



*FL State & Local Government: SS.7.CG.3.7*  
**Structure, Powers & Processes  
of State & Local Government**  
**VIDEO #1 SCRIPT**

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## **State Government Video #1**

1. The United States has a federal system of government. This means that the national and state governments share some government powers and responsibilities. Lawmaking is one of those powers.
2. Federal, state and local governments are all able to make laws for the people they serve. This means that the federal government makes laws for the entire country. The state government makes laws for people within the state and local governments make laws for people within the city or county.
3. After watching this video, you will be able to
  - ✓ Understand how laws are made at the state level.
  - ✓ Identify the titles and roles of lawmakers at the state level.

Let's get started!

4. Florida state government is structured like the federal government. There is a state house of representatives and a state senate. Together, they are called the state legislature.
5. Members of the Florida House of Representatives are called state representatives. State representatives are elected for two-year terms. Members of the Florida Senate are called state senators. State senators are elected for four-year terms.
6. Let's check in: How is the Florida legislature structured?
7. ANSWER TO QUESTION
8. What are members of the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate called?
9. ANSWER TO QUESTION
10. State representatives and state senators work together to create state laws, called statutes. Statutes govern the people who live in the state, and statutes cannot conflict with federal laws.
11. So, how does the state government actually make laws? Let's take a look.

12. It is helpful to keep in mind that the process of how a bill becomes a law at the state level is almost identical to the process at the federal level.
13. An idea for a state law can come from state legislators, the governor, or even ordinary citizens. A proposed law is called a bill. The process for turning a bill into a law can start in either the Florida House of Representatives or the Florida Senate.
14. Let's start in the Florida House of Representatives with a bill about adding new state parks. Once the bill has been introduced, it is sent to the appropriate committee that deals with the topic. That committee will do research on the bill. After the committee does its research and discusses the bill, the committee votes to decide if the bill should move to the next step.
15. If the committee agrees that the bill is a good idea and should move forward, the entire Florida House of Representatives debates and votes on the bill.
16. Let's check in: Describe the lawmaking process as you have learned it so far.
17. ANSWER TO QUESTION  
Ready, set... let's continue!
18. If the Florida House of Representatives votes in favor of the bill, the bill then moves to the Florida Senate. Once the bill is in the Florida Senate, it is assigned to the committee that deals with state parks.
19. Similar to what happens in the Florida House of Representatives, if the committee completes its research and agrees to move the bill ahead, the entire Florida Senate debates and votes on the bill.
20. If the Florida Senate votes in favor of the bill, the governor will then be asked to sign the bill into law.
21. Let's check in: Add to your description of the lawmaking process to complete the steps.
22. ANSWER TO QUESTION  
Well done!
23. Now that you understand lawmaking at the state level, you'll have no trouble examining the process at the local level! We'll see you next time, thanks for watching!