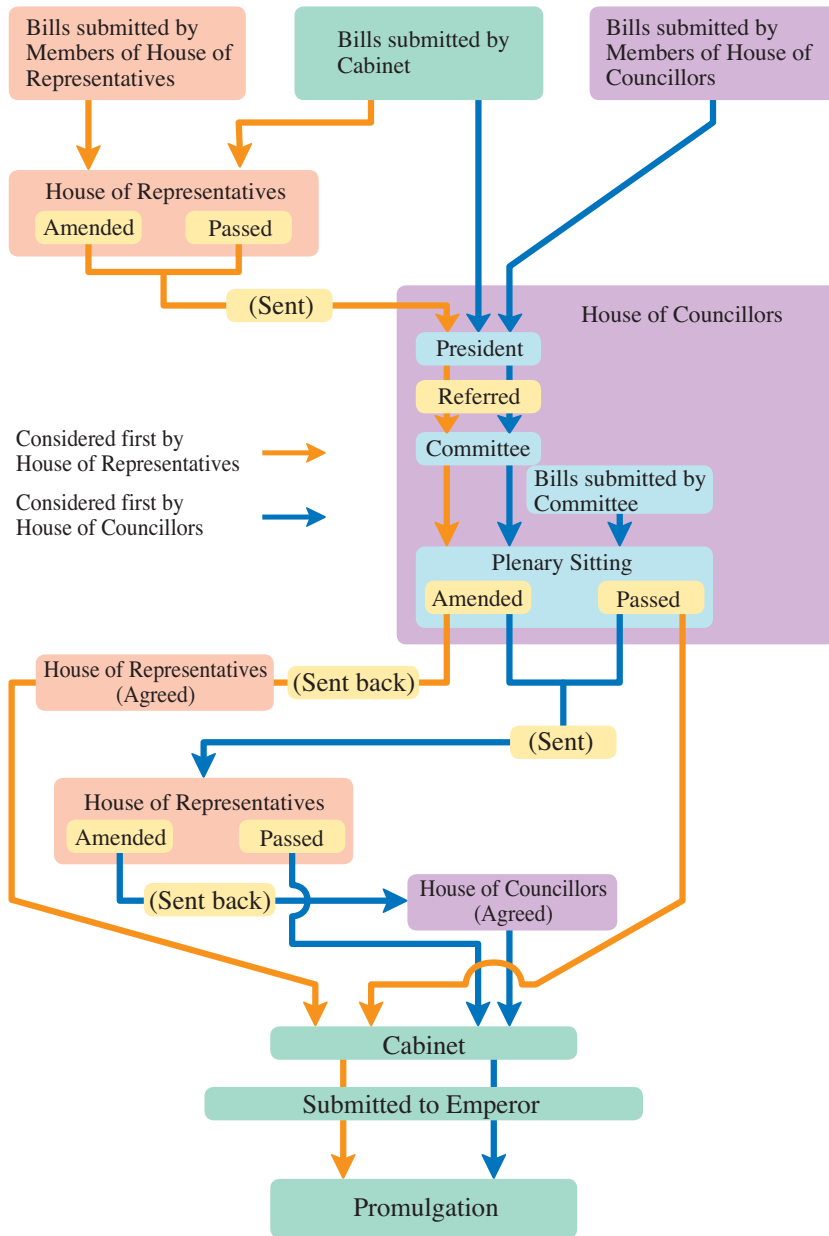


Legislative Procedure



1. Submission of a Bill

Bills may be submitted either by Diet Members or by the Cabinet. Bills are signed by the Member proposing the bill and other Members supporting the bill and are presented to the Presiding Officer of the proposing Member's House.

Cabinet bills are presented to the Presiding Officer of either House by the Prime Minister.

2. Reference of a Bill

The Presiding Officer then refers the bill to the appropriate Standing Committee. Deliberations by the Committee may be omitted in the case of urgent matters. In the case of major legislation, however, the purpose of the bill is explained in a plenary sitting before the bill is referred to a Committee.

3. Committee Deliberations

- (1) Explanation of purpose of bill
- (2) Questions
- (3) Public hearings (meetings to hear views of experts) and combined meetings (meetings of related Committees)
- (4) Hearings of voluntary testifiers
- (5) Debate
- (6) Voting

4. Bill Submitted by a Committee

A Committee can present a bill concerning matters under its jurisdiction to the Presiding Officer under the name of the Committee Chairman.

5. Plenary Sitting Deliberations

- (1) Report by Committee Chairman
- (2) Debate
- (3) Voting

6. Meeting of a Conference Committee of Both Houses

When the two Houses reach different decisions regarding a bill, the Conference Committee of both Houses meets to consider a compromise. The compromise bill drafted by the Conference Committee becomes a law if approved by both Houses.

7. Submission to the Emperor

A law is submitted to His Majesty the Emperor through the Cabinet by the Presiding Officer of the House which was the last to pass the bill.