Lecture on the Legislative Department of the Republic of the Philippines

Justin Martin O. Hernandez
Basic Structures

There are two basic structures for legislative branches of government:

1. **Unicameral**
   - The legislative branch consists of one chamber/house

2. **Bicameral**
   - Legislative power is vested in two chambers/houses
The Philippine Congress is the country’s legislative department (Art. VI, Sec. 1)

- Congress is bicameral
  - Upper House: Senate
  - Lower House: House of Representatives

- N.B.: Senators are Congressmen
The Legislative Branch

From the Latin *lex, legis* meaning law

The legislative branch broadly deals with the making, deliberation over, enactment, amendment and repealing of laws
Senate

Composition
- 24 Senators elected at large

Qualifications
- Natural-born citizen
- At least 35 years old on election day
- Literate (can read and write)
- Registered voter
- Philippine resident for 2 years prior to election day

Term of Office
- 6 years
- Maximum: 2 terms
House of Representatives

Composition
- 200 district reps, 50 party list
- Natural-born citizen
- At least 25 years old on election day
- Literate (can read and write)
- Registered voter of the district
- District resident for 1 year prior to election day

Qualifications

Term of Office
- 3 years
- Maximum: 3 terms
In Case of Vacancy…

- **Vacancy** can be filled through regular election.
- Special elections can be called for the purpose of filling the vacancy.
- In either circumstance, the one elected merely sits for the unexpired term.
Structure and Dynamics

- Senate President and House Speaker elected by majority vote
- Other officers, procedures and the discipline of its members is at the discretion of each house
- Quorum: Majority
- Each House maintains a journal and record of proceedings
- Neither House can adjourn without the other's consent while in session
Officers of the Senate

- President
- President Pro-tempore
- Majority Floor Leader
- Minority Floor Leader
- Secretary
- Sgt. –at-Arms
Senate Committees

- Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations
- Committee on Accounts
- Committee on Agrarian Reform
- Committee on Agriculture and Food
- Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies
Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization
Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws
Committee on Cooperatives
Committee on Cultural Communities
Committee on Economic Affairs
Committee on Education, Arts and Culture
Committee on Energy
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Committee on Ethics and Privileges
Committee on Finance
Committee on Foreign Relations
Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports
Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises
Committee on Health and Demography
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development
Committee on Local Government
Committee on National Defense and Security
Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation
Committee on Public Information and Mass Media
Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs
Committee on Public Services
Committee on Public Works
Committee on Rules
Committee on Science and Technology
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development
Committee on Tourism
Committee on Trade and Commerce
Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations
Officers of The House of Representatives

- Speaker
- Deputy Speakers
- Majority Floor Leader
- Minority Floor Leader
House Committees
(58 House Committees)

Accounts
Cooperatives Development
Dangerous Drugs
Ecology
Economic Affairs
Foreign Affairs
Games and Amusements
PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITIES
Parliamentary Privileges

Congressmen have two parliamentary privileges while Congress is in session:

1. Privilege from arrest
   - Immunity from offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment

2. Privilege of speech and debate
   - Immunity from libel and slander
Its Sessions

- Regular Session
- Special Session
- Joint Session
Presidents of the Senate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuel L. Quezon</td>
<td>1916-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel A. Roxas</td>
<td>1945-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose D. Avelino</td>
<td>1946-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariano Jesus L. Cuenco</td>
<td>1949-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintin B. Paredes</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilo O. Osias</td>
<td>1952 &amp; 1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eulogio A. Rodriguez, Sr.</td>
<td>1952-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose C. Zulueta</td>
<td>1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferdinand E. Marcos</td>
<td>1963-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arturo M. Tolentino</td>
<td>1966-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gil J. Puyat</td>
<td>1967-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptali A. Gonzales</td>
<td>1992-93, 95-96, 98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgardo J. Angara</td>
<td>1993-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernesto M. Maceda</td>
<td>1996-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcelo B. Fernan</td>
<td>1998-1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blas F. Ople</td>
<td>1999-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.</td>
<td>2000-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin M. Drilon</td>
<td>2000, 2001-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manny Villar</td>
<td>2006-Nov. 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Ponce Enrile</td>
<td>Nov.17, 2008-June 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin M. Drilon</td>
<td>July 2013-Present</td>
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Speakers of the House of Representatives
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sergio Osmeña</td>
<td>(1907-1922)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel A. Roxas</td>
<td>(1922-1933)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintin Paredes</td>
<td>(1933-1935)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gil Montilla</td>
<td>(1935-1938)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>José Yulo</td>
<td>(1938-1941)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benigno Aquino, Sr.</td>
<td>(1943-1944)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Zulueta</td>
<td>(1945)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugenio Pérez</td>
<td>(1946-1953)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>José Laurel, Jr.</td>
<td>(1953-1957)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Romualdez</td>
<td>(1957-1962)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornelio Villareal</td>
<td>(1962-1967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Querube Makalintal</td>
<td>(1978-1984)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicanor Yñiguez</td>
<td>(1984-1986)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose de Venecia</td>
<td>(1992-1998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnulfo Fuentabella</td>
<td>(2000-2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feliciano Belmonte</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose de Venecia,</td>
<td>(2001-2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prospero Nograles</td>
<td>(2008-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feliciano Belmonte</td>
<td>(2010-Present)</td>
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Powers of Congress

1. Appointment of Public Officials
2. Legislative inquiry and investigation
3. Declare the existence of a state of war
4. Ratify the country’s international treaties (Senate)
5. Authorize limited emergency powers for the President
Powers of Congress

6. Approve the government budget
7. Undertake projects under the CDF
8. Propose, review, and adopt bills for enactment into law
9. Overturn a Presidential veto with respect to proposed legislation
10. Allow for referenda
11. Propose amendments to the constitution and call for a constitutional convention
Legislative Limitations

Congress may not:

1. **Increase appropriations** recommended by the executive branch
2. **Pass tax exemptions** without the concurrence of a majority of its members
3. **Grant titles of nobility**
4. **Pass ex post facto bills**
5. **Pass bills of attainder**
How a Bill Becomes Law

1ST READING → 2ND READING → 3RD READING

REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

DEBATE

~House of Representatives~
How a Bill Becomes Law

1st Reading → 2nd Reading → 3rd Reading

~Senate~

1st Reading → 2nd Reading → 3rd Reading

~House of Representatives~
How a Bill Becomes Law

~House of Representatives~

1ST READING → 2ND READING → 3RD READING

~Senate~

BICAMERAL COMMITTEE

~House of Representatives~

1ST READING → 2ND READING → 3RD READING
How a Bill Becomes Law

~House of Representatives~

1st Reading → 2nd Reading → 3rd Reading

~Senate~

President

~House of Representatives~

1st Reading → 2nd Reading → 3rd Reading
How a Bill Becomes Law

1st Reading → 2nd Reading → 3rd Reading

President

Approve

Veto

30 Day Period

~House of Representatives~
Sources:

http://www senate gov ph/senators/composition asp#A. The Officers of the Senate

http://www congress gov ph/about/?about=officials