STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 8

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State Government

CHAPTER 9

Local Government

This Uncle Sam postcard celebrates the Fourth of July.



CHAPTER 8, State Government

1838: Florida state government adopts its first constitution. Under its first constitution, Florida created a government with three branches. The executive branch is responsible for enforcing Florida's laws. The governor is the head of this branch. The legislative branch is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. State representatives and senators are elected by voters to create the state's laws. The judicial branch consists of the state's courts, where judges apply the laws.

rest areas for drivers. Since 1916 the Florida Department of Transportation has been responsible for keeping drivers safe. Today millions of people drive on the state's busy interstate highways. To make their rides more comfortable, the Department of Transportation maintains 53 rest areas, which are open 24 hours a day, every day. They provide travelers with rest rooms, vending machines, pet walks, telephones, and picnic areas.

1983: Carrie Meek is the first African-American woman elected to the Florida Senate. Carrie Pittman Meek (1926–) has spent a lifetime working for the people of Florida in the classroom and in government. After decades of teaching, she was elected state representative in 1979. She served until 1983 when she became the first African-American woman state senator. In 1992, Meek was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. A year later, Florida voters elected her to the U.S. House of Representatives. She served there until 2002.

EVENTS

2000: Federal and state legislatures preserve the Everglades.

For much of the twentieth century, thousands of miles of the Everglades were drained and converted into land for building and farming. These changes disrupted the water's natural flow. They affected animals and plants. Beginning in the 1950s, conservationists like Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1890–1998) called on state and federal governments to protect the Everglades. In 2000 the U.S. Congress passed a plan for restoring the Everglades so that nature and Florida's farmers and businesses can thrive.

and human-interest programs. In 1997, the Florida Channel began showing arguments from the floor of Florida Supreme Court.

PEOPLE

1845: Floridians elect their first governor. William Dunn

Moseley (1795–1863) was born in North Carolina. He moved to Florida in 1836. Moseley then served in Florida's Territorial House of Representatives and in the Territorial Senate. As Florida's first governor, Moseley was responsible for setting up the new state's government.



1996: The Florida Channel broadcasts government in action.

In order to involve Florida citizens in the process of government, the state legislature and WFSU-TV developed the Florida Channel. It airs live broadcasts of legislative sessions, with no interruptions or commentary. The channel also produces several news, documentary,

Unpacking the Florida Standards <…

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark LA.7.1.6.2 The student will listen to, read, and discuss familiar and conceptually challenging text.

What does it mean?

Practice using listening, reading, and speaking skills to understand new ideas and challenging material. Go to the Reading Skills, Civics Skills, Section Assessment, and Chapter Review pages that appear in each chapter for help.







WHY CIVICS Matters

State governments provide many services to you and other citizens of your state, such as building highways and creating beautiful recreation areas. As an active citizen, you have a duty to be aware of how your state government spends your tax dollars.



FLORIDA

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

STOPPING DRUG SALES What if you learned that a gang was selling drugs down the street from your school or your church? What could you do to get your state government to solve the problem? As you read this chapter, think of actions you and your friends could take to make your street safe again.

FOCUS ON WRITING

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH In this chapter you will learn about the powers and the parts of state government. Read the chapter, and then write a two-page biographical sketch of someone important, either past or present, to your state's government.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about the powers that the Tenth Amendment guarantees to state governments. You will learn what powers the states and federal government share. You will read about state lawmaking bodies and how

they are organized. You will also learn how state laws are made, and how the executive branches of state governments enforce those laws. Finally, you will learn about the state court system and what kinds of cases it handles.

Using Primary Sources

As you know from experience, second-hand information isn't always reliable. When you want to know what really happened, you need to talk to someone who was there. You need a primary source.

Primary Sources Primary sources can help you understand what a political candidate or government official said, did, or meant. A primary source is a document from someone who witnessed or took part in an event. Primary sources can be written documents, such as government records or letters. They can also be photographs, speeches, or even songs.

Identify the source's background. Understand who wrote the source and the conditions under which it was written. Ask yourself if the author is biased in some way.

Read the source. Read the source several times until you are confident you understand its meaning. Be sure to identify all facts. Note any statements that give you insight into the opinions of the author.

Draw conclusions. Use your careful reading of the source to draw conclusions about the topic or event discussed.

Helpful Hints for Identifying Primary Sources

- To determine if something is a primary source, ask yourself when it was created. Primary sources are those that were created around the time of the event they describe.
- 2. Primary sources include speeches, diaries, letters, and photographs. They provide information about the event and give you glimpses of the attitudes, feelings, and concerns of the people involved.

You Try It!

The primary source on this page is part of North Carolina governor Michael F. Easley's 2001 State of the State address. Read the source and then answer the questions below.

"I am proud to stand here before you tonight —at the beginning of a bright new age for North Carolina. We leave behind a decade that will long be remembered as one of the most rewarding in our history . . . The people of North Carolina rallied together like never before—for our schools, for our communities, for our families.

I want to personally thank you for putting people first and putting party differences aside. Good government is not about Democrats and Republicans. It is about children, seniors and working families. You put them first . . .

You are the first Legislature of the new century. You have a chance to be remembered as the group that brought sustained progress to North Carolina. You have a chance to make history and be remembered for it . . . Any state can make progress in good times. It's the great states that make progress in tough times."

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

- 1. Why might Easley's speech be a good source of information about the level of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans?
- **2.** Imagine that in the week following the speech, you read a letter to the editor that contained the following comments:

"Governor Easley's speech showed that he does not appreciate the hard work the legislature has done to improve our state."

Is this primary source reliable and accurate? Why or why not?

As you read Chapter 8, notice what primary sources are used. Ask yourself if you think the text is a reliable secondary source.

KEY TERMS

Chapter 8

Section 1

delegated powers (p. 202) reserved powers (p. 202) concurrent powers (p. 203) full faith and credit clause (p. 205) extradition (p. 205)

Section 2

bicameral (p. 207) unicameral (p. 207) constituents (p. 211) initiative (p. 211) referendum (p. 211) recall (p. 211)

Section 3

governor (p. 213) patronage (p. 215) lieutenant governor (p. 215)

Section 4

penal code (p. 217) Missouri Plan (p. 220)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic word: develop (p. 211)

SECTION 1



SS.7.C.2.13; SS.7.C.3.4; SS.7.C.3.13; SS.7.C.3.14; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

The States

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

In the United States, all 50 independent states fit together to form one country. The federal system allows state governments to serve the needs of their citizens while cooperating as a united country.

Reading Focus

- **1.** What powers do state governments have?
- 2. How do states work together with other states and with the national government in our federal system?

Key Terms

delegated powers, p. 202 reserved powers, p. 202 concurrent powers, p. 203 full faith and credit clause, p. 205 extradition, p. 205



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the powers of state government and how state governments work in our federal system.



For a few years after they won their independence, the 13 states acted like small, separate countries. Then they joined together

under an agreement called the Constitution, which established the rules of the new country. Under the Constitution, the states set aside some of their own rights and powers for the good of the whole country. Those powers went to the new national government. The states, however, kept some of their powers.

State Government Powers

When the 13 states ratified the Constitution and agreed to come together as one country, they did not want to hand too much power over to the federal government. Instead, they chose a federal system that divides government powers between the federal and state governments. Some powers—delegated powers—were given to the federal government. Those powers include conducting foreign policy, printing money, maintaining a post office, and defending the country. Some powers were granted exclusively to the states, while other powers are shared by state and federal governments.

Powers Reserved to the States

The states kept control over more local concerns. The Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says any power not delegated to the federal government belongs to the people and the states. These powers are known as **reserved powers**.

Reserved powers allow state governments to establish rules for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of their states. For example, states are responsible for rules concerning marriage, driving laws, and traffic regulations. States also maintain education systems. The Constitution, however, requires that state laws meet appropriate federal standards and adhere to Supreme Court rulings.

Another reserved power of the state is to conduct all local, state, and national elections. States decide most of the qualifications for voting not otherwise specified in the U.S. Constitution. In addition, state governments have control over all governments within their boundaries—districts, cities, towns, townships, and counties. Local governments receive their powers from the states.

SS.7.C.3.14
Differentiate
between local,
state, and federal
governments'
obligations and
services

LAWI()

Schools and the Lottery

Education is expensive. Every day in school, you use many resources: computers, science equipment, and sports gear. Your school also employs many people, such as teachers, nurses, and maintenance staff. Where does the money to pay for everything come from?

Why it Education is funded at many Matters levels: the local, state, and federal. Most of the money used for school funding comes from taxes. Some states, though, have looked for other ways to raise money. One way used by many states is a lottery. People buy lottery tickets that give them a very small chance to win lots of money. People who support lottery funding say that everyone has to pay taxes, but playing the lottery is a choice. Other people think lotteries are not fair because people who earn less money are more likely to play the lottery. In 2005, 41 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico had lotteries, and at least 25 states used some of the money specifically for education. Some states also raise education money through slot machines.



FOUNDATION of DEMOCRAC

In some states, like Florida, lottery money goes to help fund education.

EVALUATING THE LAW

- 1. Is it fair that everyone should pay taxes to fund schools? Why or why not?
- 2. What is your opinion about using lotteries and slot machines to pay for education?



Concurrent Powers

Some government powers are shared by both state and federal governments. These shared powers are called **concurrent powers**. For example, taxation is a concurrent power. Both the federal government and the state governments can tax their citizens. The national government taxes U.S. citizens through federal income taxes. State governments may raise money with sales taxes, income taxes, and property taxes. The money raised through state taxes pays for state services such as education, highways, and health and safety programs.

Another important concurrent, or shared, power is making and enforcing laws. Similar to the national government, state governments have legislatures that propose and pass new laws. Most states also have a state police force that helps to enforce those laws and to keep the states safe.

Other concurrent powers used by the states are the establishment of state and local court systems and the power to borrow and spend money. Without these concurrent powers, states would be unable to carry out their day-to-day business.

Powers of the State



Federal

Powers

The U.S. Constitution established a federal system in which powers are divided between the national and state governments. Some powers are granted exclusively to the states, while others are shared with the national government.

State Powers

- Establish and maintain schools
- Establish local governments
- Regulate business within the state
- Make marriage laws
- Provide for public safety
- Oversee elections
- Assume other powers not delegated to the national government nor prohibited to the states

Election Oversight



Federal elections, like the presidential election, are organized and monitored by the states, not the federal government. States alone have the power to conduct elections. State election boards are responsible for organizing all federal and state elections.

Shared Powers

Shared

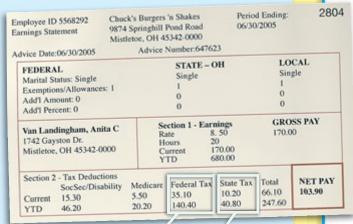
Powers

State

Powers

- Maintain law and order
- Levy taxes
- Borrow money
- Charter hanks
- Establish courts
- Oversee public health and safety
- Enforce laws

Levy Taxes



The federal government taxes individual incomes. Most workers have federal income and Social Security taxes deducted from their regular paychecks.

State governments can also levy taxes. State taxes include property taxes, sales tax, and income taxes. Not all states, however, have income taxes.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

Why do you think that some powers are granted exclusively to state governments?

State Constitutions

Each of the 50 states has its own constitution. These constitutions are the rules that organize the state government. Many state constitutions contain the following elements:

- a preamble that states the basic principles on which the state government is founded;
- a bill of rights that lists the rights guaranteed to all citizens of the state;
- an outline of the organization of the state's government, with the duties of each of the branches carefully spelled out;
- provisions for elections, including qualifications that citizens must meet for voting and rules for conducting elections;
- provisions for managing state affairs, such as education, law and order, transportation, and finance; and
- methods of amending the state constitution, as well as a list of any amendments that have been passed.

States have amended their constitutions as the powers and duties of state governments changed. Alabama, for example, has amended its constitution some 800 times since it was ratified in 1901.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What powers are granted to state governments?

Our Federal System

As you have read, the U.S. Constitution establishes a federal system that divides power between the national government and the states. Some people see the federal system as two separate layers of government with different powers. In everyday practice, however, the separate layers of powers overlap and often mix. For example, the national, state, and even local governments make policies regarding education for the nation's students. States must work together on many other issues. They must work with the national government if the needs of all the people are to be met.

States Work Together

By signing the U.S. Constitution, the states agreed to cooperate with each other. Article IV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution states "Full faith and credit [acceptance] shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State." This passage is known as the full faith and credit clause.

The full faith and credit clause ensures that each state will accept the decisions of civil courts in other states. An example of full faith and credit is the acceptance of a state's official records by the other states. For example, marriage certificates, birth certificates, wills, contracts, and property deeds issued by any one state are accepted by all other states.

States work together in other ways as well. A person who commits a crime cannot escape justice by fleeing to another state. For example, a person who steals a car in Utah and flees to Arizona can be returned to Utah for trial. This process of returning fugitives is called **extradition**.

States also cooperate on many projects. For example, a bridge that crosses a river bordering two states is built and maintained by the governments of both states. States may also join with other states in regional groups to work together to reduce water and air pollution.

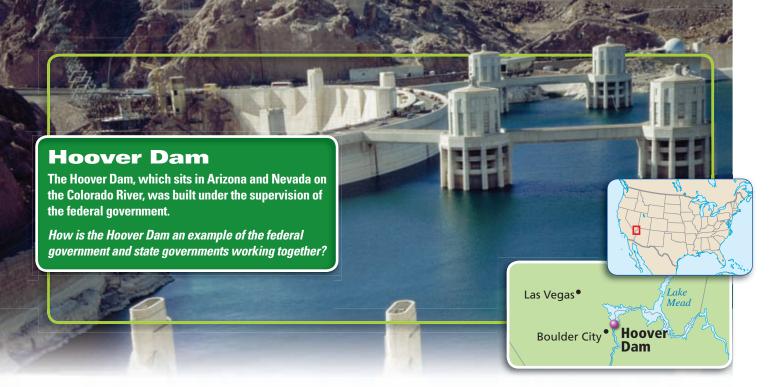
States Work with the Federal Government

The states also work together with the federal government. Federal and state governments often work together to share the costs of providing a wide range of social services to the American people. For example, state and national governments cooperate to build highways, assist the unemployed, help people with low incomes, and conserve natural resources.

State and national governments also cooperate in times of crisis. After severe natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods,

FOCUS OF

Florida's current constitution was adopted in 1968. In Article II, Section 3, it outlines the basic structure of Florida's government, which includes separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches, just like the federal government. The next three articles clarify the powers and responsibilities of each branch.



tornadoes, and hurricanes, federal and state governments often work together to provide aid to disaster victims. For example, Hurricane Katrina devastated a large area of the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005. President Bush announced that the federal government would work with state and local governments to help provide housing, job training, and medical aid to the victims of the hurricane.

The federal government also aids the states. For example, after the attacks of September 11, 2001, increasing security became an important issue. The cost of increasing security at airports and other facilities was too expensive for individual states. So the federal government took over the task.

READING CHECK Drawing Inferences Why do states cooperate with each other and the federal government?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

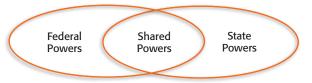


Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define Write a brief definition for the terms delegated powers, reserved powers, and concurrent powers.
 - **b. Analyze** Why might states amend their constitutions?
 - **c. Evaluate** Is it important for state governments to retain control of affairs within their borders? Explain your answer.
- **2. a. Define** Write a brief definition for the terms full faith and credit clause and extradition.
 - **b. Draw Conclusions** Why do states have to follow certain federal rules?
 - **c. Predict** How might our federal system be different if states did not work together with the national government?

Critical Thinking

3. Comparing and Contrasting Use your notes and a graphic organizer like this one to identify federal, state, and shared powers.



FOCUS ON WRITING

4. Making Generalizations and PredictionsImagine that there is no full faith and credit clause and that your family intends to move to another state. In a short essay, explain how this might affect your family in your new residence.

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SECTION 2



SS.7.C.3.9; SS.7.C.3.12; SS.7.C.3.13; SS.7.C.3.14; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

State Legislatures

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The process of passing state laws is similar to the process used in the U.S. Congress. In some states, citizens can take a direct role in making the state's laws.

Reading Focus

- 1. How are state legislatures organized to equally represent the citizens of their state?
- **2.** How are state laws passed?
- 3. How do citizens participate in making state laws?

Kev Terms

bicameral, p. 207 unicameral, p. 207 constituents, p. 211 initiative, p. 211 referendum, p. 211 recall, p. 211

hmhsocialstudies.com **TAKING NOTES**

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on state legislatures, passing laws, and how citizens can participate in state government.



Most state legislatures are modeled after the U.S. Congress.

tives Dean Cannon and Gary Aubuchon shake hands after passing the budget.

Your state legislature, or lawmaking body, is a smaller version of Congress. State representatives and senators introduce and pass bills

in the same fashion as their national counterparts. Because you and your state legislators share many of the same concerns, you have a significant influence on your state government.

State Legislatures

Although it may go by a different name in some states, every state has a state legislature, or lawmaking body. Citizens elect state lawmakers—called legislators—to pass laws on their behalf. Like members of Congress, legislators are representatives of the citizens in the states' lawmaking bodies. These lawmaking bodies are organized to represent all citizens of the state equally.

Organization

All but one of the states have legislatures divided into two houses. These are known as **bicameral** legislatures. The larger of the two houses is usually called the House of Representatives. The smaller house is known as the Senate. Only Nebraska has a unicameral, or one-house, legislature, called the Senate.

PRIMARY SOURCE

POLITICAL CARTOON

Public Opinion about State Legislatures

Members of the public do not always agree with the actions of their state legislatures. Unpopular legislative action often prompts public criticism. This political cartoon shows one point of view regarding state legislatures.



In this cartoon, a state legislature is represented by figures usually associated with a circus.

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ANALYSIS

ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS

What point about the public's opinion of state legislatures is this cartoon attempting to make?

FOCUS ON

Article III, Section 1, of the Florida constitution states that the legislature is to consist "of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district." According to Article III, Section 16, Florida is to be divided into between 30 and 40 senatorial districts and between 80 and 120 representative districts.

State legislatures vary greatly in size. Alaska has the smallest legislature, with 40 representatives and 20 senators. New Hampshire's legislature is the largest in the United States. It has 400 representatives and 24 senators.

These state legislatures are organized to represent all citizens of the state equally. To ensure balanced representation, the state legislature divides the state into different legislative districts. Each member of the legislature represents the people who live in a particular district of that state. Citizens of those districts elect a representative and a senator to speak for that district in the state legislature.

In the 1964 case of *Reynolds* v. *Sims*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state election districts must be equal in population—or as equal as possible. This ruling upheld the principle of "one person, one vote." The ruling attempted to establish equal representation for all citizens. Legislatures are now required to establish election districts that are almost equal in population.

Qualifications and Terms

Because state legislators have great responsibility, each state sets certain qualifications that candidates must meet. For example, most states require that members of the state legislature be U.S. citizens. In almost all states senators and representatives must live in the district that they represent. Generally, state senators must be at least 25 years of age to hold office. Most states require state representatives to be at least 21 years old. Some states, however, have lowered the age requirement to 18 for senators and representatives.

In most states senators are elected for four years, and representatives for two years. However, in a few states both senators and representatives are elected for four-year terms. In other states senators and representatives both serve two years. The senators who serve in Nebraska's one-house legislature are elected for four-year terms.

Sixteen states now limit the number of terms for state legislators. These laws limit the number of times a legislator may be elected to represent a district. For example, representatives in Arkansas can only serve three terms, a total of six years. Senators in Arkansas can serve only two terms, or eight years.

Compensation

The salaries and benefits received by state legislators vary widely from state to state. In Rhode Island, for example, legislators—who only serve part time—each receive \$13,089 a year. New York's full-time legislators are among the highest paid in the country, each receiving an annual salary of \$79,500, plus \$138 a day for expenses.

Sessions and Leaders

Each state determines when its legislature meets. Most state legislatures meet in regular sessions every year. Other state legislatures meet once every two years. The California legislature has a two-year session that meets for that entire period. The North Carolina legislature holds a regular-length session in oddnumbered years and a shorter session in evennumbered years. In other states a session can last from 30 days to more than six months.

At the beginning of each session, members of the legislature choose the presiding officer and other leaders. In most states the lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate. In other states the Senate chooses its own presiding officer. Members of the lower house in all states choose their own presiding officer, usually called the speaker.

The presiding officer in each house appoints members of committees. As in the U.S. Congress, most of the work of the state legislatures is done in committees that specialize in certain areas, such as agriculture or education. The committees hold in-depth hearings on bills. These hearings allow legislators to gather information and debate bills before the bills are considered by the whole legislature.

READING CHECK Contrasting What are some of the different ways that state legislatures are organized?

Passing State Laws

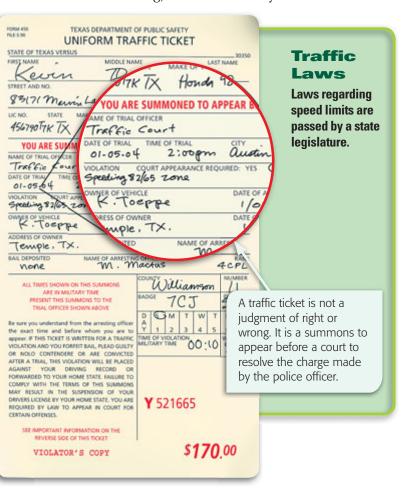
States pass laws governing all areas within their responsibility. In recent years, states also have become responsible for programs that had been run by the national government. As a result, state legislatures have passed bills to meet these responsibilities.

The lawmaking process in state legislatures is similar to the procedure followed in Congress. As in Congress, the process starts with a bill being introduced by a member of the legislature.

A Bill Is Introduced A member of either house may introduce a bill. Once introduced, the bill is assigned a number and is sent to the appropriate committee.

The Bill Is Sent to Committee In the next phase, the legislative committee decides whether or not to hold a hearing on the bill. If there is a hearing, witnesses testify

SS.7.C.3.9 Illustrate the law making process at the local, state, and federal levels.





about the bill. Amendments may be added to the bill. The committee may vote to pass the bill, change it, or reject it. If the committee does not have a hearing on the bill, the bill is effectively killed.

The Bill Reaches the Floor If the committee passes the bill, the full house then considers it. As the bill is debated on the floor, more amendments may be offered. If these amendments are passed, they become part of the bill. Members then vote on the final version of the bill. Bills that pass are signed by the presiding officer and sent to the second house.

The Bill Is Sent to the Second House When the bill is introduced in the second house, it goes through the same steps as it did in the first house. The bill is assigned to a committee and the committee process is repeated. If the bill passes the committee, it is considered by the full house, as it was in the first house.

Bills that pass only one house will not become law. If both houses pass a bill in the same form, it is then sent to the governor to be signed. Frequently, however, both houses pass the bill, but in different forms. In this case, the bill is sent to a joint-conference committee to resolve the differences between the two bills.

The Bill Is Sent to a Joint Conference Committee Joint conference committees are made up of members from both houses. Committee members try to reach a compromise version of the bill that will be accepted by both houses. The two houses then vote on the compromise bill. Both houses usually accept this final version of the bill.

The Bill Is Sent to the Governor The final step in making a state law is to send the bill to the governor. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes a law. However, the governor may veto a bill he or she does not support. In most states the governor also has the power to veto only one part, or item, of an appropriation bill. This power is called an item veto. The legislature can pass a bill over the governor's veto by a two-thirds vote in each house.

READING CHECK Analyzing Information When in the legislative process can legislators amend bills?

How Citizens Participate in Lawmaking

Legislators and governors are not the only people who take part in lawmaking. There are many opportunities at the state level for citizens to participate in the lawmaking process. Legislators welcome input and information from the citizens they represent. These citizens are known as constituents.

Working with the Legislature

Constituents can help **develop** state laws. For example, if communities want more playgrounds, citizens may testify at a committee hearing to increase funding for parks. Other ways citizens can participate in the legislative process is to send letters or make phone calls.

The meetings and hearings of state legislatures are open to all citizens. Many state legislatures also broadcast meetings and hearings on television or over the Internet. Citizens can follow legislative activities through newspapers, televisions, and magazines.

Bypassing the Legislature

Some state constitutions allow the people to make laws themselves. Citizens are able to initiate, or start, new legislation through a process called the **initiative**. To begin an initiative, citizens write a petition describing the law they are proposing. This is called a proposition. A required number of voters—the number varies from state to state—must then sign the petition. If enough signatures are collected, then the proposition appears on the ballot at the next general election. If enough people vote for the bill, it becomes law.

Initiatives are often used to address major public policy issues that citizens think that the state government, especially the legislature, has overlooked or not adequately addressed.

In many states the voters must approve certain bills passed by the legislature before the bills can become laws. This method of referring potential laws directly to the people for approval is called a **referendum**.

Some states also allow voters to remove elected officials from office. This process, known as a **recall**, begins when a required number of voters signs a petition. A special election on the petition is then held. If a majority of voters favors the recall, the official is removed.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are three ways that citizens are able to have a direct role in making laws?

ACADEMIC Vocabulary develop: create

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ONLINE QUIZ

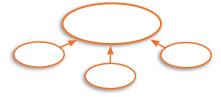
SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- **1. a. Define** Write a brief definition for the terms bicameral and unicameral.
 - **b. Predict** How might unequal representation harm certain citizens or areas of a state?
- 2. Analyze What role do committees play in passing laws?
- **3. a. Define** Write a brief definition for the terms constituents, initiative, referendum, and recall.
 - b. Make Inferences Why are initiative, referendum, and recall important tools for citizens?

Critical Thinking

4. Summarizing Copy the graphic organizer. Use it and your notes to show the ways in which citizens can participate in state lawmaking.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. Supporting a Point of View Write a letter to a legislator encouraging him or her to pass legislation that would help you in your daily life.



Writing to Your Legislator



Learn

Let your legislator know what you are thinking—write him or her a letter. You can find the names of your legislators in the newspaper or by going online to official federal, state, county, or city Web sites. There are some basic rules to follow to make yours the kind of letter that receives an answer.

Practice

- 1 Use the correct opening and closing. In the salutation, or greeting, use the person's correct title. For members of the U.S. House of Representatives, "Dear Representative (last name)," "Dear Congresswoman (last name)," or "Dear Congressman (last name)" are all acceptable. For members of the Senate, "Dear Senator (last name)" is the usual style. Titles of state officials vary. End your letter with the proper closing, such as "Respectfully yours" or "Sincerely yours." Then add your signature.
- 2 Use your writing skills. Keep the body, or main part, of the letter as brief as possible. Clearly state your position or request in the first paragraph. Point out the relevant facts that will help your legislator understand your concerns.
- **3 Be polite.** Be sure to use respectful language in your letter—even if you disagree with your legislator's stand.
- 4 Make sure that your return address is on the letter. This will allow your legislator to respond to you.

Apply

Use the letter below to help you answer the following questions.

- 1 To whom is the letter addressed? What closing does the writer use?
- 2 What issue is Aaron Campbell concerned about in his letter?
- **3** Why might a letter be more convincing than a telephone call?
- 4 Select a state or local issue that is important to you. Write a letter to one of your state legislators expressing your opinion, suggesting a solution, and asking for his or her support.

415 Sleepy Hollow Roanoke, VA 24022 February 12, 2004

The Honorable Jane Doe The State House Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Representative Doe:

As you know, there is currently a bill before the legislature that would create 3,000 summer jobs for teenagers in our state. I strongly urge you to support this bill. Passage of Bill HR 1099 will give many teenagers the chance to earn money for school. It will also provide them with experience for future jobs. Finally, the state stands to benefit from all the work these teenagers will be doing in our parks, hospitals, and civic centers. I would appreciate knowing your position on this important issue.

Sincerely yours.

Owen Campbell

Aaron Campbell



The State Executive Branch

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

A state's executive branch carries out laws made by the state's legislative branch. Governors are the chief executives of state government.

Reading Focus

- 1. Who is the state's chief executive, and what are his or her powers and duties?
- 2. Who are the other officials of state executive branches?

Kev Terms

governor, p. 213 patronage, p. 215 lieutenant governor, p. 215

hmhsocialstudies.com TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the state executive branch.



Republican Rick Scott was elected governor of Florida in 2010.



What does the governor do? Once the legislature writes laws, the governor and his or her executive team put those laws into action. In this

way, governors may affect your day-to-day affairs. Governors can also propose legislation or veto bills, just like the president.

The State's Chief Executive

The citizens of each state elect a governor to run the day-to-day affairs of their state. The **governor** is the chief executive in each state. The governor works for the people of his or her state. Governors lead the state government, set priorities, make government appointments, and implement laws to meet the needs of their states.

Qualifications and Terms of Governors

In each state, a constitution lists the qualifications for governor. In general, a candidate for governor must be a U.S. citizen and must have lived in the state for a certain number of years. Most states require a candidate for governor to be at least 30 years old. However, a few states, such as California and Ohio, allow persons as young as 18 years of age to run for governor.



FOCUS ON Ruth Ann Minner

In 2001 Ruth Ann Minner became Delaware's first female governor. Born and raised on a small farm, she left school at age

16 to help on her family's farm. Minner's husband died when she was 32. She had three sons to raise, but she returned to school, worked two jobs, and earned her G.E.D. After her second husband died, Minner began in politics by stuffing envelopes. She worked as an aide in the state legislature and as receptionist in the governor's office. She was elected to four terms in the state House of Representatives beginning in 1974, to three terms in the state Senate beginning in 1982, and to two terms as lieutenant governor in 1992 and 1996. Minner has also been honored in Delaware as Mother of the Year and Woman of the Year.

Draw Inferences Why might issues such as adult education and child welfare have been important to Governor Minner?

Most governors serve four-year terms. In some states, such as New Hampshire and Vermont, they serve for two years. About half of the states limit their governors to one or two terms in office.

The salaries of governors vary greatly from state to state. For example, the governor of New York receives \$179,000 a year, and the governor of Nebraska receives \$105,000 per year. To save their states money, the current governors of California and Tennessee—both wealthy men—donate their full salaries back to the state treasuries. The governor of New Jersey accepts only \$1 annually. In addition, governors usually receive an allowance for expenses, such as travel. In most states governors and their families live in an official residence in the state capital.

Powers and Duties of Governors

A state governor is the highest-ranking official at the state level. He or she is responsible for "faithfully executing the laws" of the state. Like the president, a governor plays many

roles. The three main roles are chief executive, chief legislator, and political party leader.

Chief Executive In most state constitutions, the governor is designated as the chief executive of the state. As chief executive, a governor may share executive powers with other "executives," such as the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the secretary of state, who are also elected officials. State governors usually have a number of executive powers.

- Power of the Budget One of the duties the governor in most states has is preparing a budget for one or two years. The governor submits this budget to the legislature. It sets priorities and offers solutions to state problems. Citizens of a state look to this budget as an indication of leadership.
- Power to Make Appointments A number of state agencies help the governor carry out the laws. Most states have executive departments that include agriculture, justice, labor, public safety (which includes the state police), public works, and transportation. Each state agency has a specific area of responsibility. For example, the state board of health enforces health laws and recommends measures to improve the health of state citizens. The department of human services supervises programs that help people who are disabled, poor, or unemployed. Other state agencies administer state laws on conservation and public utilities.

Although voters elect some of the heads of these agencies in some states, the governor usually has the power to appoint these state officials. Appointments typically require confirmation by the state Senate. An official who has been appointed by the governor can usually be removed or replaced by the governor.

• Power to Supervise State Employees In most states, many important state agencies are under the governor's control. By directing the operation of these agencies, the governor can have a major impact on state

policies and state action. Overall, the 50 state governments employ about 4.5 million people.

Most state government jobs are open to any qualified citizen who passes a state examination. However, some state jobs are filled through **patronage**. That is, the jobs are given to people recommended by political party leaders. Such jobs often go to people who provided valuable help during the election campaign.

Chief Legislator Only the state legislature can pass laws, but the governor plays an important part in proposing new laws. The governor usually appears before the state legislature at one of its early meetings. In some states this takes the form of a state of the state address to the legislature. At this meeting, the governor outlines laws he or she thinks should be passed. The governor may also submit legislation that he or she wants passed. He or she frequently talks to leaders of the legislature, urging them to pass specific bills and oppose others. State legislators know that if they pass a bill the governor opposes, the governor also has the power to veto legislation.

Political Party Leader The governor is the head of his or her political party in the state. State senators and representatives within the governor's party often model their opinions and policies after the governor's. The governor can help them during their campaigns for re–election.

Other Powers A governor has many other powers. Directors of many state agencies are appointed by the governor. The heads of the state police force and state militia report to the governor. In times of emergency, such as during floods or hurricanes, the governor may call out the National Guard to help keep order and assist with relief efforts. The governor also has the judicial power to pardon certain prisoners.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are three main roles of governors, and what responsibilities does each role entail?

Other State Executive Officials

Each state also has a number of other executive branch officials to help run the state government and enforce state laws. In most states voters elect these officials. In some states, however, the governor appoints these officials who are then a part of the governor's cabinet.

Lieutenant Governor

Most states have a **lieutenant governor**. The lieutenant governor becomes head of the state executive branch if the governor dies, resigns, or is removed from office. The lieutenant governor often serves as the presiding officer of the state senate. In some states it is possible for the lieutenant governor and the governor to belong to different political parties.



Secretary of State

The secretary of state keeps state records and carries out election laws. In states without a lieutenant governor, the secretary of state may take over as governor if the governor's office becomes vacant.

Attorney General

The attorney general is in charge of the state's legal business, or matters concerning the law. He or she provides state officials with advice about the meaning of laws. The attorney general or an assistant represents the state in court when the state is involved in a lawsuit. The attorney general may also assist local officials in the prosecution of criminals.

State Treasurer

In some states the state treasurer is in charge of handling all state funds. Sometimes this official supervises the collection of taxes and pays the state's bills as well.

State Auditor

The state auditor ensures that no public funds from the state treasury are used without authorization. The auditor also regularly examines the state's financial records to make sure that they are correct. The auditor is sometimes called the comptroller.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

The superintendent of public instruction carries out the policies of the state board of education. The state board makes regulations, under state law, that govern local school districts. The superintendent distributes state funds to local school systems according to state and federal laws. In some states this official is called the superintendent of public schools or the state commissioner of education.

READING CHECK Supporting a Point of

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ONLINE OUIZ

View Which official do you think has the most important responsibilities, and why?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- **1. a. Define** Write a brief definition for the terms governor and patronage.
 - **b. Summarize** What are the primary powers and duties of most governors?
 - **c. Draw Conclusions** How does the governor's legislative power influence the types of bills legislators introduce?
 - d. Make Predictions What might happen if the governor and legislature do not agree on legislative priorities?
- 2. a. Define Write a brief definition for the term lieutenant governor.
 - **b. Identify** What state executive officials deal with state finances?
 - c. Compare and Contrast How are the duties and responsibilities of the lieutenant governor similar to those of the vice president of the United States? How are they different?

Critical Thinking

3. Categorizing Copy the graphic organizer. Use it and your notes to identify the role of each state official.

Position	Duties
Lieutenant Governor	
Secretary of State	
Attorney General	
State Treasurer	
State Auditor	
Superintendent of Public Instruction	

FOCUS ON WRITING

4. Problem Solving Imagine that you are part of the governor's executive team. You have been asked to put into action a bill that creates new after-school programs. Write out a plan for this program.

SECTION 4

SS.7.C.2.13; SS.7.C.3.11; SS.7.C.3.12; SS.7.C.3.14; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

State Courts

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

State court systems include lower courts, general trial courts, appeals courts, and state supreme courts.

Reading Focus

- 1 What kinds of cases do state courts handle?
- **2.** How is the state court system organized?
- **3.** How are state judges selected?

Key Terms

penal code, p. 217 Missouri Plan, p. 220



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the state court system.



The Florida Supreme Court building in Tallahassee



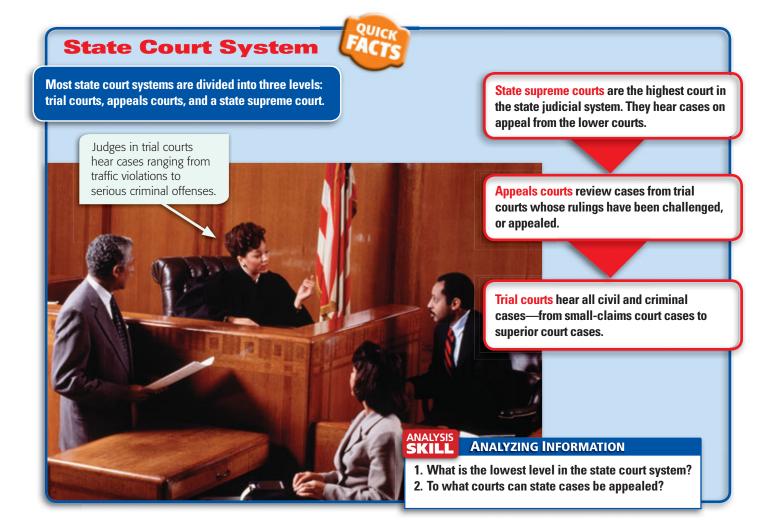
State legislatures write laws, and state executives put those laws into action. Then, state courts make sure everyone is following

the rules. For example, a speeding ticket is usually handled in a low-level state court, such as a traffic court. Other cases are heard at different levels, all the way to the state supreme court.

State Court Cases

As a citizen, you are subject to two levels of law and two sets of judicial systems. Federal courts address violations of the United States Constitution and federal laws. State courts address violations of state constitutions and state laws. Each state is free to create its own court system to meet the state's needs. Each state is also free to determine the way in which judges for its courts are selected. But whatever the court system and however the judges are selected, the role of the state courts is the same: apply and enforce the criminal and civil laws of the state.

Each state creates its own penal code. A **penal code** is a set of criminal laws. State attorneys prosecute individuals who violate the penal code by committing a crime. These are called criminal cases. State judges hear these cases. If the criminal court finds



SS.7.C.3.11
Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of courts at the state and federal levels.

a person guilty of a crime, it has the authority to punish that person.

State courts also hear civil law cases. Civil cases are disputes between individuals or businesses over property or money. They may also involve disputes between a business and the government, or between an individual and the government.

READING CHECK Contrasting How do criminal cases and civil cases differ?

State Court System

Like the federal judicial branch, state court systems are structured in levels. In state court systems, state judges perform most of the same duties that federal judges perform. Three types of courts are found in most states—general trial courts, appeals courts, and a state supreme court.

Trial Courts

Lower courts generally hear minor cases. These include misdemeanor criminal cases and civil cases involving small amounts of money. Judges conduct hearings in these courts without a jury.

In many cities and towns, a justice of the peace can hand down fines or short jail sentences. These lower courts may also be called magistrate's courts or police courts. Their judges are usually elected. Many large cities have municipal courts, which may be divided into courts that handle specific types of cases. For example, traffic courts hear cases involving traffic violations. Family courts hear cases involving family disputes.

Most states have small-claims courts, which usually handle cases involving less than \$5,000. No lawyers are needed. Each person in

Religious Displays on Public Property

In some circumstances, the U.S. government may recognize the role religion plays in the country. But it can be difficult to determine when the government's acknowledgement of religion is constitutional.

Two Supreme Court opinions issued on the same day in 2005 illustrate how complicated this issue is. In Van Orden v. Perry, the Court allowed Texas to keep a six-foot monument of the Ten Commandments on the grounds of the state capitol. Because the monument was one among 38 other markers commemorating Texas history, the Court concluded that the

display was primarily historical and did not endorse religion.

However, in McCreary County v. American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, the Court found that displays of the Ten Commandments in two county courthouses in Kentucky were unconstitutional. These displays, the Court stated, specifically highlighted the religious foundation of American law and thus did endorse religion.

Why was a display of the Ten Commandments constitutional in one case and unconstitutional in the other? Explain in your own words.



the dispute explains his or her side of the argument, and the judge makes a decision. Major criminal and civil cases are handled in general trial courts. A jury hears most cases, and a judge presides. Some trial courts hear only civil cases. Others hear only criminal cases. In many states, voters elect these general trial court judges. Other names for trial courts in some states are superior courts and courts of common pleas.

Appeals Courts

Sometimes a person believes his or her case was not handled fairly in a trial court. That person may appeal the decision to an appeals court or an intermediate court of appeals. An appeal is a request for another court to consider the case. The usual basis for an appeal is that the person's guaranteed right to a fair trial was violated during the trial.

Appeals courts do not use juries. Instead, appeals court judges examine the trial record of the lower court. They hear arguments from the lawyers on both sides. If the person is still not satisfied with the appeals court's decision, he or she can appeal again to the state supreme court.

State Supreme Court

The state supreme court is the highest court in most states. The judges who sit on the state supreme court hear cases on appeal in much the same way as the U.S. Supreme Court. Decisions on state law by the state supreme court are final.

READING CHECK Finding the Main Idea What roles do judges play in the different levels of state courts?

Selection of State Judges

In most states, citizens elect state supreme court judges. But in some states, the governor appoints supreme court judges. State law determines how judges are selected in each state and the length of each type of judge's term.



in a small-claims court? Have you ever seen judges deciding real cases on television? Then you are already familiar with small claims courts. They decide cases such as unpaid personal debt, past-due rent, and reimbursement for goods and services. The maximum amount of money that can be involved in a small claims dispute is usually \$5,000.

SKILL ANALYZING ECONOMICS

Why are small claims courts an important part of the judicial system?

Election of Judges

People who support electing judges argue that elections make judges responsible to the people who will be affected by their decisions. Supporters of elected judges also argue that when the governor appoints judges, he or she is free to appoint political supporters or friends.

Others oppose the election of judges.

They argue that judges should make decisions based on the facts and on the law that applies, not on what might please voters. Supporters of appointed judges believe that judges should be selected based on their abilities.

The Missouri Plan

Some states have adopted a method of selecting judges called the **Missouri Plan**. Under this plan, a committee of judges, lawyers, and ordinary citizens prepares a list of qualified judges. The governor appoints a judge from this list. The judge must then face the voters in the next election.

Terms of Service

State court judicial terms are set by state law. In most states, judges face the voters at the end of their term. Voters may elect the judge to a new term. Or they may vote to replace the judge. Most states have methods for removing judges, usually by impeachment or recall.

READING CHECK Making Inferences Why might the Missouri Plan combine the best qualities of the election and appointment methods?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT



Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- **1. a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term penal code.
 - b. Draw Conclusions Civil court cases often involve disputes over contracts and other types of business agreements. Why do you think it is important to read through contracts carefully before signing?
- **2. a. Recall** What are the four levels of state court systems?
 - **b. Elaborate** Why do most states have low-level courts such as small-claims courts and traffic courts?
 - c. Compare and Contrast What are the differences between general trial courts and appeals courts?
- **3. a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term Missouri Plan.

b. Elaborate Do you think that electing judges is the best way to select state court judges? Why or why not?

Critical Thinking

4. Sequencing Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to identify the steps a civil case might go through in a state court system. Explain what happens at each stage.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. Supporting a Point of View In one or two paragraphs, explain why it is important for a state judicial system to have different levels and different kinds of courts.

Fighting Drug Dealers

n the Miami suburb of Hialeah, Florida, Jackie Viana's Project Citizen students watched as Governor Jeb Bush signed an important anti-drug bill. State Senate Bill 1588 outlawed the sale, manufacturing, or delivery of drugs within 1,000 feet of public parks, community centers, or recreational facilities. Dealing drugs was already illegal. However, this law allowed for harsher punishments if a dealer was caught in these "drug-free" zones. This law would never have been introduced without the efforts of Ms. Viana's students.

Community Connection Students from Viana's class were concerned about drug use by young people their age. They saw drug

dealing in public parks as an especially major problem. The students surveyed parents and students. They wanted to get ideas and feedback on the problem and how the community could address it.

Taking Action The students put together a bill to combat drug dealing in public parks (and other public places popular with students). The bill made the punishment for selling drugs there very harsh. Then they presented their bill to the state legislature. Their task was not easy. The students spent two years lobbying to increase support from local and state officials. At one point they even arranged a meeting with the governor to get his help. They also contacted the media

to spread the word about the bill. Finally, their efforts paid off. Some time after completing their Civics course, students saw the state legislature approve their bill and the governor sign it into law.



Students in a Project Citizen class in Hialeah, Florida, pose with Jeb Bush, who was governor of Florida at the time.

SERVICE LEARNING

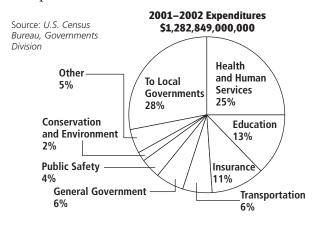
- 1. How did Viana's students rally support for their bill?
- 2. What problems in your community could be addressed by changing a state law?

hmhsocialstudies.com ACTIVITY

CHAPTER 8 REVIEW

FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The graph below compares the 2001–2002 expenditures for all the states combined.



According to the circle graph, which three categories together accounted for almost half of the states' expenditures?

- A. Conservation and Environment, Public Safety, and Education
- **B.** Health and Human Services, Public Safety, and General Government
- C. Local Governments, Education, and Health and Human Services
- **D.** Health and Human Services, Education, and Insurance
- **2.** Which of the following are concurrent powers, or powers shared by both state and federal governments?
 - A. declaring war
 - B. collecting taxes
 - C. establishing local governments
 - D. issuing driver's licenses

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its significance to state government.

- 1. delegated powers
- 2. reserved powers
- **3.** concurrent powers
- 4. full faith and credit clause
- **5.** extradition
- 6. bicameral
- 7. unicameral
- 8. constituents
- 9. initiative
- 10. referendum
- 11. recall
- 12. governor
- **13.** patronage
- **14.** lieutenant governor
- 15. penal code
- 16. Missouri Plan

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (*Pages 202–206*)

- **17. a. Recall** What is the term for the powers granted to state governments, and what are two examples of some of those powers?
 - **b. Analyze** Why is it necessary for states to work with other states? Give examples to support your answer.
 - **c. Elaborate** What kinds of projects or programs are most likely to involve states working with the federal government? Give examples to support your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 207–211)

- **18. a. Describe** How can citizens take direct action in legislation and state government?
 - **b. Evaluate** Some states do not have provisions for citizen initiatives and recall. What arguments can you think of for not having initiative and recall?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question: What are various ways that students can bring issues to the attention of their state legislators?



SECTION 3 (*Pages 213–216*)

- **19. a. Identify** Who heads the state executive branch, and what are three roles he or she plays?
 - **b.** Analyze In what ways is the power of the state chief executive limited?

SECTION 4 (*Pages 217–220*)

- **20. a. Describe** What types of courts exist in most states, and what does each do?
 - **b. Evaluate** Which method of selecting state court judges do you favor? Explain your reasoning.

Using the Internet



21. Meeting Your Executive Officials A state's legislative branch makes the laws for that state. Then the state executive branch carries out these laws. Through your online textbook, learn about the principal executive officials in your state. Then make a list of the officials in your state that contains their names, principal duties and responsibilities, salaries, and whether the officials were elected by the citizens or appointed by the governor.



Reading Skills

- **22. Using Primary Sources** You have just been given a Civics assignment to compare and contrast the state legislatures in New Hampshire (called the General Court) and Nebraska (called the Unicameral). Which of these sources would you consult as a primary source? Choose as many as you think are applicable.
 - a. Your Civics textbook
 - **b.** The home page of the New Hampshire General Court on the Internet
 - c. An Internet Web site called "State and Local Government on the Net" that links you to specific state legislature home pages
 - **d.** A newspaper article written by a New Hampshire state legislator describing his experiences in the New Hampshire General Court
 - **e.** An interview with a Nebraska state legislator

Civics Skills



Writing to Your Legislator *Study the letter to a state* legislator below. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Honorable Jane Doe The State House Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Representative Doe:

As you know, there is currently a bill before the legislature that would create 3,000 summer jobs for teenagers in our state. I strongly urge you to support this bill. Passage of Bill HR 1099 will give many teenagers the chance to earn money for school. It will also provide them with experience for future jobs. Finally, the state stands to benefit from all the work these teenagers will be doing in our parks, hospitals, and civic centers. I would appreciate knowing your position on this important issue.

Sincerely yours Carpbell

Aaron Campbell

- **23.** What is the author's stand regarding the proposed bill? What support does he provide?
- **24.** What points might you address in a letter to the same state legislature if you opposed this bill?
- **25.** Select an education issue that is important to you. Write a letter to one of your legislators explaining why you think the issue is important. Ask for the legislator's opinion on the issue. Remember to offer a solution to the issue and ask for his or her help in passing legislation that would solve the problem.

FOCUS ON WRITING

26.Writing Your Biographical Sketch Look over your notes about state government. Think about the three branches of state government. Do some research about an important governor, legislator, judge, or other state official in your state. Choose one of those people and write a brief biography about that person.