or Special Committee.				
Representative Member of Negotiation Group	Usually, the floor leader of each political party shall become the representative of a negotiation group that shall be different from the representative or chairman of a political party. Each representative of a negotiation party shall become a member of the House Steering Committee and the Intelligence Committee.				
Number of Seats by Negotiation Group	Negotiation Group	Electoral District	Proportional Representation	Total	Proportion (%)
	Saenuri Party	120	27	147	51.58 %

	The New Politics Alliance for Democracy	105	21	126	44.21 %
	Non-negotiation Group	6	6	12	4.21 %
	Total	231	54	285	100 %

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

Health and Welfare Committee (n=20)	Chairman	KIM Choon Jin
	Executive Secretary	KIM Sung Ju, LEE Myoung Su
	Saenuri Party (n=9)	KIM Hyunsook, KIM Jaewon, KIM Jung Rok, KIM Ki Sun, KIM Myung Yeon, LEE Jong Jin, MOON Jeong-lim, Park Yoon Ok, SHIN Kyung Rim
	The New politics Alliance for Democracy (n=7)	AHN Cheolsoo, CHOI Dong-ic, IN Jae Keun, KIM Yong-ik, NAM In-soon, RHEE Mok Hee, YANG Seoung Jo
	Non-negotiation Group (n=1)	KIM Mi Hyul

5. Operation of the parliament

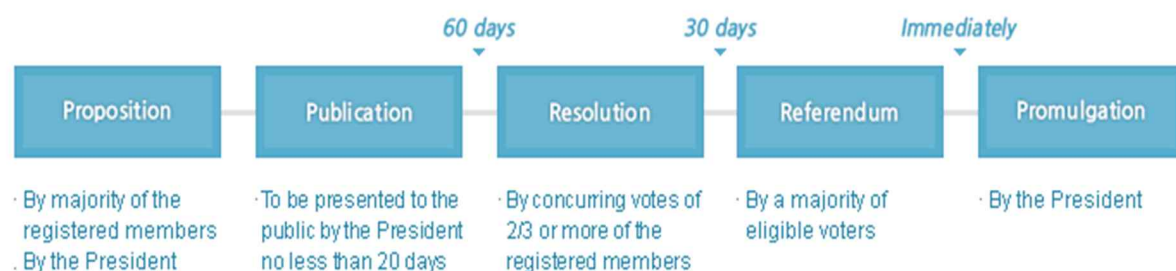
Frequency and dates of major meetings

The plenary shall be the highest decision-making body of the National Assembly, composed of the entire membership of the National Assembly. It shall be convened with the attendance of one-fifth or more of the members. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Constitution or the National Assembly Act, decisions of the National Assembly shall be adopted with the attendance of a majority of all the members on the register and by a concurrent majority vote of the members present. Speeches by the Government on administrative policy with respect to the budget bill, speeches by a representative of a negotiating party, and any interpellation to the government shall be heard or raised at the plenary session.

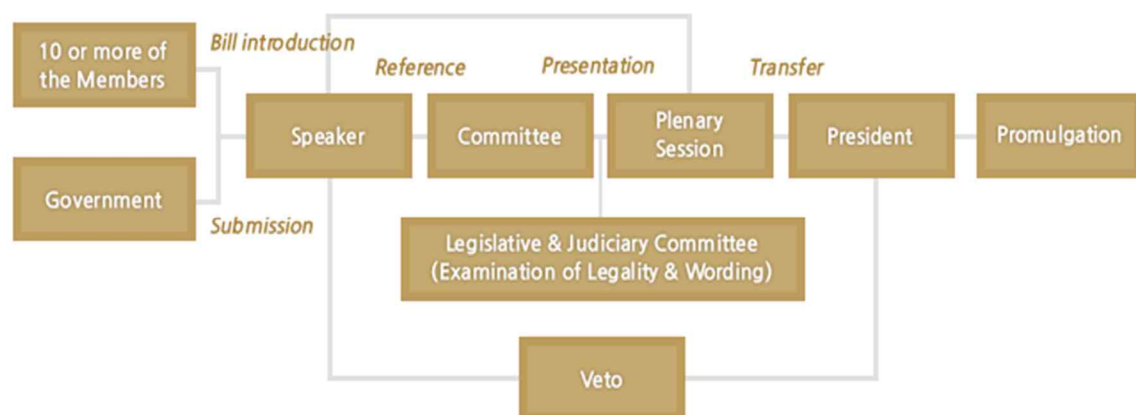
Regular Session	- Opening date – September 1st of each year - Duration – No more than 100 days - Major activities – to confirm the budget bill for the next fiscal year; to work on legislative bills and other items; to conduct speeches by representatives of negotiating groups and an annual inspection of the state administration
Extraordinary	Opening date – Upon the request of the President of the Republic or a quarter

Session	or more of all the members of the National Assembly • Duration – No more than 30 days • Major activities – to listen to the government’s explanations of major current issues and discuss ways to address them; to work on legislative bills and other agenda items
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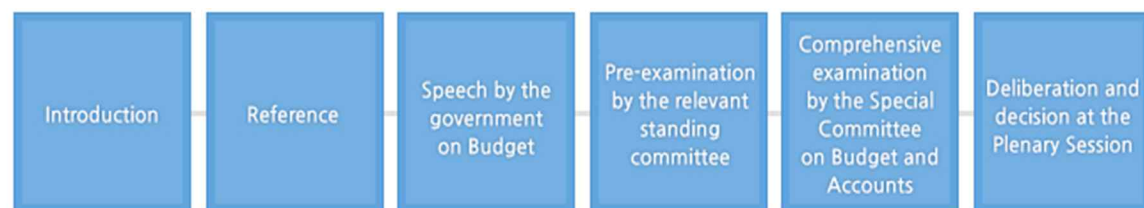
Procedure for amending the Constitution



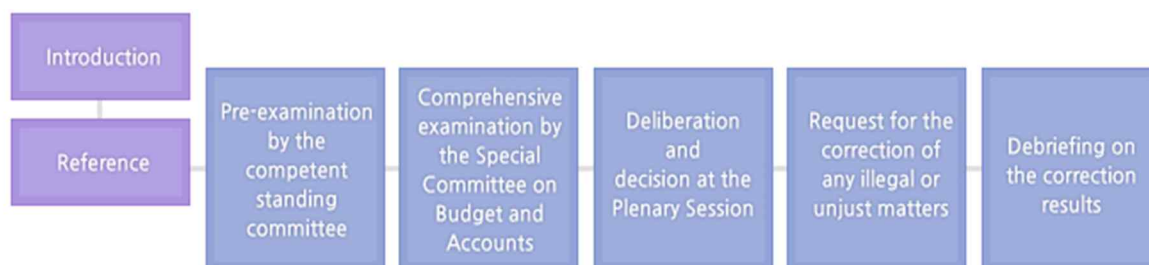
Procedure for enacting or amending the Law



Budget bill deliberation process



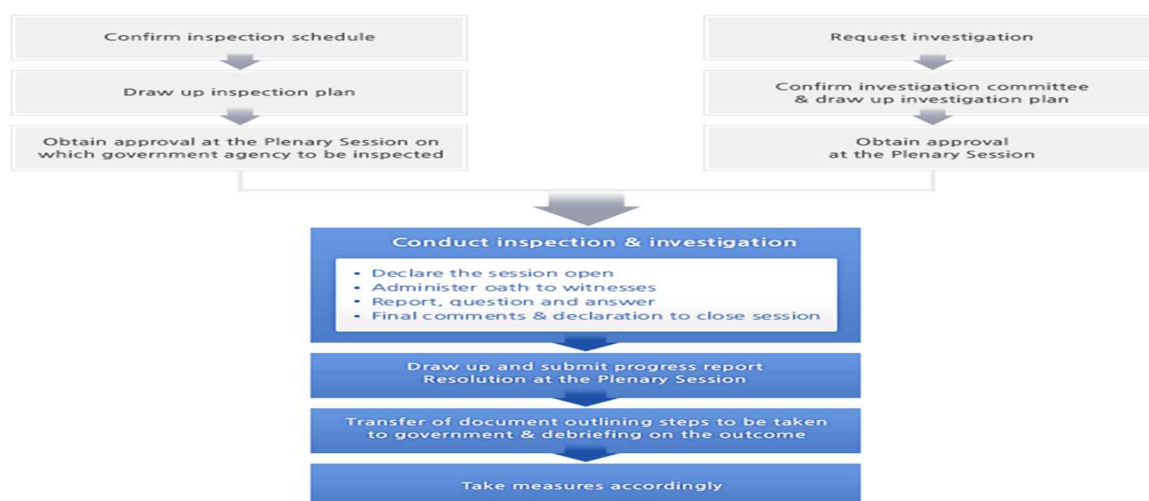
Procedure for deliberating the settlement of accounts



Procedure for deliberating funds



Process for inspection & investigation of state affairs



6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Amendment to Act on the Control of Narcotics, etc.

<Objective>

Recently, an increasing number of cases of smuggling new stimulant substances are reported. The stimulants, in particular, p-methoxymethamphetamine, or PMMA, are brought into Korea hidden in international parcels of bath salts or fertilizers, and used as alternatives to official narcotics. Just as the existing narcotics, these new stimulants affect the central nervous system, which means that their abuse can lead to intoxication and even to death. In fact, they are classified as narcotics in some European countries and Australia, where cases of death have in fact been reported.

In Korea, the new stimulants are designated as “provisional” narcotics after a period of notice of one month or longer. Under the current law, however, if one of the stimulants is detected during the notice period, no legal enforcement can be made. This amendment intends to tighten up the control of newly found hallucinogens by blocking their use even in the notice period before their designation as provisional narcotics, thereby preventing abuse of such substances and protecting public health. In addition, as the amended Civil Act came into effect in March 2011, the guardianship system is put in place, which accordingly requires adjustments of some expressions in Act on the Control of Narcotics, etc.

<Main Points>

1. The use of newly found hallucinogens shall be controlled even in the period of notice in advance of their designation as provisional narcotics. (Articles 5-2 and 47)
2. Each time a narcotic or a psychotropic drug is imported or exported, it shall gain the authorization from the Minister of Food and Drug Safety. (Articles 18(2)2 and 44(1)1)
3. When recognized as necessary, financial support may be granted for the operation of the Korea Association Against Drug Abuse. (Article 51-2(4))

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

Health and Welfare Committee, 326th session (extraordinary), Round 5 (15 July 2014)

Australia

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

Parliament of Australia

- The last election of the House of Representatives and the last election of Senate – 7 September 2013. (44th Parliament of Australia)
- System of government – federal constitutional monarchy under a parliamentary democracy, Type -bicameral parliament, Houses – House of Representatives and Senate, Constitutional form – Constitutional monarchy, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence
- 226 seats, House of Representatives (Coalition 90 including Liberal 58, LNP 22, Nationals 9, and CLP1, Opposition 55 including Labor 55, Crossbench 5 including Independent 2, Greens 1, KAP 1, and PUP 1), Senate (Coalition 33 including Liberal 23, LNP 6, Nationals 3, CLP 1, Opposition 25 including Labor 25, Cross Bench 18 including Greens 10, PUP 3, Motoring 1, LDP 1, Family First 1, DLP 1, Independent 1)²⁶, **3 or 4 years**
- Voting system – Senate, STV (Single Transferable Vote), House of Representatives, IRV (Instant-runoff Voting)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives – Bronwyn Bishop (Liberal) (since 28 March 2014), President of the Senate – Stephen Parry (Liberal) (since 7 July 2014)



2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Parliament has four main functions: legislation (making laws), representation (acting on behalf of voters and citizens), scrutiny (examining the government), and formation of government.

²⁶ Liberal Party of Australia (Liberal), Australian Labor Party (also ALP, Labor), Liberal National Party (LNP), National Party of Australia (Nationals), Northern Territory Country Liberal Party (CLP), Australian Greens (Greens), Katter's Australian Party (KAP), Palmer United Party (PUP), Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party (Motoring), Liberal Democratic Party (also LDP, Liberal Democrats), Family First Party (Family), Democratic Labour Party (DLP), and Independent.

Legislation	A new Commonwealth (national) law can only be made, or an existing law changed or removed, by or under the authority of the federal Parliament, that is, by or in accordance with an Act of Parliament.
Representation	All members of Parliament are elected. Each one of the 150 members of the House of Representatives (MPs) is elected by about 85,000 voters in each electorate. Senators represent states. Each state is represented by 12 senators while each territory has two senators.
Scrutiny	The federal government is held responsible to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, though in different ways.
Formation of Government	The government consists of members of the political party that wins an election and has the majority of members in the House of Representatives. This party and/or its leader (the Prime Minister) select fellow parliamentarians to be the ministers who run departments. Some ministers are senators.

3. Committees

Parliamentary committees investigate specific matters of policy or government administration or performance.

Senate Committees	House of Representatives Committees	Joint Committees
Abbott Government's Budget Cuts	Agriculture and Industry	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
Appropriations and Staffing	Appropriations and Administration	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
Community Affairs	Economics	Constitutional Recognition
Economics	Education and Employment	Corporations and Financing Services
Education and Employment	Environment	Electoral Matters
Environment and Communications	Health	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Finance and Public Administration	Indigenous Affairs	Human Rights

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Infrastructure and Communications	Intelligence and Security
Health	Petitions	Law Enforcement
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Privileges and Members' Interest	Migration
National Broadband Network	Procedure	National Capital and External Territories
Privileges	Publications	National Disability Insurance Scheme
Procedure	Selection	Northern Australia
Publications	Social Policy and Legal Affairs	Public Accounts and Audit
Regulations and Ordinances	Tax and Revenue	Public Works
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport		Publications
Scrutiny of Bills		Treaties
Selection of Bills		
Senators' Interests		

Information on the establishment, role and powers of the committees can be found in [chapters 16](#) and [17](#) of the *Standing Orders of the House of Representatives*.²⁷

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

Senate Select Committees on Health

²⁷ <http://www.aph.gov.au/binaries/house/pubs/standos/pdf/chapter16.pdf>

Role of the Committee	That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Health, be established to inquire into and report on health policy, administration and expenditure, with particular reference to: a. the impact of reduced Commonwealth funding for hospital and other health services provided by state and territory governments, in particular, the impact on elective surgery and emergency department waiting times, hospital bed numbers, other hospital related care and cost shifting; b. the impact of additional costs on access to affordable healthcare and the sustainability of Medicare; c. the impact of reduced Commonwealth funding for health promotion, prevention and early intervention; d. the interaction between elements of the health system, including between aged care and health care; e. improvements in the provision of health services, including Indigenous health and rural health; f. the better integration and coordination of Medicare services, including access to general practice, specialist medical practitioners, pharmaceuticals, optometry, diagnostic, dental and allied health services; g. health workforce planning; and h. any related matters.		
Committee Membership	Role	Name of Senators	Party
	Chair	Deborah O’Neill	NSW
	Deputy Chair	Richard Di Natale	Australian Greens, VIC
	Member	The Hong Doung Cameron	Australian Labor Party, NSW
	Member	Sean Edwards	Liberal Party of Australia, SA
	Member	The Hon Jan McLucas	Australia Labor Party, QLD
	Member	Zed Seselja	Liberal Party of Australia, ACT
	Member	John Williams	The Nationals, NSW
	Substitute Member	Lee Rhiannon	Australian Green, NSW
		Senator Larissa Waters	Australian Greens, QLD
Peter Whish-Wilson		Australian Greens, TAS	

Committee Secretariat Contact info.	Senate Select Committee on Health, PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Phone: +61 2 6277 3419, Fax: +61 2 6277 5809, health.sen@aph.gov.au
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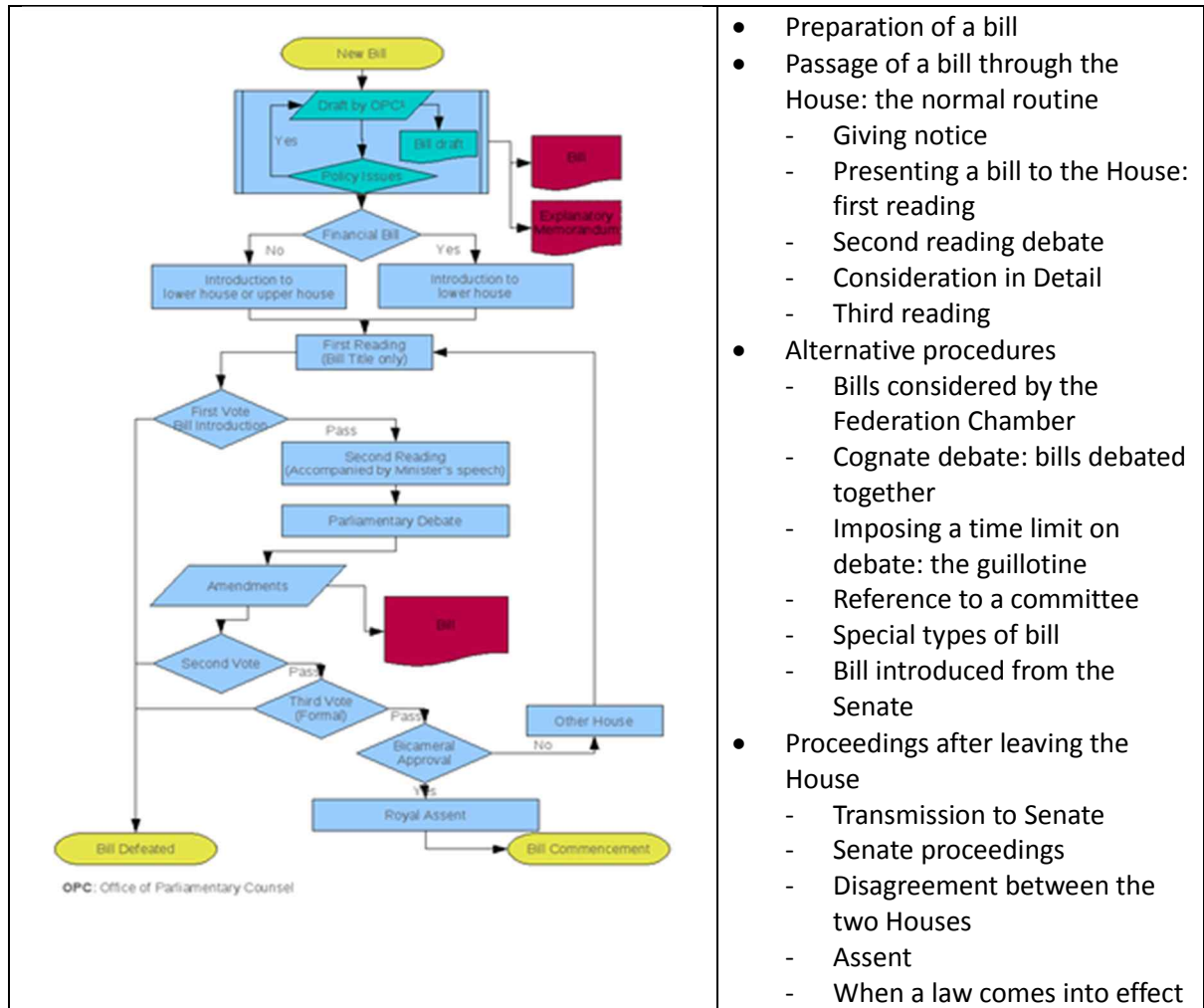
Standing Committee on Health

Role of the Committee	The standing committee is one of nine general purpose investigatory committees established by the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Australia. In summary, the role of the Standing Committee on Health is to carry out inquiries into matters referred to it by the House of Representatives or a Minister of the Commonwealth Government. The Committee could also inquire into matters raised in annual reports of Commonwealth Government departments and authorities or reports by the Commonwealth Auditor-General. The committee has had the following name change in recent Parliaments: 2013 to present: Standing Committee on Health 2004 – 2013: Standing Committee on Health and Ageing 2001 - 2004: Standing Committee on Ageing.		
Committee Membership	Role	Name of Senators	Party
	Chair	Mr Steve Irons	Liberal Party of Australia, Swan WA
	Deputy Chair	Mr Tim Watts	Australian Labor Party, Gelibrand VIC
	Member	Ms Lisa Chesters	Australian Labor Party, Bendigo VIC
	Member	Ms Jill Hall	Australian Labor Party, Shortland NSW
	Member	Ms Sarah Henderson	Liberal Party of Australia, Corangamite VIC
	Member	Mr Stephen Jones	Australian Labor Party, Throsby NSW
	Member	Mr Andrew Laming	Liberal Party of Australia, Bowman QLD
	Member	Dr Andrew Southcott	Liberal Party of Australia, Boothby SA
	Member	Mrs Ann Sudmalia	Liberal Party of Australia, Gilmore NSW

	Member	Mr Ken Wyatt AM	Liberal Party of Australia, Hasluck WA
Committee Secretariat Contact info.	Committee Secretary, Standing Committee on Health, PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Phone: +61 2 6277 4145, Fax: +61 2 6277 4427, health.reps@aph.gov.au		

5. Operation of the parliament

Flowchart of the Legislative Process in Australia



Financial Legislation Procedures

Financial legislation follows the same basic pattern as any other kind, that is, introduction and first reading, Minister's second reading speech, second reading debate, consideration in detail and third reading. However, the Constitution imposes certain restrictions or additional requirements.

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Tobacco Plain Packaging Act (will describe it late)

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

Senate Select Committees on Health

On 25 June 2014, the Senate resolved to establish the Select Committee into Health to inquire into and report on health policy, administration and expenditure and provide a final report to the Senate on **20 June 2016**. Submissions should be received by **19 September 2014**.

Japan

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

The National Diet of Japan

- Last election of the House of Representatives – 16 December 2012 (46th), last election of the House of Councillors – 21 July 2013 (23rd),
- System of government – multi-party parliamentary representative democratic, Type - bicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Constitutional monarchy, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence
- 722 Seats, House of Representatives 480 seats (LDP 294, DP-SR 57, Restoration 54, NK 31, YP 18, Tomorrow 9, JCP 8, Independents 6, SDP 2, PNP 1), House of Councillors 242 seats (Government including LDP and Komeito 134, Oppositions including DP-SR, YP, JCP, JRP-UP, UP, SDP, NRP-GI, PLP-GI, PLP, and independents 108)²⁸
- Voting system – House of Representatives, Parallel: D'Hondt method (180 seats), FPTP (300 seats), House of Councillors, Parallel: D'Hondt method (48 seats), SNTV (73 seats)
- House of Councillors, President – YAMAZAKI Masaaki, Vice-President – KOSHIISHI Azuma (as of Jan 24, 2014), House of Representative, Speaker – Mr. IBUKI Bunmei, Vice-speaker – Mr. AKAMATSU Hirotaka



²⁸ Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP), New Komeito Party (NK), Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai (DP-SR), Your Party (YP), Japanese Communist Party (JCP), Japan Restoration Party and Unity Party(JRP-UP), Unity Party (UP), Social Democratic Party (SDP), New Renaissance Party (NRP-GI), People's Life Party (PLP), Tomorrow Party of Japan (Tomorrow) and Independents

		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>Representatives</th><th>Councillors</th></tr> <tr> <td>Number of Members</td><td>480</td><td>242</td></tr> <tr> <td>Term</td><td>4 years</td><td>6 years</td></tr> <tr> <td>Right to vote</td><td colspan="2">Citizens 20 years of age or older</td></tr> <tr> <td>Right to stand</td><td>Citizens 25 yrs older</td><td>Citizens 30 yrs older</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dissolution</td><td>Possible</td><td>Not possible</td></tr> </table>		Representatives	Councillors	Number of Members	480	242	Term	4 years	6 years	Right to vote	Citizens 20 years of age or older		Right to stand	Citizens 25 yrs older	Citizens 30 yrs older	Dissolution	Possible	Not possible
	Representatives	Councillors																		
Number of Members	480	242																		
Term	4 years	6 years																		
Right to vote	Citizens 20 years of age or older																			
Right to stand	Citizens 25 yrs older	Citizens 30 yrs older																		
Dissolution	Possible	Not possible																		
Separation of Powers	Structure of the National Diet	Comparison of the Membership of the Two Houses																		

2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Powers of the National Diet	The House of Representative and the House of Councillors jointly exercise the powers of the National Diet through the passage of bills and measures by both Houses. The Diet's powers include 1) Enactment of laws; 2) Decisions regarding the budget and other matters related to national finances 3) Decisions regarding approval for the conclusion of international treaties; 4) Designation of the Prime Minister; and 5) Initiation of amendments to the Constitution. In the case where the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors make opposite decisions regarding legislative bill or certain other measures, the Constitution recognizes the precedence of the House of Representatives and its collective decisions over the House of Councillors under certain conditions.
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Powers of Each House	Each House independently exercises its own powers including
	1) Autonomy of each House - Election of the House presiding officer, deputy presiding officer, and standing committee chairpersons - Establishment of special committees as necessary for each session - Establishment of rules pertaining to meeting procedures and internal discipline
	2) Right to conduct investigations in relation to government, 3) Right to accept and vote on petitions, and Poser unique to each House
	1) Right of the House of Representatives to pass a non-confidence resolution against the Cabinet, 2) Convocation of the House of Councillors in emergency session.

3. Committees

There are 2 types of committees: standing committees, which are permanent bodies, and special committees, which are established by House resolution when deemed necessary by the House for a given Diet session. Every Diet Member serves on at least one standing committee during his or her term of office. The House of Representatives and the House of Councillors each have 17 standing committees. The jurisdiction and number of members of a special committee are decided by resolution of the House in question when the committee is established.

1) Standing Committees			
House of Representatives		House of Councillors	
Name of Committee	No. of Members	Name of Committee	No. of Members
Cabinet	40	Cabinet	20
Internal Affairs and Communications	40	General Affairs	25
Judicial Affairs	35	Judicial Affairs	20
Foreign Affairs	30	Foreign Affairs and Defense	21
Financial Affairs	40	Financial Affairs	25
Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	40	Education, Culture and Science	20
Health, Labour and Welfare	45	Health, Welfare and Labour	25

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	40	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	20
Economy, Trade and Industry	40	Economy and Industry	21
Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	45	Land and Transport	25
Environment	30	Environment	20
Security	30	Fundamental National Policies	20
Fundamental National Policies	30	Budget	45
Budget	50	Audit	30
Audit and Oversight of Administration	40	Oversight of Administration	30
Rules and Administration	25	Rules and Administration	25
Discipline	20	Discipline	10

2) Special Committees (as of November 8, 2013, the 185th Diet [extraordinary session])			
House of Representatives		House of Councillors	
Name of Committee (Abbreviated)	No. of Members	Name of Committee (Abbreviated)	No. of Members
Disasters	40	Disasters	20
Political Ethics and Election Law	40	Okinawa and Northern Problems	20
Okinawa and Northern Problems	25	Political Ethics and Election System	35
Children and Youth Affairs	25	North Korean Abduction Issues and Relation Matters	20
Anti-Piracy Measures, Prevention of International Terrorism, and Japan's Cooperation and Support	45	Official Development Assistance and Related Matters	30
North Korean Abductions and Other Issues	25	Consumer Affairs	25
Consumer Affairs	40	Reconstruction after Great East	40

		Japan Earthquake	
Promotion of Science and Technology, and Innovation	40	Nuclear Power Issues	25
Reconstruction after Great East Japan Earthquake	45	National Security	30
Investigation of Nuclear Power Issues	40		
National Security	40		

4. Structure and Composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

In the House of Councillors, the Committee on Health, Welfare and Labour deliberate the matters under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Regarding the House of Representatives, English data is not available. (will ask to Japanese for checking it.)

The Committee on Health, Welfare and Labour (n=25)	Title	Name	Political Groups
	Chairman	Ishii Midori	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Director	TAKAGAI Emiko	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Director	NISHIDA Shoji	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Director	MIHARA Junko	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Director	TSUDA Yataro	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Director	NAGASAWA Hiroaki	NK (New Komeito)
	Member	AKAISHI Kiyomi	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	OIE Satoshi	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	ONUMA Mizuho	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	KIMURA Yoshiro	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	SHIMAMURA Dai	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)

	Member	TAKISAWA Motome	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	TAKEMI Keizo	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	HANYUDA Takashi	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
	Member	ADACHI Shinya	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Member	AIHARA Kumiko	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Member	KONISHI Hiroyuki	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Member	NISHIMURA Masami	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Member	MORIMOTO Shinji	DP-SR (The Democratic Party and the Shin Ryokufukai)
	Member	HAMADA Masayoshi	NK (New Komeito)
	Member	AZUMA TORU	JRP-UP (Japan Restoration Party and Unity Party)
	Member	YAKUSHIJI Michiyo	YP (Your Party)
	Member	YAMAGUCHI Kazuyuki	YP (Your Party)
	Member	KOIKE Akira	JCP (Japanese Communist Party)
	Member	FUKUSHIMA Mizuho	SDP (Social Democratic Party)

5. Operation of the parliament

Frequency and dates of major meetings

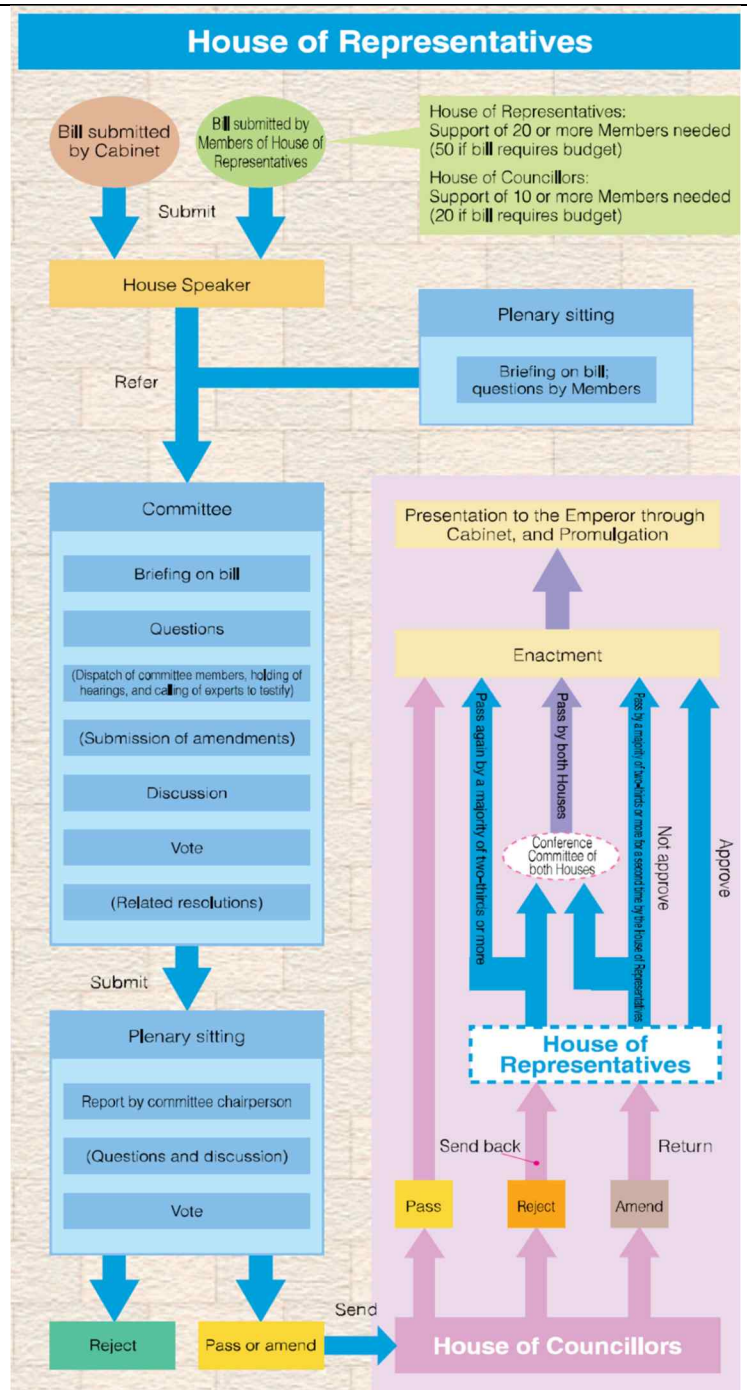
Type	Convocation	Term of Session
Ordinary session	Once a year, starting in January	150 days (one extension possible)
Extraordinary session	1) When deemed necessary by the Cabinet 2) When requested by one-quarter or more of the total Members of either House 3) After a general election called due to the expiration of the term of office of the Members of the House of Representatives or after a regular election of the House Councillors	Determined by agreement of both Houses (two extensions possible)

Special session	After a general election called after the dissolution of the House of Representatives	
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Diagram of Legislative Procedure

Deliberation of Bills

Legislation can be submitted by Diet Members or by the Cabinet, but only the Cabinet can submit the national budget or a treaty. For members to submit a legislative bill, the bill must have the support of 20 or more Members of the House of Representatives. Legislative bills requiring budget, however, need the support of 50 or more Member of the House of Representatives. Once a bill has been submitted, the presiding officer of the House refers the bill to the committee. After receiving a briefing on the bill from the Members who submitted the bill or the Minister of State in charge, the committee members ask questions of the Diet Members who submitted the bill, the Minister of State, or other government officials in a question and answer session. After questions have been fielded, the political parties and groups express their position on the bill in a debate. Then a vote is taken. Votes at committees are taken by asking those in favor of the bill to stand.



Investigation in relation to Government

To create legislation and check government, each House can conduct investigations in relation to government. Such investigations are conducted by the various committees set up in each House. Standing committees decide the matter within their jurisdiction that they will investigate for a given Diet session and receive the approval of the presiding officer of the House before commencing their investigations. Special committees investigate matters that are referred to them.

Deliberations when the Diet is Not in Session

The National Diet does not meet after the term of session ends. The House standing and special committees, however can continue their deliberations even when the Diet is not in session provided the House has so decided. With House approval, the committees can pursue their investigations and discussion, they can perform such activities as the holding of meetings and the dispatch of committee members to conduct research.

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

International Affair, Global Environment and Food Issues

Timeline of Three-year Deliberations

[1st year]		
Diet Session	Date	Outline
176th	November 12 (Friday), 2010 (No. 1)	1. Election of chairman 2. Election of Directors
	December 3 (Friday), 2010 (No. 2)	1. Request for continuation of research 2. Dispatch of committee members
177th	February 8 (Tuesday), 2011 (Inspection tours)	1. Fact-finding survey on water issues [Sites visited] National Institute for Environmental Studies National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) (Tsukuba Center Chuo Campus)
	February 16 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 1)	1. Request for attendance of voluntary testifiers 2. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Current status of water issues [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Taikan OKI, Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo Tsugihiko WATANABE, Professor, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Kiyoko IKEGAMI, Director, United Nations Population Fund, Tokyo Office
	February 23 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 2)	1. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Efforts to address water issues [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Mikiyasu NAKAYAMA, Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo Kotaro TAKEMURA, Secretary General, Japan Water Forum Kazunari YOSHIMURA, Representative, Global Water Japan, Technical advisor to the United Nations; Guest Professor, Azabu University
	April 27 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 3)	1. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Efforts to address water issues [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Masami ITO, Chairman of Steering Committee, Global Water Recycling and Reuse System Association Takashi HONGO, Special Advisor and Head, Environment Finance Engineering Department, Japan Bank For International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan Finance Corporation Shinya EJIMA, Director General, Global Environment Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

May 18 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 4)	1. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Issues related to water issues [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Masaharu HOSHI, Professor, Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine, Hiroshima University Gen SUZUKI, Medical Director, International University of Health and Welfare Clinic; Professor, International University of Health and Welfare Graduate School 2. Request for attendance of voluntary government testifiers 3. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Issues related to water issues [Government explanations, Q&As] Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare 4. Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Desirable Forms of Efforts [Exchange of views among committee members]
June 8 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 5)	1. Research Report 2. Interim Report
August 31 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 6)	1. Request for continuation of research 2. Dispatch of committee members

[2nd year]		
Diet Session	Date	Outline
178th	September 30 (Friday), 2011 (No. 1)	1. Resignation of Director and election to fill vacancy 2. Request for continuation of research 3. Dispatch of committee members
178th After Diet session	October 5 (Wednesday) and 6 (Thursday), 2011 (Dispatch of committee members)	1. Fact-finding survey on efforts to deal with water issues [Sites visited] Kobe City Center for Membrane and Film Technology, KOBE University Osaka City Kaizuka Factory, NAGAOKA International Corporation NITTO DENKO CORPORATION

179th	November 30 (Wednesday), 2011 (No. 1)	1 Election of Director to fill vacancy 2 Request for attendance of voluntary government testifiers 3 Request for attendance of voluntary testifiers 4 Report by dispatched committee member 5 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water issues in Asia (Damage caused by the flood in Thailand and responses to the disaster) [Government explanations, Statement of views by voluntary testifier, Q&As] Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Izumi ARAI, Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	February 29 (Wednesday), 2012 (No. 3)	1 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water Issues in Asia (water issues in China and efforts by Japan) [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Hidetsumi IMURA, Professor, Global Cooperation Institute for Sustainable Cities, Yokohama City University Toshiyuki HATTORI, President, Env Biz Tech, Inc. Meguri AOYAMA, China scholar, Researcher, Keio Institute of East Asian Studies
	December 9 (Friday), 2011 (No. 2)	1 Election of Director to fill vacancy 2 Request for continuation of research 3 Dispatch of committee members	April 18 (Wednesday), 2012 (No. 4)	1 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water Issues in Asia (issues pertaining to efforts to address Asia's water issues) [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Satoshi TAKIZAWA, Professor, Department of Urban Engineering, the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Engineering Akio SHIBATA, President, Natural Resource Research Institute Inc. Kenichi NAKAGAMI, Professor, Ritsumeikan University College of Policy Science
180th	February 15 (Wednesday), 2012 (No. 1)	1 Election of Director to fill vacancy 2 Request for attendance of voluntary testifiers 3 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water issues in Asia (present status and issues pertaining to water issues in Indochina peninsula and other parts of Southeast Asia) [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Tadashi YAMADA, Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Chuo University Kinio TAKEYA, Visiting Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Hajime MORI, President and CEO, Kisui Water Treatment Japan, Inc.	May 31 (Thursday), 2012 (No. 5)	1 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water Issues in Asia (desirable forms of efforts to address Asia's water issues) [Exchange of views among committee members]
	February 22 (Wednesday), 2012 (No. 2)	1 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Water Issues in Asia (water issues in Central and Southern Asia and efforts by Japan) [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers, Q&As] Manabu SHIMIZU, Professor, Faculty of Economics, Teikyo University Junpei KUBOTA, Associate Professor, Research Department, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Masataka NAKAHARA, Director General, South Asia Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Masaru OZAKI, Executive Director, Japan Water Works Association	June 13 (Wednesday), 2012 (No. 6)	1 Research Report 2 Interim Report
	February 27 (Monday), 2012 (Inspection tours)	1 Fact-finding survey on water issues [Sites visited] Tsukuba Central Research Institute, Public Works Research Institute International centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Public Works Research Institute	September 7 (Friday), 2012 (No. 7)	1 Election of Directors and election to fill vacancy 2 Request for continuation of research 3 Dispatch of committee members

[3rd year]		
Diet Session	Date	Outline
182th	December 28 (Friday), 2012 (No. 1)	1 Resignation of Director and election to fill vacancy 2 Request for continuation of research 3 Dispatch of committee members
	February 6 (Wednesday), 2013 (No. 1)	1 Resignation of Director and election to fill vacancy 2 Request for attendance of voluntary testifiers 3 Request for attendance of voluntary government testifiers 4 Research on International Affairs, Global Environment and Food Issues: Current status of efforts to address water issues in Japan and issues [Government explanations, Q&As] Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare; Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications; Forestry Agency; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Justice

New Zealand

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

New Zealand Parliament

- The latest elections were held on 26 November 2011 (50th New Zealand Parliament).
- System of government – parliamentary representative democratic monarchy, Type - unicameral parliament, Construction – Sovereign and House of Representatives, Constitutional form – Constitutional monarchy, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence
- 120 Representatives (National Party – 47.3% of the party vote and 59 seats, Labour Party – 27.5%, 34 seats, Green Party – 11.1%, 14 seats, New Zealand First – 6.6%, 8 seats), new parliamentary elections every 3 years.
- Voting system – Mixed Member Proportional voting system (giving voters 2 votes, 1 for a political party and the other for their local electorate Members of Parliament)
- Speaker – The Rt Hon David Carter (since 31 January 2013)



2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

5) Make new laws	Much parliamentary business is about making new laws and amending old laws. The House examines and amends bills (proposed laws) in several formal stages. Once a bill has passed through all its parliamentary stages it becomes an Act of Parliament, forming part of New Zealand's law.
6) Represent the people	Members of Parliament represent the voters of New Zealand in the House of Representatives. Members represent the people to the House and the Government. They also represent the actions of the House and the Government to the people. If the people do not like what their representatives do in Parliament they can vote to replace them at the next election. This is how individual voters influence the way the country is run.

7) Examine and approve Government taxes and spending	It is illegal for the Government to impose a tax without parliamentary authority. This authority comes from legislation agreed by Parliament. The Government regularly requires Parliament's approval to spend money needed to run the country. This is known as obtaining 'supply'. It achieves this with the annual Budget (Appropriation Bill) and occasional Imprest Supply Bills. These are debated in the House and each debate offers a chance for the House to renew its confidence in the Government. If a Government fails to obtain supply a change of Government may result or a general election. This is because without supply of funds the Government is unable to pay its bills and the House is said to have lost confidence in the Government.
8) Hold the government to account	The House has several ways of holding the Government to account.
9) Questions	During daily question time members ask Ministers questions about how they are managing the country's affairs. This tests the performance of individual Ministers and the Government as a whole. Question time is usually 12 'questions for oral answer' to Ministers each sitting day with opportunities for members to ask supplementary questions too. Members can ask Ministers an unlimited number of written questions on any working day. These are known as 'questions for written answer'.
10) Debates	There are several debates in which the Government's Ministers may need to defend their policies and management of the country's affairs. Debates about spending and taxes provide the most obvious opportunities for members to challenge the Government. Members may raise any issues of concern during the Wednesday general debate. If a member raises an urgent matter involving ministerial responsibility, the Speaker may decide that it needs the House's urgent attention. If so, a debate follows. The Address in Reply debate after a general election, and the Prime Minister's annual statement to House, provide an opportunity for members to challenge the Government's policies in several hours of debate.
11) Select committee inquiries	A select committee can decide to conduct an inquiry to examine the Government's performance in a particular area. Witnesses are asked to tell the committee their views on the subject. They often make recommendations to the committee on how performance might be improved. The committee then considers the evidence and reports to the House, often making recommendations to the Government. The Government must respond to these recommendations, but is not bound by them.
12) Petitions	There is a traditional right to petition the House when there is no other legal means of setting right a personal complaint. A petition can also ask for a change in public policy or the law. Petitions often draw attention to Government

	activities. Select committees consider petitions and can make recommendations in a report to the House.
13) International treaties	New Zealand laws are increasingly affected by international treaties relating to matters such as maritime safety, border security, and inter-country adoption. Select committees examine many proposed international treaties and can bring any concerns to the attention of the House before the Government completes the formal treaty-making process.

3. Committees

Type and Duty	There are up to 13 subject-area select committees, plus any number of ad hoc committees set up from time to time for particular purposes. Select committees often ask the public for input when they are considering a bill or inquiry. Functions 1) bills; 2) petitions; 3) financial reviews and review of reports on non-departmental appropriations; 4) estimates; 5) supplementary estimation; 6) international treaty examinations; 7) reports of Officers of Parliament.
List of Standing Committees	• <u>Business</u> • <u>Commerce</u> – business development, commerce, communications, consumer affairs, energy, information technology, insurance, superannuation, and tourism • <u>Education and Science</u> – education, education review, industry training, research, science, and technology • <u>Finance and Expenditure</u> – audit of the financial statements of the Government and departs, Government finance, revenue, and taxation • <u>Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade</u> – customs, defence, disarmament and arms control, foreign affairs, trade, and veterans' affairs • <u>Government Administration</u> – civil defence, cultural affairs, fitness, sport and leisure, internal affairs, Pacific Island affairs, Prime Minister and Cabinet, racing services to Parliament, State services, statistics, and women's affairs • <u>Health</u> – health • <u>Justice and Electoral</u> – courts, Crown legal and drafting services, electoral matters, human rights, and justice • <u>Law and Order</u> – corrections, criminal law policies, and serious fraud • <u>Local Government and Environment</u> – conservation, environment, and local government • <u>Maori Affairs</u> – Maori affairs • <u>Primary Production</u> – agriculture, biosecurity, fisheries, forestry, lands, and land information • <u>Social Services</u> – housing, senior citizens, social development, work and income support, and youth development • <u>Transport and Industrial Relations</u> – accident compensation, immigration, industrial relations, labour, occupational and safety, transport, and transport safety

Establishment and life of select committees	The following select committees are established at the commencement of each Parliament. The subject select committees specified in Standing Order 185 (total 13, see above), and the Officers of Parliament Committee, the Privileges Committee, the Regulations Review Committee, and the Standing Orders Committee. The House may establish other select committees.
Membership of committees	The overall membership of select committees must, so far as reasonably practicable, be proportional to party membership in the House. A change in the membership of a select committee may be a permanent change for the life of the committee or a temporary change for a limited time or for consideration of a particular matter

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

The Health Committee considers matters relating to health

Health Committee (n=10)	Role	MP Name	Party	Electorate
	Chairperson	Hutchison, Paul	National Party	Hunua
	Deputy-Chairperson	Yang, Jian	National Party	List
	Member	Ardern, Shane	National Party	Taranaki-King Country
	Member	Foster-Bell, Paul	National Party	List
	Member	Hague, Kevin	Green Party	List
	Member	King, Annette	Labour Party	Rongoai
	Member	Lees-Galloway, Iain	Labour Party	Palmerston North
	Member	Simpson, Scott	National Party	Coromandel
	Member	Stewart, Barbara	NZ First	List
	Member	Williams, Poto	Labour Party	Christchurch East

5. Operation of the parliament

Passage of Legislation – Laws are initially proposed in Parliament as bills. They become Acts after being approved 3 times by Parliamentary votes and then receiving Royal Assent from the Governor-

General. Within the House of Representative, bills must pass through 3 readings and be considered by both a Select Committee and the Committee of the Whole House. If a Bill passes its 3rd reading, it is passed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Governor-General, who will (assuming constitutional conventions are followed) grant Royal Assent as a matter of course. The majority of bills are promulgated by the government of the day (that is, the party or parties that have majority in Parliament). It is rare for government bills to be defeated, indeed the first to be defeated in the 20th century was in 1998. It is also possible for individual Member of Parliaments who which to deal with a matter that parties do not take positions on.

Details can be found in Standing Orders of the House of Representatives 2011 (rules of procedure for the House and its committees).²⁹

Legislative procedures	Form of bills, Omnibus bills, General Provisions, Introduction, Select committee consideration, Select committee reports, Second reading, Committee stage, Delegated legislation
Financial procedures	Government's financial veto, Imprest Supply, The Budget, Supplementary Estimates, Annual taxing provision, Financial review, Determination of Votes and financial reviews for debate
Other procedures	Address in Reply, Debate on Prime Minister's statement, Statements in the House, Petitions, Papers and publications, Questions to Ministers and members, Debate on a matter of urgent public importance, General debate, Whole of government directions, Civil defence, Officers of Parliament, International treaties

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Medicines Amendment Act 2013 (12/141) – This bill amends the Medicines Act 1981 to address some problematic provisions affecting the approval and prescription of medicines and medical devices. (Date- 4 Dec 2013)

Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 (13/53) – This bill would regulate otherwise unregulated psychoactive substances such as party pills and other “legal highs”. (Date – 17 July 2013)

National Health and Supplementary Products Bill – This bill establishes a system for the regulation of low-risk nature health products in New Zealand. (Formerly Natural Health Products Bill) (21 March 2013)

Sleepover Wages (Settlement) Act 2011 (11/98) – This bill implements a settlement agreement for the payment of wages to employees in the health and disability sector who sleep overnight at their workplace while on duty. (17 Oct 2011)

²⁹ http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/rules/standing-orders/00HOHPBReferenceStOrders3/standing-orders-of-the-house-of-representatives-2011#_Toc338918345

Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act (No2) (11/54) – This bill amends the Misuse of Drug Act 1975 to make changes to the classification of drugs, allow hazardous substances to be scheduled as restricted substances and extend control over drug paraphernalia. (Date – 8 Aug 2011)

Smoke-free Environments (Control and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2011 (11/53) – The purpose of this bill is to provide for a prohibition on the display of tobacco products in retail and other sales outlets. (Date - 22 July 2011)

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

Health and Safety Reform Bill³⁰ - This bill is an omnibus one that proposes reform of New Zealand's workplace health and safety system. The bill seeks to replace the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and the Machinery Act 1950.

Smoke-free Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill³¹ (28 March 2014, 11 August 2014) – The main aim of this Bill is to introduce a plain packaging regime for tobacco products.

³⁰ <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/legislation/bills/digests/50PLLaw21321/health-and-safety-reform-bill-2014-bills-digest-no-2132>

³¹ <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/legislation/bills/digests/50PLLaw21201/smoke-free-environments-tobacco-plain-packaging-amendment>

Singapore

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>Parliament of Singapore</u> • The latest elections were held on 7 May 2011(12th Parliament), its term will end on 9 Oct 2016, the next general election must be held by 8 January 2017 • System of government – parliamentary republics, Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry if subject to parliamentary confidence • Member of Parliament (MP) 99 Seats (PAP 80, WP 7+2 NCMPs, SPP1, NMPs 9)³², General elections must be conducted within 5 years of the fist sitting of parliament. • Voting system – Plurality voting system, Block vote • Speaker – Halimah Yacob, PAP(since 14 January 2013), Deputy Speaker –Charles Chong, PAP(since 17 October 2011)	 
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

14) Lawmaking	One of Parliament's main functions is to make laws for the country. Before any law is passed, it is first introduced in Parliament as a draft called a "Bill". Bills are usually introduced by a Minister on behalf of the Government. However, any Member of the House can introduce a Bill known as a Private Member's Bill. All Bills must go through three readings in Parliament and receive the President's assent to become an Act of Parliament. A Bill is introduced and given a First Reading without a debate. Following its introduction, the Member in charge of the Bill will propose in Parliament that the Bill be read a second time. It is during this stage that MPs get an
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³² People's Action Party (PAP), Worker's Party of Singapore (WPS, WP, Worker's Party), Non-constituency Member of Parliament (NCMP, NMP), Singapore People's Party (SPP), Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP)

	opportunity to debate on the principles of the Bills, examining its advantages and disadvantages. If MPs feel that the proposed law is beneficial to the country, they will vote in favour to proceed and the Bill will be given its Second Reading. The Bill then progresses to the Committee of the Whole Parliament or to a Select Committee comprising several MPs for it to be examined clause by clause. MPs who support the Bill in principle but do not agree with certain clauses can propose amendments to those clauses at this stage. Following its report back to the House, the Bill will go through its Third Reading where only minor amendments will be allowed before it is passed. Most Bills passed by Parliament are scrutinised by the Presidential Council for Minority Rights which makes a report to the Speaker stating whether there is any differentiating measure in a Bill which affects any racial or religious community. If approved by the Council, the Bill will be assented to by the President before being gazetted in the Government Gazette to become a law.
15) Financial Control	Parliament exercises financial control by requiring the Government to seek the approval of the House for its annual budget. The annual Budget Statement usually takes place in late February or early March before the new financial year begins on the 1st of April. The Finance Minister, in presenting the Budget Statement, will review the country's economic performance in the previous year and announce economic proposals including any taxes or incentives to be introduced for the coming year. Accompanying the Budget Statement is the Budget Book which sets out in detail the estimates of expenditure showing how each Government Ministry proposes to use the public money to be expended by the Government in the next financial year. At the conclusion of the Minister's Budget Speech, Parliament will stand adjourned for not less than five clear days and when it resumes, two days will be allotted for the debate on the Budget Statement. The debate on the Budget Statement is followed by the debate on the estimates of expenditure, where each Minister is questioned on his Ministry's policies. These debate lasts from seven to ten days following which the Supply Bill will be passed. The Supply Bill authorises the Government to withdraw the necessary amount of moneys from the Consolidated and Development Funds to meet the expenditure of public services as set out in the estimates of expenditure.
16) Ministerial Accountability, Critical/Inquisitorial	At the start of each Parliament sitting, one and a half-hours are reserved for Question Time. This is a chance for MPs to raise questions with the Ministers on their respective Ministries' responsibilities. Through questioning the Ministers, Parliament makes the Government accountable for its actions and allows the public to listen to a spectrum of views and opinions to find out how decisions affecting them are made. This forms an integral part of Parliament's

	role. Questions may be filed by any MP seeking either oral or written replies from Ministers.
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3. Committees

4) Select Committees	
Type and Duties	A select committee is a committee made up of a small number of MPs appointed to deal with particular areas or issues. Standing Select Committees (that is, permanently constituted committees) are either chaired by the Speaker of Parliament or an MP appointed to the position, and its members are usually up to seven MPs appointed by Parliament in a manner that ensures that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee.
Duration	A Standing Select Committee continues for the duration of a Parliament unless Parliament otherwise provides, while other select committees last until they have presented their final reports. A prorogation of Parliament does not cause the business and proceedings before select committees to lapse; these are proceeded with in the next session of the same Parliament.
Type	• Committee of Selection • Committee of Privileges • Estimates Committee • House Committee • Public Accounts Committee • Public Petitions Committee • Standing Orders Committee

5) Government Parliamentary Committees	
Types and Duties	Government Parliamentary Committees (GPCs) were established by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) in 1987. GPCs are Party organs, and were not set up because they are required by any provision of the Constitution or constitutional convention . Each GPC examines the policies, programs and proposed legislation of a particular government ministry, provides the ministry with feedback and suggestions, and is consulted by the ministry on issues of public interest.
Appointment and Selection of Members	The members of GPCs are PAP backbenchers , and each GPC is backed by a resource panel that members of the public are invited to join. When GPCs were introduced, Goh Chok Tong , then First Deputy Prime Minister , said that the three main reasons for establishing GPCs were to increase the participation of MPs in policymaking, to give the public a say in government policies through sitting on resource panels, and to strengthen democratic institutions in the country. It was envisaged that GPC members would act as a sort of proxy opposition in Parliament, challenging the views of Cabinet members. However, in the 1991 general election the PAP lost four seats to opposition parties and suffered a 2.2% drop in popular votes compared to the 1988 election. Goh, who had become Prime Minister in 1990, said in a post-election press conference that GPCs would be abolished as the increased number of Opposition MPs meant they were no longer needed. The PAP would return to the old system of having internal party committees meeting in private. A few weeks later, he said that GPCs would

	continue to exist, but their members would no longer take an adversarial stance in Parliament.
Type of GPC	• Communications and information • Culture, community and youth • Defence and foreign affairs • Education • Finance, and trade and industry • Health • Home affairs and law • Manpower • National development and the environment • Social and family development • Transport

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

The Constitution provides for the organs of state, namely, the Executive (Cabinet), the Legislature and the Judiciary. The President, as the Head of State, appoints the Prime Minister and the other Cabinet members from among the elected Members of Parliament. The President as a head of State appoints the Prime Minister, a Member of Parliament who commands a confidence of the majority of the MPs. Members of Cabinet are appointed from among the MPs, by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister leads the Cabinet in the administration of the Government. The Cabinet is responsible for all Government policies and the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the state. It is responsible collectively to Parliament.

The Cabinet is responsible for all government policies and the day-to-day administration of the affairs of state. It is responsible collectively to Parliament, and comprises the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, and the ministers in charge of the ministries of Communications and Information, Culture, Community and Youth, Defence, Education, the Environment and Water Resources, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, Home Affairs, Law, Manpower, National Development, Social and Family Development, Trade and Industry, and Transport. **Mr Gan Kim Yong** is the current Health Minister. He took office in May 2011 after being re-elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for the Chua Chu Kang GRC.

5. Operation of the parliament

Sessions	The first session of a particular Parliament commences when Parliament meets after being formed following a general election. A session ends when Parliament is prorogued (temporarily suspended) or dissolved . The maximum term of each Parliament is five years, after which Parliament automatically dissolves. A general election must then be held within three months.
Sittings	The quorum for a Parliamentary sitting is one quarter of the total number of MPs, not including the Speaker. An MP begins a debate by moving a motion and delivering an opening speech explaining the reasons for the motion. The Speaker

	(or chairman, if Parliament is in committee) then puts the motion in the form of a question, following which other MPs may debate the motion. After that, the mover may exercise a right of reply. When the debate is closed, the Speaker puts the question on the motion to the House and calls for a vote. Voting is generally done verbally, and whether the motion is carried depends on the Speaker's personal assessment of whether more MPs have voted for than against the motion. MPs' votes are only formally counted if an MP claims a division.
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Legislative Process

Before any law is passed, it is first introduced in parliament as a draft known as a bill. Bills are usually introduced by a minister on behalf of the cabinet, known as Government Bill. However, any member of parliament can introduce a bill, known as a Private Member's Bill. All bills must go through three readings in parliament and receive the president's assent to become an Act of Parliament.

Each bill goes through several stages before it becomes a law. The first stage is a mere formality known as the first reading, where it is introduced without a debate. This is followed by the second reading, where members of parliament debate on the general principles of the bill. If parliament opposes the bill, it may vote to reject the bill.

If the bill goes through the second reading, the bill is sent to a Select Committee where every clause in the bill is examined. Members of parliament who support the bill in principle but do not agree with certain clauses can propose amendments to those clauses at this stage. Following its report back to parliament, the bill will go through its third reading where only minor amendments will be allowed before it is passed.

Most bills passed by parliament are scrutinised by the Presidential Council for Minority Rights which makes a report to the Speaker of Parliament stating whether there are clauses in a bill which affects any racial or religious community. If approved by the council, the bill will be presented for the president's assent.

The last stage involves the granting of assent by the president, before the bill officially becomes a law.

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No.13/2011

Date introduced – 10 Mar 2011, Date passed – 11 April 2011

Environmental Public Health (Amendment Bill) Bill No.3/2014

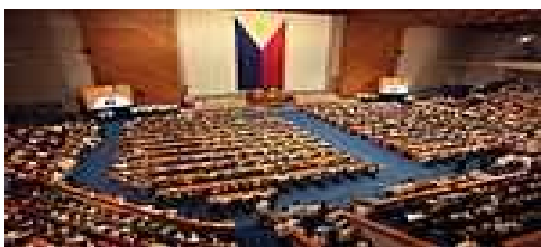
Date introduced – 20 Jan 2014, Date of 2nd reading – 17 Feb 2014, Date passed – 17 Feb 2014

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

Parliament will be sitting on 8th September 2014 which will commence at 1.30 pm.

Philippines

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>Congress of the Philippines</u> • The last election of the House of Representatives and the last election of Senate – 13 May 2013 (16th Congress of the Philippines) • System of government – Presidential system, Type -bicameral parliament, Congress – Senate (upper chamber) and the House of Representatives (lower chamber), Constitutional form –Republic, Head of state – Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Presidency is independent of legislation • 316 seats, 24 Senators (NP 5, Liberal 4, Lakas 2, LDP 1, NPC 1, PDP-Laban 1, PRP 1, Independent 3, UNA 5, NPC 1)³³, 292 Representatives, • Voting system – Senate (Block voting), House of Representatives (Parallel, Party List, FPTP) • President of the Senate – Franklin Drilon (Liberal), Speaker of the House of Representatives – Feliciano Belmonte, Jr (Liberal) (since 22 July 2013)	 
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, as in past constitutions, vested the power of government on the legislative, executive, and the judiciary. The **Legislative Power** is vested in the Congress of the

³³ Nacionalista Party (NP), Liberal Party of the Philippines (Liberal), Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), Partido Demokratiko Filipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), People's Reform Party (PRP), Nonpartisan Politician (Independent), United Nationalist Alliance (UNA)

Philippines which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives, except to the extent reserved to the people by the provision on initiative and referendum.

General legislative power	It consists of the enactment of laws intended as a rule of conduct to govern the relation between individuals (i.e., civil laws, commercial laws, etc.) or between individuals and the state (i.e., criminal law, political law, etc.)
Implied power	It consists of the enactment of laws intended as a rule of conduct to govern the relation between individuals (i.e., civil laws, commercial laws, etc.) or between individuals and the state (i.e., criminal law, political law, etc.)
Inherent powers	These are the powers which though not expressly given are nevertheless exercised by the Congress as they are necessary for its existence such as: to determine the rules of proceedings; to compel attendance of absent members to obtain quorum to do business; to keep journal of its proceedings; etc.
Specific legislative powers	It has reference to powers which the Constitution expressly and specifically directs to perform or execute. Powers enjoyed by the Congress classifiable under this category are: Power to appropriate; Power to act as constituent assembly; Power to confirm treaties; Power to declare the existence of war; Power to concur amnesty; and Power to act as board of canvasser for presidential/vice-presidential votes; Power to contempt; Blending of power; Delegation of power; Budgetary power; Power to taxation
Executive power	Powers of the Congress that are executive in nature are: Appointment of its officers; Affirming treaties; Confirming presidential appointees through the Commission on Appointments ; Removal power; etc.
Director/Supervisory power	The Congress of the Philippines exercises considerable control and supervision over the administrative branch - e.g.: To decide the creation of a department/agency/office; To define powers and duties of officers; To appropriate funds for governmental operations; To prescribe rules and procedure to be followed; etc.
Electoral power	Considered as electoral power of the Congress of the Philippines are the Congress' power to: Elect its presiding officer/s and other officers of the House; Act as board of canvassers for the canvass of presidential/vice-presidential votes; and Elect the President in case of any electoral tie to the said post.
Judicial power	Constitutionally, each house has judicial powers: To punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its Members, suspend or expel a Member; To concur and approve amnesty declared by the President of the Philippines ; To initiate, prosecute and thereafter decide cases of impeachment; and To decide electoral protests of its members through the respective Electoral Tribunal.

Miscellaneous powers	The other powers of Congress mandated by the Constitution are as follows: To authorize the Commission on Audit to audit fund and property; To authorize the President of the Philippines to fix tariff rates, quotas, and dues; To authorize the President of the Philippines to formulate rules and regulations in times of emergency; To reapportion legislative districts based on established constitutional standards; To implement laws on autonomy; To establish a national language commission; To implement free public secondary education; To allow small scale utilization of natural resources; To specify the limits of forest lands and national parks; To determine the ownerships and extent of ancestral domain; and To establish independent economic and planning agency.
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3. Committees

Permanent Committees (as of Feb 5, 2014)	Congressional Ad hoc/Oversight Committee (as of June 9, 2014)
Accountability of Public Officers & investigations	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Clean Water Act
Accounts	Joint Congressional Power Commission
Agrarian Reform	Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization
Agriculture and Food	Congressional Oversight Committee on Dangerous Drugs
Banks, Financial Institutions & Currencies	Congressional Oversight Committee on the Proper Implementation of the National Internal Revenue Code
Civil Service and Government Reorganization	Congressional Oversight Committee on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Law
Climate Change	Oversight Committee on ARMM Organic Act
Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Overseas Voting Act of 2003
Cooperative	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Chain Saw Act
Cultural Communities	Congressional Oversight Committee on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
Economic Affairs	Congressional Oversight Committee on Quality Affordable Medicines
Education, Arts and Culture	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Cooperatives

Electoral Reforms and People's Participation	Joint Oversight Committee on the Human Security Act
Energy	Congressional Oversight Committee on Biofuels
Environment and Natural Resources	Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform
Ethics and Privileges	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Tourism
Finance/Sub-committee A to E	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Overseas Workers' Affairs
Foreign Relations	Congressional Oversight Committee on The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010
Games, Amusement and Sports	Congressional Oversight Committee on Labor And Employment
Government Corporations & Public Enterprise	Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement
Health and Demography	Special Oversight Committee on Economic Affairs
Justice and Human Rights	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures
Labor, Employment & Human Resources Development	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act
Local Government	Select Oversight Committee on the Local Government Code of 1991
National Defense and Security	Congressional Oversight Committee on the Special Purpose Vehicle Act
Peace, Unification and Reconciliation	Congressional Oversight Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering Law
Public Information and Mass Media	Oversight Committee on Climate Change
Public Order and Dangerous Drugs	Oversight Committee on Bases Conversion
Public Services	Congressional Oversight Committee on the AFP Modernization Act
Public Works	Select Oversight Committee on Intelligence and Confidential

	Funds
Rules	Select Oversight Committee on Barangay Affairs
Science and Technology	Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Automated Election System
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development	
Tourism	
Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship	
Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement	
Ways and Means	
Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality	
Youth	

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY

Jurisdiction: All matters relating to public health in general, medical, hospital and quarantine services; population issues, concerns, policies and programs affecting individuals and their families, their effects on national, social and economic conditions. *Rule X, Section 13 (23)*

11 members

Chairperson : GUINGONA III, Teofisto L., Vice Chairperson : CAYETANO, Pia S.

Members : ANGARA, Sonny / AQUINO IV, Paolo Benigno “Bam” / LEGARDA, Loren B. / DEFENSOR SANTIAGO, Miriam / MARCOS, Jr., Ferdinand R. / POE, Grace / BINAY, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. / HONASAN II, Gregorio B. / SOTTO III, Vicente C. / Ex Officio Members : RECTO, Ralph G. / CAYETANO, Alan Peter “*Compañero*” S. / ENRILE, Juan Ponce

5. Operation of the parliament

Flowchart of the Legislative Process in the Philippines

Preparation of the bill	The Member or the Bill Drafting Division of the Reference and Research Bureau prepares and drafts the bill upon the Member's request.
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First reading	1. The bill is filed with the Bills and Index Service and the same is numbered and reproduced. 2. Three days after its filing, the same is included in the Order of Business for First Reading. 3. On First Reading, the Secretary General reads the title and number of the bill. The Speaker refers the bill to the appropriate Committee/s.
Committee consideration / action	1. The Committee where the bill was referred to evaluates it to determine the necessity of conducting public hearings. 2. Based on the result of the public hearings or Committee discussions, the Committee may introduce amendments, consolidate bills on the same subject matter, or propose a substitute bill. It then prepares the corresponding committee report. 3. The Committee approves the Committee Report and formally transmits the same to the Plenary Affairs Bureau.
Second reading	1. The Committee Report is registered and numbered by the Bills and Index Service. It is included in the Order of Business and referred to the Committee on Rules. 2. The Committee on Rules schedules the bill for consideration on Second Reading. 3. On Second Reading, the Secretary General reads the number, title and text of the bill and the following takes place: Period of Sponsorship and Debate; Period of Amendments
Third reading	1. The amendments, if any, are engrossed and printed copies of the bill are reproduced for Third Reading. 2. The engrossed bill is included in the Calendar of Bills for Third Reading and copies of the same are distributed to all the Members three days before its Third Reading. 3. On Third Reading, the Secretary General reads only the number and title of the bill. 4. A roll call or nominal voting is called and a Member, if he desires, is given three minutes to explain his vote. No amendment on the bill is allowed at this stage.
Transmittal of the approved bill to the Senate	
The approved bill is transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence.	
Senate action on approved bill of the House	
Senate action on approved bill of the House	

Senate action on approved bill of the House	1. A Conference Committee is constituted and is composed of Members from each House of Congress to settle, reconcile or thresh out differences or disagreements on any provision of the bill. 2. The conferees are not limited to reconciling the differences in the bill but may introduce new provisions germane to the subject matter or may report out an entirely new bill on the subject. 3. The Conference Committee prepares a report to be signed by all the conferees and the Chairman. 4. The Conference Committee Report is submitted for consideration/approval of both Houses. No amendment is allowed.
Conference committee	1. A Conference Committee is constituted and is composed of Members from each House of Congress to settle, reconcile or thresh out differences or disagreements on any provision of the bill. 2. The conferees are not limited to reconciling the differences in the bill but may introduce new provisions germane to the subject matter or may report out an entirely new bill on the subject. 3. The Conference Committee prepares a report to be signed by all the conferees and the Chairman. 4. The Conference Committee Report is submitted for consideration/approval of both Houses. No amendment is allowed.
Transmittal of the bill to the President	Copies of the bill, signed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and certified by both the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House, are transmitted to the President.
Presidential action on the bill	If the bill is approved by the President, it is assigned an RA number and transmitted to the House where it originated.
Action on approved bill	The bill is reproduced and copies are sent to the Official Gazette Office for publication and distribution to the implementing agencies. It is then included in the annual compilation of Acts and Resolutions.
Action on vetoed bill	The message is included in the Order of Business. If the Congress decides to override the veto, the House and the Senate shall proceed separately to reconsider the bill or the vetoed items of the bill. If the bill or its vetoed items is passed by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of each House, such bill or items shall become a law.

5. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Although a number of public health laws are existing in the Philippines that address much of public health issues, still much needs to be done in addressing new areas of concern. The population issue needs to be addressed by Philippine legislation by the required enactment of Reproductive Health Bill. The anti-smoking campaign by the government is also put on hold because of the enactment of the "Sin Tax Bill" to make it unaffordable to buy cigarettes and alcohol. Lobbying is strong against its

enactment. The “Rights of Patients Bill” is likewise pending in the legislative department addressing the patient’s right to disclosure of information, right to consent and other rights encouraging the patient to be proactive in the management of his or her illness.

6. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010

Legislative status - Pending Second Reading, Ordinary Business (8/4/2014)

Mongolia

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>Parliament of Mongolia (State Great Hural)</u> • Last election – 28 June 2012 (6th State Great Hural) • System of government –semi-presidential representative democratic republic and of a multi-party system, Type – unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state –Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Presidency independent of legislature; Ministry subject to parliamentary confidence • 76 Seats (Democratic Party 31, Mongolian People’s Party 25, Mongolian People’s Revolutionary PARTY AND Mongolian National Democratic Party 11, Civil Will-Green Party 2, Independents 3, Vacant 4), 4 years term • Voting system – block voting system, 48 seats were chosen at the local level, 28 were chosen proportionally by party • Chirman – Z. Enkhbold, Vice-Chairman – R. Gonchigdorj, L.Tsog, M.Enkhbold	  
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Legislative Power	The State Great Hural shall implement its supreme power through its sessions and shall comply with the rules of procedures of the State Great Hural’s sessions in its main activities including, preparing and carrying out plenary sessions or standing committee sittings, discussing drafts of laws or other decisions of the State Great Hural and adopting, passing and the resolving processes.
Oversighting Power	The State Great Hural implements its overseeing tasks by the following methods: • Hear reports, presentations and briefings from the Cabinet and other organizations directly accountable to the State Great Hural. • Enquire the Prime Minister, cabinet members and executives of other organizations directly accountable to the State Great Hural and generate debate of the responses in its sessions. • Enquire the Prime Minister, cabinet members and executives of other

	organizations directly accountable to the State Great Hural and demand responses. • Assess implementation of laws and other resolutions of the State Great Hural at the cabinet and other organizations that directly accountable to the State Great Hural and generate debates at the Standing Committee sittings or if necessary at the plenary sessions. • Assess and deliver verdict on professional or ethical offences committed by the Prime Minister, cabinet members and those who have been appointed by the State Great Hural or executives and members of other organizations directly accountable to the State Great Hural.
Strategic Objectives of the State Great Hural	Strategic objective 1. To develop facilitations for legislative process in every aspect that in accordance with the development trend and principles of democratic society while improving quality and effects. Strategic objective 2. To further develop forms, methods and arrangements of the State Great Hural's oversighting functions and increase the effectiveness. Strategic objective 3. Basing on the principles of democracy, to ensure, by all means, the transparency and openness of the State Great Hural's functions. Strategic objective 4. To further strengthen the foreign relations of the State Great Hural and to elevate the effectiveness of the inter-parliamentary relations. Strategic objective 5. To improve functioning arrangements, service forms, methods and quality of the Secretariat of the State Great Hural, the professional working unit of the parliament.

3. Committees

Standing Committees are a form of structural arrangements of the State Great Hural with main duties to confer and resolve bills and resolution proposals submitted to the State Great Hural by the initiator, in relation to their relevance defined by the State Great Hural, and to implement State Great Hural's oversighting function on their relevant sectors. The main form of Standing Committee's working arrangement is the sitting. Each Committee consists of 17-21 members and each member can be affiliated with no more than 2 committees at any one time. However, if a Committee member has been appointed as a cabinet member, the affiliation is limited to one Committee only. Committee Chairman shall be elected from among the committee members for one year term and endorsed by the State Great Hural and the Chairman can be re-elected one more term. The chairman heads daily activities and sittings of the Committee. The Committee runs its daily operations according to the regulations passed by the Committee sittings. Depending on their specific profile, some Standing Committees shall have Sub-committee.

Standing Committees shall exercise the following	Prepare motions that are included in the plenary session's agenda. Release reviews, comments and carry out preliminary debates on laws and proposals of other resolutions of the State Great Hural.
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tasks:	Implement State Great Hural's overseeing function on their relevant issues.
Structures and tasks of sub-committees:	Take exclusive responsibility on certain aspect of issues relevant to the Standing Committee and develop propositions and reviews on the initiated policy papers and submit them to either affiliating Standing Committee or the State Great Hural. Implement overseeing within the relevant issues. Sub-committees consist of members of the State Great Hural that are from the affiliating Standing Committee except the Sub-committee on member's Immunity. Number of Sub-committee members shall not exceed the half of the committee members. The main form of the Sub-committee working arrangement is sitting. The Sub-committee Chairman shall be elected by the simple majority of the vote at the affiliating committee sitting except those of the Budget expenditure auditing and Ethic's sub-committee shall be elected from among minority caucus or if not quorum, the election shall take a place among the minority members. Although prepare propositions and reviews and submit them to their affiliating Standing Committee sittings, the Sub-committees on Ethic's, Budget expenditure auditing, Special monitoring and the Sub-committee on Member's Immunity can submit their propositions and reviews on their relevant issues directly to the plenary sessions.
Procedures to establish a temporary committee	Temporary committee can be established to scrutinize a specific theme and submit propositions and reviews to the plenary sessions. Temporary committee shall only consist of the State Great Hural members and their membership and terms will only be defined at the initial establishment. Issues relating with the Temporary committee membership will only be brought into and approved by resolutions at the plenary session. Temporary committees shall enjoy comparable privileges to the Standing Committees when discussing issues relevant to them.
Procedures for State Great Hural members to be affiliated in Standing or Sub-committees	A parliament member must articulate to own caucus about a standing committee he or she wants to be included and the caucus decides and assign members considering the principle of the minority majority ratio is comparable to that of the parties' and coalitions' seats at the State Great Hural. The Chairman shall assign those members not affiliated under any caucus into a Standing Committee with consideration of their interests. A member of the Standing Committee can be affiliated with no more than 2 committees at a time. Issues concerning about the composition of the Standing Committee shall be brought to the plenary sessions and consequently a resolution will be delivered. Above mentioned procedures will be followed in the case a member expresses interest to change the Standing Committee affiliation during his or her mandate. To be a member of Sub-committee, a member of the affiliating Standing Committee must express his or her interest to the Committee Chairman either in oral or written form. Based upon propositions and reviews of the affiliating Standing Committee, the State

	Great Hural delivers resolution on Sub-committee composition. The principle of the minority majority ratio of the Sub-committee is comparable to that of the parties' and coalitions' seats at the State Great Hural must be observed. If a Standing Committee member expresses conversion, his or her Sub-committee membership will be decided at the same time.
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4. Structure and Composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science's Standing Committee

Although there is no "Health" word in the committee title, the committee deals with all health related policies besides other areas and it consists of 19 of Parliament members

<http://www.parliament.mn/sc/subcom/categories/2547>

(Only Mongolian languages are available, will ask to Mongolian for checking it.)

5. Operation of the parliament

Chairman of the State Great Hural

Term:	- duration: 4 years (term of House) - reasons for interruption of the term: resignation, conviction of a crime, death, dissolution of Parliament
Appointment:	- elected by all Members of the State Great Hural - the election is held at the beginning of the first session of the newly elected Parliament - after members' mandates have been validated and they have been sworn in
Eligibility:	- any Member of the State Great Hural may be a candidate
Voting system:	formal vote by secret ballot - two-third majority required for all rounds - if there is a succession of votes, new candidates are admitted
Procedures / results :	- the eldest Member presides over the Assembly during the voting - the eldest Member announces the results without delay - the results cannot be challenged
Status:	- ranks second in the hierarchy of State - may serve as acting Head of State in the latter's absence - represents the Assembly with the authorities - is an ex officio member of the Security Council of Mongolia - represents the Assembly in international bodies

	- in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker can assume his/her role and functions
Material facilities:	- allowance - official residence - official car - additional staff - household staff - bodyguards
Organization of parliamentary business:	- convenes sessions - establishes and modifies the agenda - organizes the debates and sets speaking time - examines the admissibility of bills and amendments - refers texts to a committee for study - examines the admissibility of request for setting up committees and/or committees of enquiry, proposes or decides on the setting up of such committees
Chairing of public sittings:	- can open, adjourn and close sittings - ensures respect for provisions of the Constitution and Standing Orders - makes announcements concerning the Assembly - takes disciplinary measures in the event of disturbance, and lifts such measures - establishes the list of speakers, gives and withdraws permission to speak - establishes the order in which amendments are taken up and selects which amendments are to be debated - calls for a vote, decides how it is to be carried out, verifies the voting procedure and cancels a vote in the event of irregularities - checks the quorum - interprets the rules or other regulations governing the life of the Assembly - has discretionary power to give the floor outside the agenda and thus organizes impromptu debates
Special powers:	The Secretary General: - recruits, assigns and promotes staff - organizes the services of the Assembly - plays a specific role in the supervision of foreign affairs or defence matters - is responsible for relations with foreign Parliaments - is responsible for safety, and in this capacity, can call the police in the event of disturbance in the Assembly
Speaking and voting rights, other	- takes the floor in legislative debates - provides guidelines for interpreting or supplementing the text under discussion

functions:	- takes part in voting - proposes bills or amendments - intervenes in the parliamentary oversight procedure - signs laws before transmitting them to the Head of State for promulgation
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6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Although there have been many health related laws that have been implemented during recent years, health laws have many gaps in coverage and service provision. Even in areas where laws exist, there are many issues that require a proper solution. For instance, although more than 30 laws and number of regulations, standards, government and local authority resolutions, decrees, Minister's orders, including Law on Anti-Alcoholism (1994, 2000, 2003), regulate alcohol related issues, the number of point of sale and serve increased twice at the end of 2011 compared to those of 2003 while it was targeted to decrease this number by 33% by 2011 at the National Program of Alcohol Prevention and Control (2003-2012).

International level conferences and forums held - Mongolia hosted the VII Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, which ran from April 26 through 29. A total of 1,215 delegates from 104 countries gathered in Ulaanbaatar to attend the conference. The conference included thematic sessions on Harnessing Open Governance for Democracy and Supporting Democratic Transition, Education for Democracy, Emerging Democracies in Asia and the Arab World, Democracy and Millennium Development Goals, Corruption and Other Threats to Democracy, and Online Freedom. Mongolia also organized a forum of Women Parliamentarians of Northeast Asian Countries. The event initiated by Mongolian women MPs, gathered women lawmakers from Russia, North Korea, South Korea and China. They shared views on the topics of "Role of women MPs in advancing peace and prosperity through education" and "Developing network of women MPs of Northeast Asia: World Womens' Conference-2015".

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

First of all, the Mongolian government and Ministry of Health need to review public health strategies, associated metrics, and interventions in the context of reforming the health care system. Therefore, a committee on Public Health Law might be established to review how current public health laws support prevention of injury and disease, saving lives, and optimizing health outcomes.

However the most important issue right now is that laws and regulations should be evidence based and implementable. Therefore, it is important that MOH support the academic institutions, particularly School of Public Health of Health Sciences University of Mongolia, in incorporating public health policies, programs, laws and regulations in pre- and post-service training curricula of medical schools and conducting systematic and scientific research studies on impact and effectiveness of public health laws and regulations.

One of the weakest areas of health law is its implementation. Problems include lack of continuity in government policies, inadequate human and material resources. So, the MOH

needs to further strengthen the coordination and monitoring mechanism that is used on implementation of public health policies and regulations.

Malaysia

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

Parliament of Malaysia

- The latest elections were held on 5 May 2013 (13th Parliament)
- System of government – federal representative democratic constitutional monarchy, Type - bicameral parliament, Construction – Senate (Dewan Negara) and House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat), Constitutional form – Constitutional monarchy, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence
- 286 seats, 56 Dewan Negara (Barisan Nasional 43, Pakatan Rakyat 8, Independent 5), 222 Dewan Rakyat (Barisan Nasional 134, Pakatan Rakyat 88), The tenure of office is 3 year term for a maximum of two terms for Senate, 5 years for House of Representatives
- Voting system – Senate, 26 appointed by the State Legislative Assemblies, 2 for each state and 44 appointed by the Yangdi-Pertuan Agong, of which 4 are for the Federal Territories, House of Representatives, First past the post
- President of the Dewan Negara – Abu Zahar Ujang, Barisan Nasional (since 26 April 2010), Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat – Pandikar Amin Mulia, Barisan Nasional (since 28 April 2008)



2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Parliament is the highest legislative body in Malaysia. It consists of His Majesty The King as the Head of State, The Senate and The House of Representatives. Parliament is the legislative authority for the Federation and it enacts laws to be enforced nationwide.

1. Parliament passes Federal laws, makes amendments to existing Federal laws, examines the government's policies, approves the government's expenditures and approves new taxes.
2. Parliament also serves as the forum to discuss matters of public interest. To enable Parliament to undertake its responsibilities fully and effectively, the Constitution confers certain rights and legal immunities under "Parliamentary Privileges" to Members of Parliament.

3. Each House is empowered to regulate its own procedure; each has exclusive control over its own proceedings, the validity of which may not be questioned in any court; and each House can penalize its members for breaches of the privilege or contempt of that House.

His Majesty the King 	Article 55 of the Federal Constitution stipulates that only His Majesty The King can summon for Parliament to be in session. His Majesty also has the absolute power to prorogue or dissolve the Parliament. Therefore, His Majesty The King is vested by the Constitution to summon for the Parliament to meet within six months between the last proceeding in the last session and the date appointed for its first proceeding in the next session. THE FOURTEENTH KING - Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah State: Kedah Term of Office: 13 December 2011 - Present
Senate 	The President of The Senate must be a Member of the Senate. He must be a member of the Senate and is assisted by Deputy President which is also the Member of the Senate. Roles of the President include: to keep order and ensure that debates run smoothly; to ensure the relevancy of the points raised during the debate; and to interpret the Standing Orders in case of disputes and the decision is final. The President and the Deputy hold office until he/she ceases to be a Senator. Any person who wants to assume the post of the President of the Senate must not be a member of any State Legislative Assembly. The present President is H.E. Tan Sri Abu Zahar bin Dato' Nika Ujang. 26.04.2010 - present
House of the Representatives 	Speaker may be a member of the House or a non-member who is qualified for election into the House. Functions of the Speaker include: to be responsible for maintaining order in the House; to ensure that relevancy is observed during debates; and to interpret the Standing Orders in case of disputes. The Speaker may vacant his office in the following cases: when the House first meets after a general election; on ceasing to be a member of the House in the case of an elected MP; and if at any time the House resolves that the Speaker vacant his office. The present Speaker of the House of Representatives is H.E. TAN SRI DATUK SERI PANGLIMA PANDIKAR AMIN HAJI MULIA (28 April 2008 until present).

4. Committees

<u>Senate</u>	House of Representative
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Committee of Selection	Committee of Selection
House Committee	Public Accounts Committee
Committee of Privileges	Standing Order Committee
Standing Orders Committee	House Committee
	Committee of Privileges

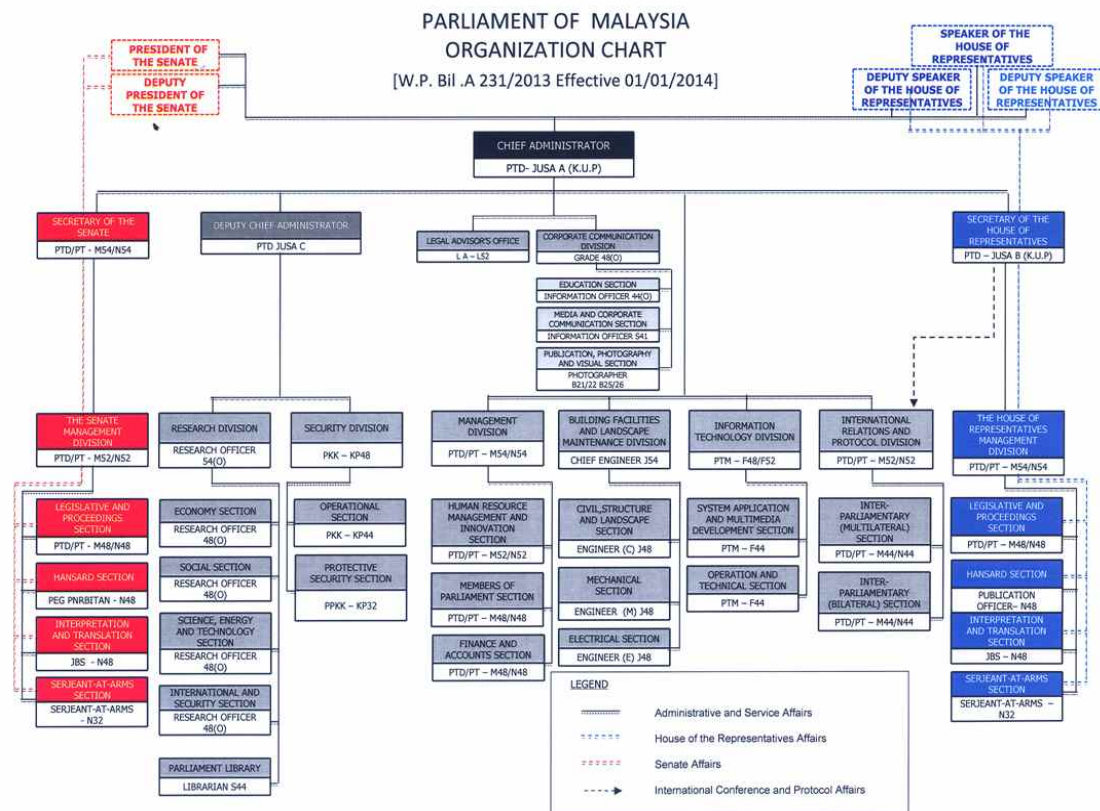
5. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

Members of the Committee of Selection will be elected at the beginning of every session to carry out responsibilities stipulated by the Standing Orders. The Committee of Selection also manages other matters given to them from time to time. The Committee of Selection consists of the President as the Chairman and four senators elected by the Senate. The Committee of Selection has to notify the Senate when a member becomes a member of a particular Committee by issuing a statement. The Committee of Selection does not have the power to summon anyone to be present before it or to request for the issuing of letters except if given the power to do so by the Senate.

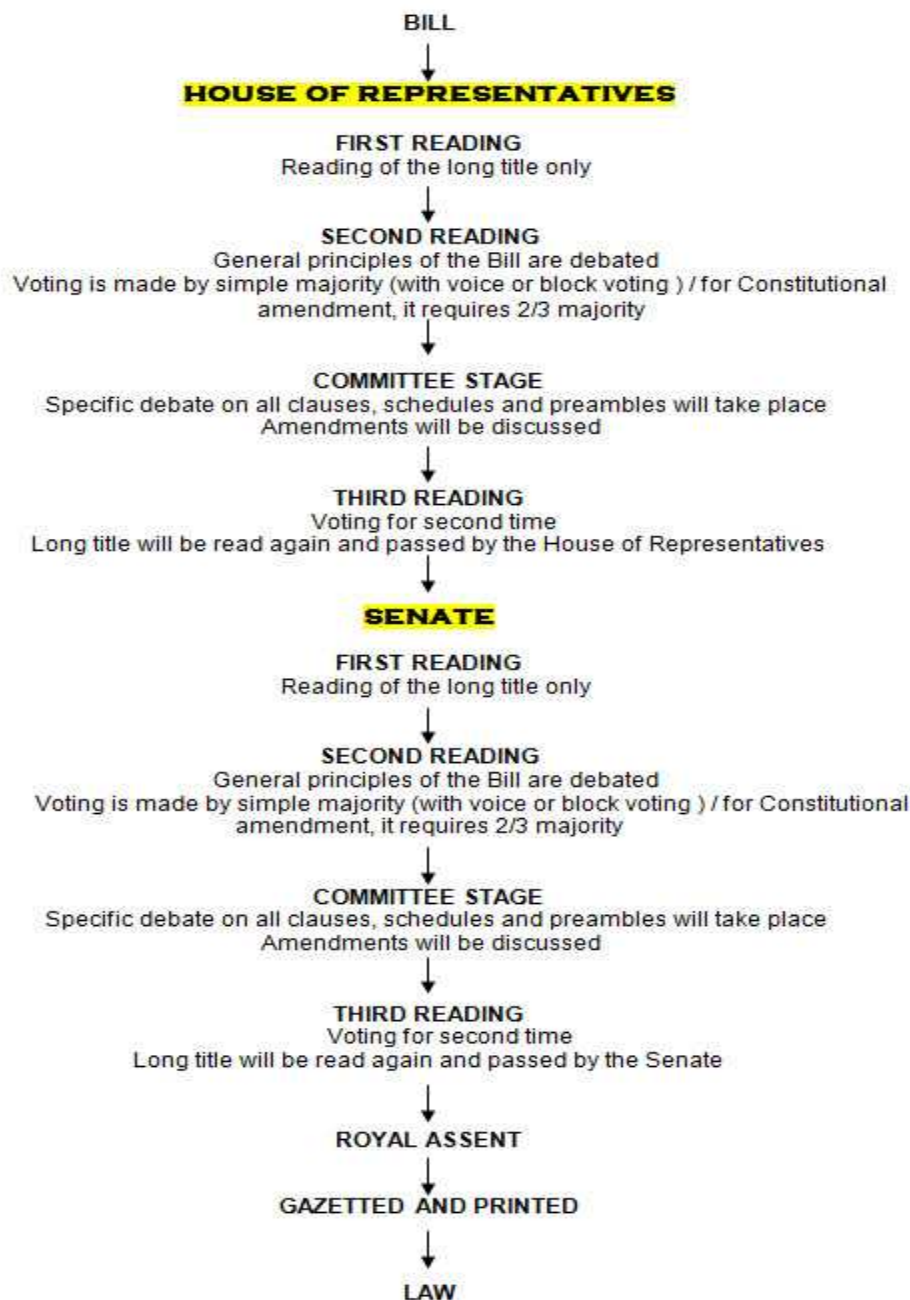
Members of the Committee of Selection will be appointed at the beginning of each Parliament to perform the functions allotted to it by these Standing Orders, and for other matters as the House may from time to time refer to it. The Committee of Selection consists of the Speaker as the Chairman and six members of the House elected by the House. The Committee of Selection has to notify the House when a member becomes a member of a particular Committee by issuing a statement. The Committee of Selection does not have the power to summon anyone to be present before it or to request for the issuing of letters except if given the power to do so by the House.

Committee related to health issues are formed on need basis. (e.g. Special Select Committee on Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (LAMP), Agency The 5th Session of The 12th Parliament **LAMP**) was appointed by the House of Representatives on 20 March 2012. The Committee had a three-month time frame to complete its report from the date of its establishment.)

6. Operation of the parliament



A proposed act of law begins its life when a particular government minister or ministry prepares a first draft with the assistance of the Attorney-General's Department. The draft, known as a bill, is then discussed by the Cabinet. If it is agreed to be submitted to Parliament, the bill is distributed to all MPs. It then goes through three readings before the Dewan Rakyat. The first reading is where the minister or his deputy submits it to Parliament. At the second reading, the bill is discussed and debated by MPs. Until the mid-1970s, both English and Malay (the national language) were used for debates, but henceforth, only Malay was permitted, unless permission was obtained from the Speaker of the House. At the third reading, the minister or his deputy formally submit it to a vote for approval. A 2/3 majority is usually required to pass the bill, but in certain cases, a simple majority suffices. Should the bill pass, it is sent to the Dewan Negara, where the three readings are carried out again. The Dewan Negara may choose not to pass the bill, but this only delays its passage by a month, or in some cases, a year; once this period expires, the bill is considered to have been passed by the house.



If the bill passes, it is presented to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who has 30 days to consider the bill. Should he disagree with it, he returns it to Parliament with a list of suggested amendments. Parliament must then reconsider the bill and its proposed amendments and return it to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong within 30 days if they pass it again. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong then has another 30 days to give the royal assent; otherwise, it passes into law. The law does not take effect until it is published in the Government Gazette.

The government attempts to maintain top secrecy regarding bills debated; MPs generally receive copies of bills only a few days before they are debated, and newspapers are rarely provided with copies of the bills before they are debated. In some cases, such as a 1968 amendment to the

Constitution, an MP may be presented with a bill to be debated on the same day it is tabled, and all three readings may be carried out that day itself. In rare circumstances, the government may release a White paper containing particular proposals that will eventually be incorporated into a bill; this has been done for legislation such as the Universities and University Colleges Act.

Although the process above assumes only the government can propose bills, there also exists a process for Private Member's Bills. However, as in most other legislatures following the Westminster System, few members of Parliament actually introduce bills. To present a Private Member's Bill, the member in question must seek the leave of the House in question to debate the bill before it is moved. Originally, it was allowed to debate the bill in the process of seeking leave, but this process was discontinued by an amendment to the Standing Orders of Parliament. It is also possible for members of the Dewan Negara (Senate) to initiate bills; however, only cabinet ministers are permitted to move finance-related bills, which must be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

It is often alleged that legislation proposed by the opposition parties, which must naturally be in the form of a Private Member's Bill, is not seriously considered by Parliament. Some have gone as far as to claim that the rights of members of Parliament to debate proposed bills have been severely curtailed by incidents such as an amendment of the Standing Orders that permitted the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat to amend written copies of MPs' speeches before they were made. Nevertheless, some of these critics also suggest that "Government officials often face sharp questioning in Parliament, although this is not always reported in detail in the press."

Most motions are typically approved or rejected by a voice vote; divisions are generally rare. In 2008, the 12th Parliament saw the first division on the question of a supply bill. In June 2008, two MPs announced they would be supporting a motion of no confidence against the Prime Minister, another first in the history of Parliament. The procedure surrounding a vote of no confidence is not entirely clear; as of 18 June 2008 it appeared there was no provision in the Standing Orders for whether a simple majority or a 2/3 supermajority would be necessary to pass a vote of no confidence.

7. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Act 737 Medical Device Act 2012 - An Act to regulate medical device, the industry and to provide for matters thereto. <http://www.federalgazette.agc.gov.my/>

Medical Device Authority Act 2012 Act 738 - An Act to provide for the establishment of the Medical Device Authority, to control and regulate medical device, the medical device industry and its activities, and to enforce medical device laws and for related matters. <http://www.federalgazette.agc.gov.my/>

The **Traditional Medicine Act 2012** was tabled on Sept 24, 2012, put to vote and passed on Sept 26. An Act to provide for the establishment of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council to regulate the traditional and complementary medicine services in Malaysia and to provide for matters connected therewith. Section 3 of the Act defines traditional medicine as any "form of health related practice designed to prevent, treat or manage illness or preserve the mental and physical well-being of an individual". The Act stated that all those practicing traditional medicine have to be registered under the Council being set up under this Act. This Council has the power to register, provisionally register (Section 22), prescribe training or apprenticeship requirements (Section 5e) and issue practicing certificates (Section 5g). <http://www.parlimen.gov.my/files/>

8. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

(Cannot find the information)

Viet Nam

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of VietNam</u> • The latest elections were held on 11 May 2011 (13th National Assembly). • System of government – single-party socialist republic, President is head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government, one-party system led by the Communist Party of Vietnam, Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state – Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Power constitutionally linked to a single political movement • 500 Seats (Communist Party of Vietnam 458, Independent 42), term of each National Assembly is 5 years • Voting system – Since Vietnam is a single-party state, the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam is guaranteed to win. • Chairman -Nguyễn Sinh Hùn (since 22 May 2011)	 
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

The legislature is, according to the constitution, the highest organ of the state. Its powers includes the enactment and amendment of the constitution and laws; the adoption of the government budget; supervising the Government of Vietnam and other holders of public powers responsible to the National Assembly; and appointing members of the judiciary. The Vietnamese constitution and legislation provide for regular elections for the office of the President of the Socialist Republic, the National Assembly and the People's Councils.

The Office of the National Assembly has the following duties:

1. To serve the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in making laws and interpreting the constitution, laws and ordinances.
2. To serve the National Assembly in deciding upon and promulgating fundamental policies, socio-economic issues related to national defense and security, foreign affairs, organizational and personal affairs within the National Assembly's competence.
3. To organize and serve the National Assembly in carrying out its supreme power of supervision.

4. To carry out research and organize services for the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in supervising and guiding the activities of People's Councils.
5. To research issues related to elections for the National Assembly and for People Councils; to organize services for the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in announcing and administrating the election of Deputies to the National Assembly, and the elections to People's Councils of all levels.
6. To serve the activities of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the National Assembly, the Ethnic Council and all Committees of the National Assembly. -To receive people and pass on petitions and complaints of citizens to the relevant state organs and to encourage those organs to resolve such matters according to the law.

3. Committees

6) Standing Committee	
Type	This is the standing body of the National Assembly, including the Chairman/Chairwoman, Deputy Chairmen/Chairwomen, and other standing members. The number of the Standing Committee's members is decided by the National Assembly, these members must not concurrently hold a position in the cabinet. The Standing Committee of previous term shall continue their duties until the newly elected National Assembly establishes its new Standing Committee.
Duty	The Standing Committee's constitutional duties include: (1) preparing, convening, and chairing the National Assembly's sessions; (2) explaining/interpreting the Constitution, laws, acts, and ordinances; (3) promulgating ordinances at the National Assembly's request; (4) supervising the implementation of the Constitution and laws, and the activities of the Government, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuracy; (5) supervising and guiding the activities of provincial people's councils (local legislative bodies); (6) directing and co-ordinating the activities of the National Assembly's Ethnic Council and other committees, providing guidance and guaranteeing the deputies' working conditions; (7) approving the cabinet's personnel affairs in between the National Assembly's sessions and making reports to the National Assembly in the next session; (8) declaring wars if necessary in between the National Assembly's sessions and making reports to the National Assembly in the next session; (9) launching general mobilization or partial mobilization, and declaring national or local state of emergency if necessary; (10) performing external relation activities of the National Assembly; and (11) organizing referendum at the National Assembly's request.
Member	The members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly may not simultaneously be members of the Government. The majority of the members work on full-time basis. The terms of office correspond with the term of office of the National Assembly. When the term of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly continues to work until the new National Assembly elects a new Standing Committee.

7) The Ethnic Council

The main duties of the Ethnic Council are to contribute to, to investigate, and to supervise the legal documents (laws, acts, ordinances) and legal procedures on ethnic issues.

8) Other Committees

(1) [Committee on Laws](#); (2) [Committee on Judicial Affairs](#); (3) [Committee on Economic Affairs](#); (4) [Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs](#); (5) [Committee on National Defense and Security](#); (6) [Committee on Culture, Education, Adolescents, and Children](#); (7) [Committee on Social Affairs](#); (8) [Committee on Science, Technology, and Environment](#); and (9) [Committee on Foreign Affairs](#).

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

(Cannot find specific information)

Committee on Social Affairs is responsibilities and authorities as following: To verify the bills and recommend to law; legal projects and other project relating to the fields of social affairs; Supervision on implementing law, decrees, resolutions of the National Assembly, the NA's Standing Committee relating to the fields of social affairs; Supervision on implementing the social policies, the Nation's social-economy developing program, and its budget in the fields; and Proposal to the National Assembly about solutions to solve social affairs at the moment.

5. Operation of the parliament

The National Congress is the party's highest organ. The direction of the Party and the Government is decided at the National Congress, held every fifth year. The Central Committee is elected by the National Congress. Delegates vote on policies and candidates posts within the central party leadership. Following ratification of the decisions taken at the National Congress, the National Congress dissolves itself. The Central Committee, which is elected by the National Congress every fifth year, implements the decisions of the National Congress in the five-year period. Since the Central Committee only meets twice a year, the Politburo implements the policies of the National Congress. The Central Committee (CC) is the CPV's most powerful institution. It delegates some of its powers to the [Secretariat](#) and the [Politburo](#) when it is not in session.

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Circular 27/2011/TT-BYT dated 24/6/2011 by Minister of Health on the national technical benchmarks for toilets;

Law 09/2012/QH13 on Tobacco related harms prevention and control dated 18/06/2012

Decree 94/2012/NĐ-CP dated 12/11/2012 of the Government stipulating the production and control of spirit and wine;

Circular 31/2013/TT-BYT dated 15/10/2013 stipulating the observation on the environment from health examination and treatment activities of hospitals

Circular 05/2014/TT-BYT dated 14/2/2014 stipulating the use of traditional medicine drugs at health examination and treatment facilities

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

On-going drafting the Law on alcohol related harms reduction on the base of the Decision 244/QĐ-TTg dated 12/2/2014 approval by the Minister for the national policy on alcohol related harms prevention to the year 2020, targeting spirit, wine, beer and other alcoholic drinks.

Ongoing developing the national strategy on NCD

People's Republic of China

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>National People's Congress (NPC)</u> • The latest elections were held on 5-17 March 2013 (12th National People's Congress) • System of government – socialist republic by a single party, Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state – Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Power constitutionally linked to a single political movement • 2,987 seats (Communist Party of China 2,157, United Front 830), 5 years term • Voting system –elected by municipal, regional and provincial congresses, and People's Liberation Army • Chairman – Zhang Dejiang (since 14 March 2013)	 
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

The system of people's congresses is the basic political system of China. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China prescribes that all power of the state belongs to the people. The National People's Congress (NPC) and local people's congresses at all levels are the organs through which the people exercise state power. The people's congresses at all levels are constituted through democratic elections, and they are responsible to the people and subject to their oversight. The administrative, judicial and procuratorial organs of the state are created by the people's congresses, to which they are responsible and by which they are overseen.

NPC is the supreme organ of state power in China. It is composed of NPC deputies who are elected according to law from 35 electoral units from the people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government, the People's Liberation Army, the deputy election council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Taiwan compatriots' consultation election council. Each congress is elected for a term of five years. The NPC meets in session once a year. An interim session of the NPC may be convened at any time if the Standing Committee of the NPC deems it necessary or if one-fifth or more of its deputies so propose.

17) To amend the Constitution	Only the NPC has the power to amend the Constitution. Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed by the NPC Standing Committee or by one-fifth
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and oversee its enforcement	or more of the NPC deputies, and they must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of all deputies. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China was adopted at the First Session of the First NPC in 1954 and comprehensively revised by the NPC in 1982. The current Constitution is the one promulgated and put into effect after this revision. Since then, the NPC has partially amended the Constitution on four occasions, in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004. To defend the dignity of the Constitution and guarantee its enforcement, the NPC also enjoys the power to oversee its enforcement.
18) To enact and amend basic laws governing criminal offences, civil affairs, state organs and other matters	The NPC has enacted the Criminal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Organic Law of the NPC, the Organic Law of the State Council, the Organic Law of Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments, the Organic Law of the People's Courts, the Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates, the Law on the Autonomy of Ethnic Minority Region, the Electoral Law, and the Law on Deputies to the NPC and to the Local People's Congresses. The Marriage Law, the Citizenship Law, the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region were also enacted by the NPC.
19) To elect and appoint members to central state organs	The NPC elects the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary-General and other members of its Standing Committee and the President and the Vice President of the People's Republic of China. It appoints the Premier of the State Council based on the nomination by the President of the People's Republic of China and appoints the Vice premiers, State Councilors, Ministers in charge of ministries or commissions, the Governor of the People's Bank of China, the Auditor-General and the Secretary-General of the State Council based on nominations by the Premier. It elects the Chairman of the Central Military Commission and appoints all other members of the Central Military Commission based on the Chairman's nominations. It also elects the President of the Supreme People's Court and the Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate. The NPC has the power to remove from office any of the above-mentioned officials.
20) To determine major state issues	This work includes examining and approving the report on the plan for national economic and social development and on its implementation; examining the report on the central and local budgets and their implementation and approving the report on the central budget and its implementation; approving the establishment of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government; deciding where to establish special administrative regions and what system they should institute; and deciding questions of war and peace. The establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative

	Region, Hainan Province and Chongqing Municipality and the building of the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River were all decided by the NPC.
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3. Committees

1) Standing Committee	
Type and Composition	The NPC Standing Committee is the permanent body of the NPC. The NPC Standing Committee is composed of Chairman, Vice Chairmen, the Secretary-General and other members. They are all elected by the NPC from among its deputies for a term of five years, the same term as an NPC. The Standing Committee continues to function until a new Standing Committee is elected by the next NPC. The Standing Committee of the 11th NPC has 175 members.
Duty	The NPC Standing Committee normally meets once every two month. It may hold interim meetings when there is a special need. The NPC Standing Committee is responsible to the NPC and reports to it on its work. The NPC has the power to alter or annul inappropriate decisions of its Standing Committee and to remove its members from office.
Function and Powers	• <u>Legislative power.</u> The NPC and its Standing Committee jointly exercise the power to enact laws in China. The Standing Committee enacts and amends all laws except laws that should be enacted and amended by the NPC. • <u>Supervisory power.</u> The NPC Standing Committee has the power to oversee the enforcement of the Constitution. It oversees the work of the State Council, the Central Military Commission, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. • <u>The power to decide upon major state issues.</u> When the NPC is not in session, the Standing Committee examines and approves proposals for making partial adjustments to the plan for national economic and social development or to the central budget that become necessary in the course of their implementation. • <u>The power to appoint and remove from office members of state organs.</u>

2) Special Committees	
Type and Composition	The NPC has nine special committees. The NPC directs the work of each of all these special committees. When the NPC is not in session, the special committees are subjected to the leadership of the NPC Standing Committee. Each special committee is composed of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and other members. They are nominated by the Presidium of the NPC session from among NPC deputies and are approved by the NPC. When the NPC is not in session, its Standing Committee may additionally appoint a few Vice-Chairmen and other members of special committees upon nominations by the Chairmen's Council.

Duty	The task of the special committees: Under the leadership of the NPC and its Standing Committee, each of the special committees holds responsibilities to study, examine and draw up bills related to their fields and to assist the NPC and its Standing Committee in their work of legislation, supervision and others.
Function and Responsibility	The responsibilities of the special committees are to study, examine and draw up bills related to their fields and to assist the NPC and its Standing Committee in their legislative and oversight work. The tasks of special committees are to examine proposals delegated by the Presidium of the NPC session and the Standing Committee of the NPC; to propose to the Presidium and the Standing Committee bills that are related to their fields and within the scope of authority of the NPC and its Standing Committee; to examine the administrative regulations, decisions and decrees of the State Council, the orders, directives and regulations of the ministries and commissions of the State Council, the local statutes and resolutions of the people's congresses and their standing committees of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government and larger cities, and the decisions, orders and regulations of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government that are believed to contravene the Constitution, and prepare reports on the examination; to look into the questions raised by the Presidium and the Standing Committee, listen to the answers given by the bodies to which the inquiries are addressed, and report to the Presidium and the Standing Committee when necessary; to carry out research and make suggestions on questions related to their fields and within the scope of authority of the NPC and its Standing Committee.
Type	• Ethnic Affairs Committee • Law Committee • Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee • Financial and Economic Affairs Committee • Education, Science, Cultural and Public Health Committee • Foreign Affairs Committee • Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee • Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee • Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

The Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the 12th National People's Congress

Chairman(1)	Liu Binjie
Vice-Chairmen(9)	Liu Zhenqi, Wang Longde, Wu Heng, Wang Zuoshu , Zhang Jian , Zhangping , Ren Maodong, Yan Yixin, Yao Jiannian

Members(23)	Ding Zhongli, Ma Xu, Wang Zhixue, Wang Xibin, Wang Yi, Fang Xin(female), Deng Zhonghan, Feng Changgen, Zhu Zhiwen, Liu Xincheng, Liu Depei, Xu Jiang, Sun Zhijun, Sun Jiangguang, Li Yi, Li Andong, Shen Yan, Zhang Heping, Zhou Qifeng, Pang Lijuan(female), Hu Hao, Gu Hailiang, Han Yanlin, Liao Changyong
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5. Operation of the parliament

Meeting

In general, the NPC Standing Committee meets once every other month, usually near the end of even-numbered months. It may hold interim meetings as needed. Its meetings are called and chaired by its Chairman. The Chairman can delegate a vice Chairman to preside on his behalf. A meeting of the Standing Committee must have a majority of its members in attendance to be valid. The agenda of a meeting of the Standing Committee is drafted by the Chairmen's Council and is submitted to a plenary meeting of the Standing Committee for approval. When the Standing Committee is in session, it holds plenary meetings, workshops and joint meetings. Plenary meetings are held mainly to set agendas for the meetings of the Standing Committee, to hear testimony on bills and work reports on specific issues made by the State Council, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and to vote on bills. Workshops are held mainly to examine relevant bills and reports. The Tenth NPC Standing Committee is divided into six groups to examine bills. Joint meetings are held mainly to, on the basis of the work of the workshops, listen to and examine the reports presented by special committees on the results of their examinations of bills, discuss the main questions concerning the bills and have supplementary explanations from leaders of the sponsors of the bills.

Submission of Bills

The Chairmen's Council may submit bills concerning matters within the scope of the Standing Committee's authority to the Standing Committee for deliberation. The State Council, the Central Military Commission, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the NPC special committees may submit to the Standing Committee bills concerning matters within its scope of authority. The Chairmen's Council then decides whether to refer a bill to a plenary meeting of the Standing Committee for deliberation or to give it to the appropriate special committee to deliberate and report on before deciding whether to refer it to a plenary meeting of the Standing Committee for deliberation. A group of 10 or more Standing Committee members may jointly submit to the Standing Committee bills that are within the scope of its authority. The Chairmen's Council then decides whether to refer the bill to the Standing Committee for deliberation or to give it to the appropriate special committee to deliberate and report on before deciding whether to refer it to the Standing Committee for deliberation. If a bill is not referred to the Standing Committee, this needs to be reported to the Standing Committee or an explanation needs to be given to the bill's sponsor.

Deliberation of Bills

In general, a bill on the agenda of a meeting of the Standing Committee is deliberated at three different meetings of the Standing Committee before it is voted on. At the first meeting, the whole

Standing Committee listens to an explanation of the bill by its sponsor, and the bill is given preliminary deliberation at workshops. At the second meeting, the entire Standing Committee listens to a report by the Law Committee on the draft law's revisions and on the major issues relating to it, and the draft law is given a further examination at workshops. At the third meeting, all Standing Committee members listen to a report by the Law Committee on the results of the deliberation of the draft law, and the examination of the revised draft law is carried out at workshops. After the revised draft law is examined at the meetings of the Standing Committee, the Law Committee revises it in accordance with the results of the examination by the Standing Committee and prepares the final version to be voted on. Then the Chairmen's Council decides whether to refer the version to the plenary meeting for a vote, and a simple majority of all Standing Committee members is required to pass it. If key controversial issues remain and further study is required following the three meetings, the bill may not be voted on for the time being at the suggestion of the Chairmen's Council and subject to the approval of the joint meeting or the plenary meeting; and it may be further deliberated by the Law Committee and other relevant special committees.

Bills on the agenda of the meeting of the Standing Committee on which all quarters generally agree may be voted on after they are examined at two meetings of the Standing Committee. Partially revised bills on which all quarters concerned generally agree may also be voted on after they are examined at one meeting of the Standing Committee. If a bill before the Standing Committee for examination and approval has been shelved for two full years due to significant differences of opinion among committee members concerning such important matters such as its necessity or feasibility, or if two years have lapsed without a vote and it has not been placed on the Standing Committee's agenda for examination and approval again, then upon notification of the Standing Committee by the Chairmen's Council, the examination and approval process is terminated. Laws passed by the Standing Committee are promulgated in decrees signed by the President of the People's Republic of China.

6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years

Snapshots of China's local legislature meetings: Abortion ads; Kindergarten coupons; AIDS prevention (01-21-2011)

ABORTION ADVERTISING BAN - Abortion is legal in China but a splash of advertisements for painless abortion may have been offensive. Cai Yuqun, a member of the People's Congress in east China's Zhejiang Province, said a ban on television, radio and roadside billboard abortion advertising should be enacted to prevent teens being misled into believing that abortions are harmless and an everyday thing. "Those commercials send a message - that an abortion only takes a couple minutes and that by using anesthetic you can comfortably sleep while it is done," Cai said. "It is misleading. People are not warned of the enormous harm an abortion can do." Cai said the number of people seeking abortion, including school-age girls, has risen over the past few years.

KINDERGARTEN COUPONS - Most Chinese parents spend a fortune on their children's education. Now they are forced to do that much earlier -- just to secure a place in a good kindergarten. Members of the Municipal People's Congress of Shenzhen said the government has invested much in primary, secondary and higher education, leaving little for pre-school education. More than 97 percent of the 1,000 kindergartens in Shenzhen are private and vary in terms of quality and resources. It is costly and difficult to enter a good kindergarten, they said. Wu Changwen, a

legislative member, proposed the government give "kindergarten coupons" to parents. Parents can then choose their preferred kindergarten and give the coupon to the school and the kindergartens can then exchange the coupons for government funds. Wu said the coupon scheme will ensure government investment in pre-school education and encourage competition among kindergartens.

AIDS-FREE PUSH FOR PROMOTION - In China, linking campaign success with officials' promotion appears to be the most effective way to advance campaign agendas. Some legislative members of AIDS-ravaged regions have proposed that heads of local governments who fail in AIDS prevention should not be promoted, no matter how well they govern concerning other public affairs. Members of the People's Congress in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region said HIV/AIDS has risen to an alarming level in the region, noting that 57,356 people with HIV/AIDS live in the province and that the illness had taken 10,858 lives in the region by June 2010. They said it is necessary to make AIDS prevention a priority for heads of governments in cities, counties, and districts in the region.

7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

NPC to review food safety law

The NPC Standing Committee--China's top legislature-- has begun its bi-monthly session. It will review a series of draft amendments, bills, and reports, including a draft revision of the food safety law. The draft amendment proposes that a unified supervision and management system is formed to encompass state- and local-level food and drug administration systems across the country. According to the agenda, the bimonthly session will deliberate on a report on the central government's spending in 2013 and review a draft amendment to improve security at military facilities. A bill submitted by the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate on fast-track arbitration trials in certain parts of China will also be considered. Reports on reinforcing supervision over financial sectors, the qualifications of some NPC deputies, as well as a number of appointments and dismissals are also set to be examined at the meeting.

Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic

- The latest elections were held on 30 April 2011
- System of government – single party socialistic republic, Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Republic, Head of state – Executive, Basis of executive legitimacy – Power constitutionally linked to a single political movement
- 132 seats (Lao People's Revolutionary Party 128, Independent 4), 5 years term
- Voting system – Block voting system, one-party state closed list
- President – Pany Yathotu, Lao People's Revolutionary Party



2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Status and Role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is the representative of the rights, powers and interests of the multi-ethnic people. The National Assembly is also the legislative branch that has the right to make decisions on fundamental issues of the country, [and] to oversee the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

Rights and Duties of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To prepare, adopt or amend the Constitution;
2. To consider, adopt, amend or abrogate the laws;
3. To consider and adopt the determination, amendment or abrogation of duties and taxes;
4. To consider and adopt government report on the implementation of the socio-economic development and the State budget;
5. To elect or remove the President, the Vice-President and members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, to establish or dissolve the committees of the National Assembly, to elect or remove the chairmen of the committees, the Director of the

6. Cabinet of the National Assembly, vice-chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly, [and to] establish or dissolve the International Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
7. To elect or remove the President and Vice-President of the State based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
8. To consider and approve the proposed appointment or removal of the Prime Minister based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
9. To consider and approve the organisational structure of the government and the appointment, transfer or removal of members of the government based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
10. To elect or remove the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
11. To decide on the establishment or dissolution of the ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces and cities, and to determine boundaries of provinces and cities based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
12. To decide on granting amnesties;
13. To decide on the ratification of or [withdrawal from] treaties and agreements signed with foreign countries in accordance with the laws;
14. To decide on matters of war or peace;
15. To oversee the observance and implementation of the Constitution and laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget, and projects that have national importance;
16. To cancel legal acts of the government, the Prime Minister, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, and mass organisations at the central level that are inconsistent with the Constitution and laws. [In this provision,] legal acts of the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor [refers] only to legal acts that are not related to case proceedings;
17. To make decisions regarding liaison and cooperation with parliaments and international organisations at the regional and international levels; [and]
18. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the laws.

3. Committees

Law Committee

Economy, Planning and Finance Committee

Cultural and Social Committee

Ethnic Affairs Committee

National Defence and Security Committee

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

5. Operation of the parliament

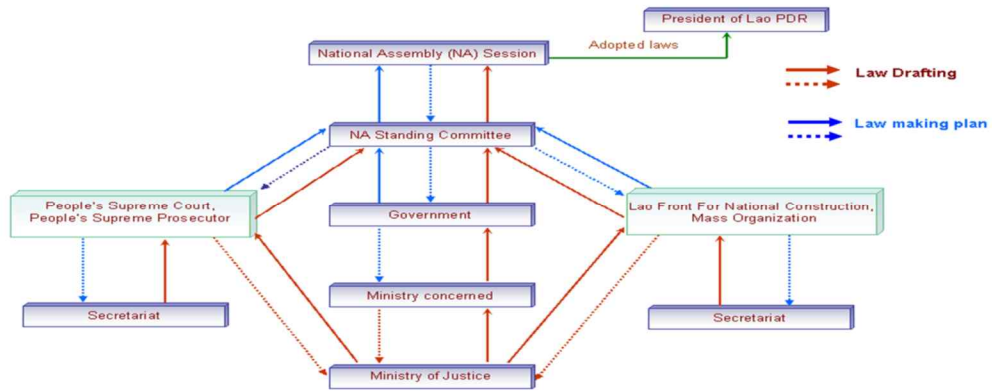
Sessions of the National Assembly

There are three types of National Assembly sessions: 1. Opening Session; 2. Ordinary Session; and 3. Extraordinary Session.

Opening Session of the National Assembly	The opening session of the National Assembly is convened no later than sixty days after the election of a new National Assembly. The President of the previous National Assembly presides and guides the opening session until the President of the new National Assembly is elected.
Ordinary Session of the National Assembly	The National Assembly convenes its ordinary session twice a year. The first ordinary session, which takes place at the end of the fiscal year between June and July, and the second ordinary session, which takes place at the beginning of the fiscal year between November and December, are both convened by the National Assembly Standing Committee.
Extraordinary Session of the National Assembly	The extraordinary session of the National Assembly may be convened between the two ordinary sessions of the National Assembly in order to consider and decide on important and necessary issues upon the determination of the National Assembly Standing Committee or on the recommendation of the President of the State, the Prime Minister or at least one-fourth of the total number of the members of the National Assembly. (prescribed on the Law on the National Assembly)

Legislative Process

Legislative Process



6. Examples of recent parliamentary committee activities on health issues in the last 2-3 years
7. Important upcoming major parliamentary committee activities on health issues

Kingdom of Cambodia

1. Parliament in the overall government structure

<u>National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia</u> • The latest elections were held on 28 July 2018 (5th mandate), next election will be held on February 2018 • System of government – constitutional monarchy (Prime Minister is the head of government, Monarch is head of state), Type - unicameral parliament, Constitutional form – Constitutional monarchy, Head of state – Ceremonial, Basis of executive legitimacy – Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence • 123 seats (Cambodian People’s Party 68, Cambodia National Rescue Party 55), Length of term is 5 years • Voting system – Party-list proportional representation (D’Hondt method), appointed by the monarch, elected by the National Assembly and commune council • President – Heng Samrin (since 21 March 2006), First Vice President – Nguon Nhel (since 21 March 2006), Second Vice President – Khuon Sodary (since 25 April 2012), Leader of the Opposition – Sam Rainsy (since 30 November 1998)	 
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2. Functions and responsibilities of the parliament

Law Adoption	• Adopt and Amend laws for Cambodia and approve the national budget and administration accounts. (Article 90) • Approve or repeal international treaties and conventions. (Article 90) • Initiate legislation. (Article 91)
Vote of confidence	• Shall pass a vote of confidence in the Royal Government. (Article 90) • Dismiss any members of the Council of Ministers, or the Royal Government, by a motion of censure passed by an absolute majority vote of all Members of the National Assembly. (Article 98)
Oversight	• Shall have the right to propose questions to the Royal Government. The replies by the ministers or by the Prime Minister may be given orally or in writing. The replies shall be provided within seven days after the day the question is received. (Article 96)

	• Oversee royal government performance and invite high-ranking officials to clarify important special issues to the National Assembly. (Article 89) • The commissions of the National Assembly may invite any minister to clarify issues in fields under his/her responsibility. (Article 97) • Oversee the law enforcement.
Representative	• The Members of the National Assembly shall represent all the Khmer people, not only citizens from their constituencies. (Article 77) • Play an important role in helping citizens have their voice in society and to bring people's concern and needs for decisions to the National Assembly. • Intervene and solve problems faced by citizens. • Member of Parliament have the right to express opinions in the exercise of his/her duties protected by "Parliamentary Immunity" and shall not be prosecuted, detained or arrested because of opinions expressed in the exercise of his/her duties, except in case of flagrante delicto offences. (Article 80)

3. Committees

Committee	Chairperson	Party
Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment, and Water Resources	Pol Hom	Cambodia National Rescue Party
Commission on Legislation and Justice	Pen Panha	Cambodian People's Party
Commission on Investigation and Anti-Corruption	Yim Sovann	Cambodia National Rescue Party
Commission on Interior, National Defense, and Civil Service Administration	Hun Neng	Cambodian People's Party
Commission on Human Rights, Complaints, and Investigation	Eng Chhai Eang	Cambodia National Rescue Party
Commission on Health Care, Social & Veterans' Affairs, Youth Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training & Women's Affairs	Mu Sochua	Cambodia National Rescue Party
Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information, and Media	Chheang Vun	Cambodian People's Party
Commission on Education, Youth, Sport, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism	Yem Ponhearith	Cambodia National Rescue Party

Commission on Economics, Finance, Banking and Auditing	Cheam Yeap	Cambodian People's Party
Commission of Public Works, Transport, Telecommunication, Post, Industry, Commerce, Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction	Nin Saphon	Cambodian People's Party

4. Structure and composition of the committee(s) related to health issues

5. Operation of the parliament

Article 102: The term of the Senate is six years and ends on the day when the new Senate takes office.

Article 107: The Senate holds its ordinary sessions twice a year. Each session shall last at least three months. If requested by the king or Prime Minister, or at least one-third of all the senators, the Senate shall convene in an extraordinary session.

An absolute majority vote of all senators is used in the following cases:

- Election of the President, Vice Presidents of the Senate and all members of the commissions or special commission
- Adoption of organic laws
- Adoption of the internal regulations of the Senate
- Adoption of laws or issues

A two-third-majority vote of all senators is used for the following cases:

- Adoption of the Constitution law
- The vote pertaining to decision to indict, arrest, detent, confinement disciplinary action, parliamentary immunity, incompatibility, loss of membership, or abandonment of post.
- A three-fourth-majority vote of all senators is to be used to decide on suspension of detention or indictment of any senator.

The President of the Senate is assisted by two Vice Presidents which leads the Senate. If the President is unable to perform his/her duties due to illness or due to fulfilling the functions of Acting Head of State or as a Regent, or due to being on a mission abroad, a vice President shall replace him. (Article 110-New of the Constitution)

The Permanent Committee of the Senate consists of:

- The President of the Senate
- Two Vice Presidents of the Senate
- The Chairman of the nine Commissions of the Senate