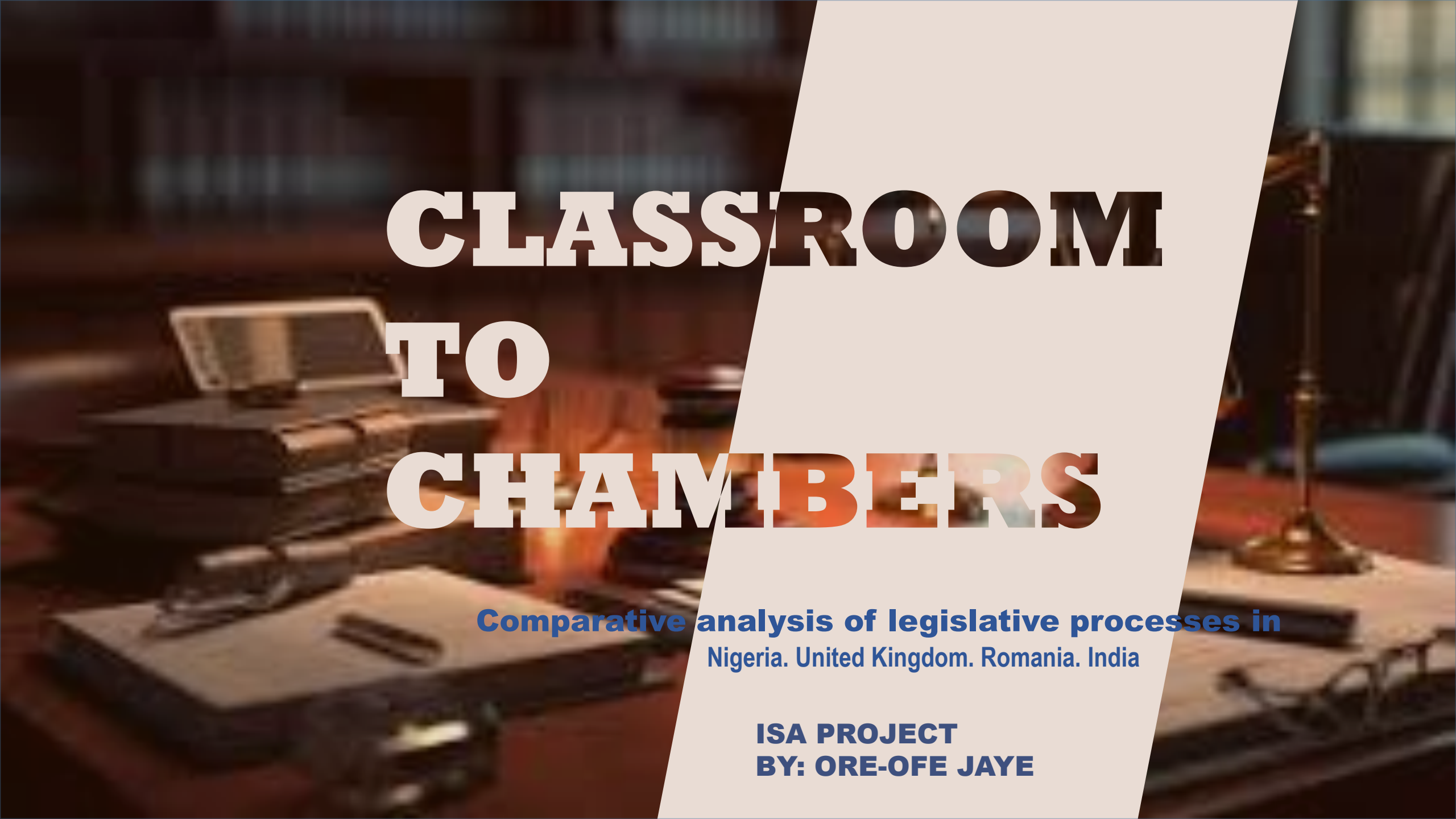




CLASSROOM TO CHAMBERS

**Comparative analysis of legislative processes in
Nigeria. United Kingdom. Romania. India**

**ISA PROJECT
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INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATIVE SYSTEMS

BICAMERICAL LEGISLATURE

Definition: A bicameral legislature is a law-making body that has two separate chambers or houses that must both approve legislation before it becomes law.

Advantages: Better law-making and fewer mistakes.

Because a bill must pass through two houses, it is carefully examined and debated.

Challenges: **Slower decision-making.**

Since both houses must agree before a law is passed, it can take a long time. Sometimes the two houses may disagree, which can delay important laws.

UNICAMERICAL LEGISLATURE

Definition: A unicameral legislature is a law-making body that has only one chamber or house.

Advantages: Faster decision-making.

Since there is only one house, laws can be debated and passed more quickly.

Challenges: **Less thorough review.**

Because there is no second house to check or revise decisions, mistakes or unfair laws may pass more easily.



STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The **National Assembly of Nigeria** (National Assembly of Nigeria) is the **federal law-making body** of Nigeria. Its structure is **bicameral**, meaning it has two chambers.



2. The House of Representatives
Has **360 members**.
Members represent **federal constituencies** based on population.
It is led by the **Speaker**.

1. The Senate
Has **109 Senators**.
Each of the 36 states elects **3 Senators** (that makes 108).
The **Federal Capital Territory (Abuja)** elects **1 Senator**.
It is led by the **Senate President**.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: 11 STAGES

1. BILL ORGANISATION

The bill is prepared and arranged properly before being introduced.

2. INITIAL REVIEW

Lawmakers examine the bill to see if it is suitable to be presented

3. GAZETTING

The bill is officially published so members and the public can see it.

4. FIRST READING

The title of the bill is read in the house. There is **no debate**.

5. SECOND READING

Members debate the general principles and purpose of the bill.

6. COMMITTEE STAGE

A committee examines the bill in detail and may suggest amendments.

7. COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee presents its recommendations to the whole house.

8. THIRD READING

The final version is read and voted on.

9. CONCURRENCE

The other house considers and agrees to the bill.

10. PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT

The President signs the bill, and it becomes law.

11. VETO OVERRIDE

Two-thirds majority makes the bill law without the President's signature.

UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT STRUCTURE: Westminster Model

1. Crown

Ceremonial head of state.

Gives Royal Assent to make bills into law.

Appoints the Prime Minister (usually the leader of the majority party).

2. House of Commons

Elected Members of Parliament (MPs).

Makes laws, approves budget, debates policies.

Can remove the government with a vote of no confidence.

3. House of Lords

Unelected members: life peers, hereditary peers, bishops.

Reviews and suggests changes to bills.

Can delay bills but cannot permanently block them.

Provides expertise and advice to Parliament.

4. Executive (Prime Minister & Cabinet)

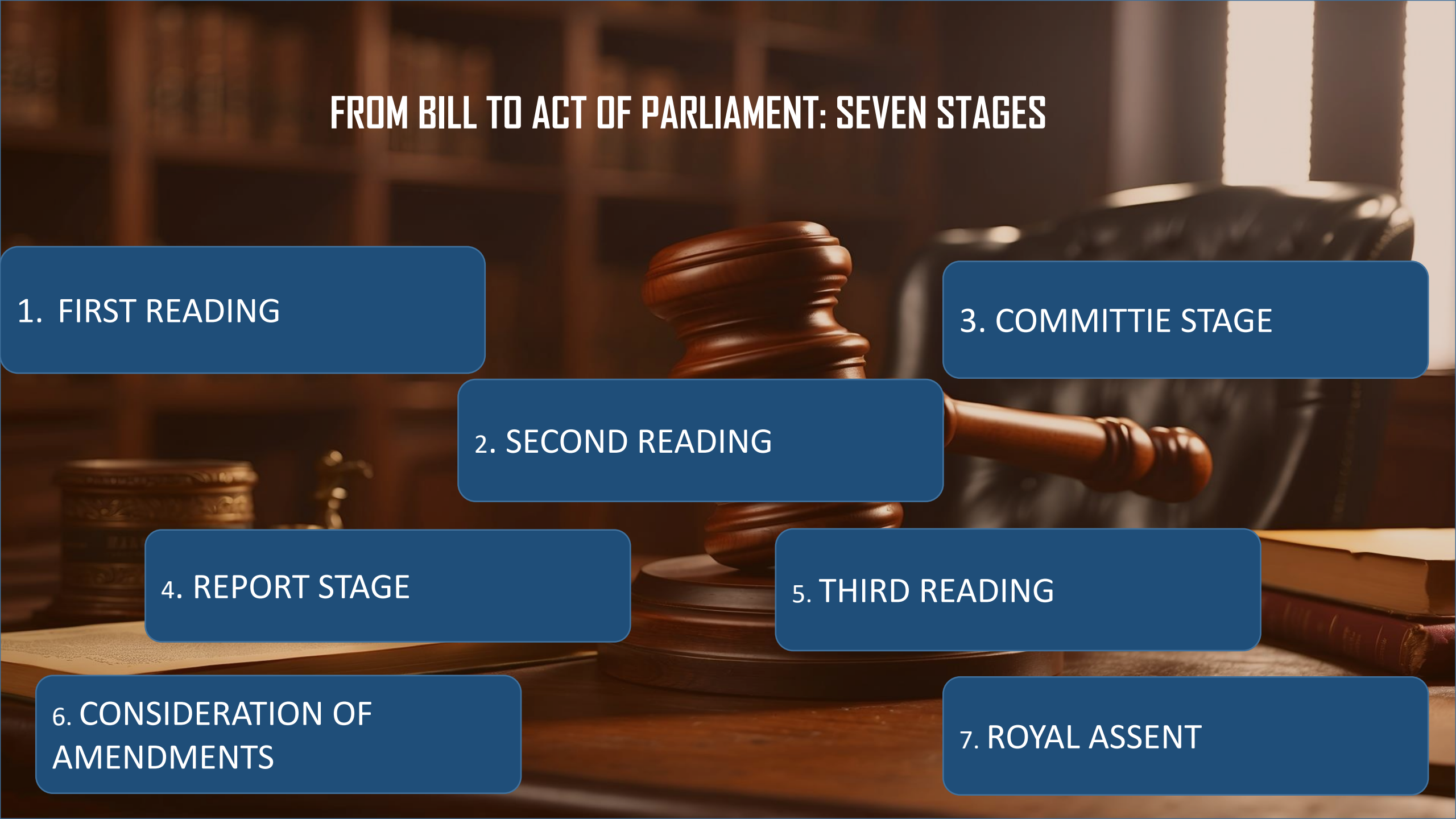
Leads the government and implements laws.

Selected from members of Parliament.

Accountable to the Commons and must maintain majority support.



FROM BILL TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT: SEVEN STAGES



1. FIRST READING

3. COMMITTEE STAGE

2. SECOND READING

4. REPORT STAGE

5. THIRD READING

6. CONSIDERATION OF
AMENDMENTS

7. ROYAL ASSENT

ROMANIA'S PARLIAMENTARY STRUCTURE: SENATE & CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

1. Senate (Upper House)

Represents regions.

Members review and amend bills.

Can delay legislation but usually cannot block it permanently.

2. Chamber of Deputies (Lower House)

Represents the people directly.

Members initiate bills and control the government.

Approves the budget and debates policies.

3. Relationship

Bills usually start in the Chamber of Deputies, then go to the Senate.

Both must approve a bill for it to become law.

4. Key Feature

Bicameral system ensures **checks and balances**.

Combines **regional representation** (Senate) and **population-based representation** (Chamber of Deputies).

Ensures fair participation in law-making and limits abuse of power.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE & MEDIATION MECHANISM IN ROMANIA

1. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE: GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENTARIANS, OR 250,000 CITIZENS

2. COMMITTEE EXAMINATION : standing committees for detailed analysis and advisory opinions

3. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: general debate followed by article examination with amendments

4. VOTING: personal vote by simple majority or qualified majority

5. OTHER CHAMBER: bill transmitted to second chamber for identical procedure

6. Other chamber: bill transmitted to second chamber for identical procedure

PARLIAMENT STRUCTURE: LOK SABHA & RAJYA SABHA

1. Rajya Sabha (Upper House / Senate)

- Represents states and union territories.
- Members elected by state legislatures or nominated.
- Reviews and suggests changes to bills.

2. Lok Sabha (Lower House / Chamber of Deputies)

Represents the people directly.

Members elected by citizens.

Initiates bills and controls the government.

3. Relationship

Bills usually start in Lok Sabha, then go to Rajya Sabha.

Both must approve ordinary bills for them to become law.

4. Key Feature

Bicameral system ensures **checks and balances**.

Combines **state-based representation** (Rajya Sabha) and **population-based representation** (Lok Sabha).

Helps prevent misuse of power and ensures wider participation in law-making.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN INDIA

1. FIRST READING

2. SECOND READING

3. COMMITTEE STAGE

4. REPORT STAGE

5. THIRD READING

6. OTHER HOUSE

7. JOINT SESSION

8. PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: KEY FINDINGS

Similarities of the Legislatures (UK, Nigeria, India, Romania)

Bicameral System – All have two chambers (Upper and Lower Houses) for checks and balances.

Law-Making Role – Both chambers participate in making, reviewing, and passing laws.

Executive Accountability – The government (Prime Minister or President's Cabinet) is accountable to the legislature.

Differences of the Legislatures **Upper House**

UK: House of Lords, mostly unelected.

Nigeria: Senate, elected by states.

India: Rajya Sabha, elected by state legislatures or nominated.

Romania: Senate, elected to represent regions.

Lower House

UK: House of Commons, elected MPs.

Nigeria: House of Representatives / Chamber of Deputies, elected.

India: Lok Sabha, elected directly by citizens.

Romania: Chamber of Deputies, elected directly by citizens.

Power Balance

UK & India: Lower House dominates, Upper House mostly reviews.

Nigeria & Romania: Lower House dominates but Upper House has review/delay powers.