

## SS.7.C.3.8 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

### Also Assesses: SS.7.C.3.9

Question	<p>The diagram below shows some of the steps involved in creating a Florida state law.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <pre> graph LR     A[Citizens write to their representative about an idea for a new law.] --&gt; B[The representative introduces a bill.]     B --&gt; C[The House of Representatives approves the bill.]     C --&gt; D[?]             </pre> </div> <p>What is the next step in the lawmaking process?</p>	<p>The diagram illustrates the Florida state legislative process.</p> <p>The correct answer should replace the question mark.</p>
A	The governor signs the bill into law.	<b>Incorrect</b> – A bill must be approved by both the Florida House and the state Senate before the governor signs the bill into law.
B	The bill goes to the Senate for action.	<b>Correct</b> – Both the House and the Senate must approve all state bills. Once a bill passes through the state House, the Senate must vote on the bill. If the state Senate approves the bill, the governor will either sign it into law or veto it.
C	The people vote on the bill in an election.	<b>Incorrect</b> – The people do not directly vote on bills introduced by the state House of Representatives.
D	The bill goes to the Supreme Court for a hearing.	<b>Incorrect</b> – The Florida Supreme Court does not review bills as part of the state legislative process.



**SS.7.C.3.8 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation**  
**Also Assesses: SS.7.C.3.9**

Question	What do the highest courts of Florida and the United States have in common?	Compare and contrast the highest courts in Florida and the federal government.  The correct response should identify a characteristic that both courts share.
A	Both have the same number of justices.	<b>Incorrect</b> – The U.S. Supreme Court has nine justices. The Florida Supreme Court has seven justices.
B	Both have chief justices.	<b>Correct</b> – Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the Florida Supreme Court are led by chief justices.
C	Justices serve for life with good behavior.	<b>Incorrect</b> – Florida Supreme Court justices are appointed to serve six-year terms and must be retained by popular vote at the end of each term. U.S. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life, subject to good behavior.
D	Justices serve for set terms of office.	<b>Incorrect</b> – U.S. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. Justices appointed to the Florida Supreme Court serve six-year terms and must be retained by popular vote at the end of each term.



## SS.7.C.3.8 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

### Also Assesses: SS.7.C.3.9

Question	<p>The table below describes presidential vetoes.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">President (Years)</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Presidential Vetoes</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Legislative Overrides</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Barack H. Obama (2009-present)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">George W. Bush (2001-2009)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">12</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">William J. Clinton (1993-2001)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">37</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">George H. W. Bush (1989-1993)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">44</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">78</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">31</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">66</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">43</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; font-size: small;">Source: U.S. House of Representatives</p> <p>Based on the table, how has the legislative process been impacted by presidential vetoes?</p>		President (Years)	Presidential Vetoes	Legislative Overrides	Barack H. Obama (2009-present)	2	0	George W. Bush (2001-2009)	12	4	William J. Clinton (1993-2001)	37	2	George H. W. Bush (1989-1993)	44	1	Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)	78	9	Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)	31	2	Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977)	66	12	Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)	43	7	<p>The chart lists the number of presidential vetoes (rejection of a bill) and the number of legislative overrides of vetoes since 1969.</p> <p>Analyze the table for trends. The correct response should describe how the president has influenced the lawmaking process based on the information in the table.</p>
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A	The presidents' views are not reflected in public policy.	<b>Incorrect</b> – The table shows that Congress rarely overrides presidential vetoes. The override power is the power to reject a presidential veto. A veto override results in Congress' views being reflected in public policy. An override that fails results in the president's views being reflected in public policy.																												
B	The presidents' views are reflected in public policy.	<b>Correct</b> – The table shows that the number of presidential vetoes has been greater, usually far greater, than the number of legislative overrides. A veto override results in Congress' views being reflected in public policy. An override that fails results in the president's views being reflected in public policy.																												
C	Congress represents the will of the people.	<b>Incorrect</b> – There is no evidence in the table that either the president's vetoes or congressional overrides represent popular opinion.																												
D	Congress represents the will of the states.	<b>Incorrect</b> – There is no evidence in the table that either the president's vetoes or congressional overrides represent the opinions of state governments.																												





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