

*Commentary*

## An overview on legislature

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### DESCRIPTION

A legislature is a body of legislators with the authority to make laws for a political entity, such as a country or a city. They are frequently contrasted with the executive and judicial branches of legislative government in the separation of powers notion. Primary legislation refers to laws passed by legislatures. Legislators also have the authority to oversee and influence government actions, including the capacity to amend the budget. Legislators are the members of a legislature. Legislators are most usually elected by popular vote in a democracy, but indirect election and appointment by the executive are also employed, especially in bicameral legislatures with an upper house.

Functions of Legislature are representatives, deliberation, legislation, authorising expenditure, forming governments, and oversight are the six major duties of democratic legislatures.

In a legislature, there are five techniques to attain Representation, namely Formalistically, Symbolically, Descriptively, Substantively and Collectively. Formalistically is one way on how the rules of the legislature ensure representation of constituents. Symbolically is about on how the constituents perceive their representatives. Another technique for determining how well the makeup of the legislature fits the demographics of the larger society is descriptive. Substantively is other way on how well representatives actually respond to the needs of their constituents. Lastly, collectively is a technique on how well the representatives represent the interests of the society as a whole.

Deliberation is one of the most important functions of a legislature is to discuss and debate serious societal issues. This action can take two different forms. The floor of the legislature

in debating legislatures, such as the United Kingdom's Parliament, frequently sees intense debate. Deliberation takes happen in closed committees in committee-based legislatures like the United States Congress.

While legislatures have the exclusive capacity to enact legislation, the extent to which this power is exercised is determined by the political system in place. In Westminster-style legislatures, the executive can essentially pass any law it wants because it usually has a majority of legislators behind it, with the party whip keeping it in check, whereas committee-based legislatures in continental Europe and those in presidential systems in the Americas have more autonomy in drafting and amending bills.

Authorizing expenditure is the function in which the origins of the purse power that legislatures traditionally have in enacting or rejecting government budgets can be traced back to European aristocracy assemblies, which kings would have to consult before raising taxes. In order for this power to be effective, the legislature must be able to change the budget, have a functional committee structure, adequate time for review, and access to pertinent background information.

The legislature now has more control over the government and can form new governments. The function of oversight is to allow the legislature to hold the government accountable through a number of means, such as questions, interrogations, and confidence votes.

In contrast to democratic systems, authoritarian legislatures are used to maintain the power structure's stability by co-opting potential competing interests among the elites, which they do by following patterns such as providing legitimacy, incorporating opponents into the system, providing some representation of outside interests, and providing a way to recruit new members.

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