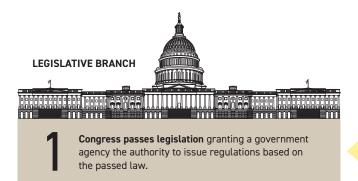


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The U.S. rulemaking process, explained

Regulations are rules issued by the executive branch to implement the laws passed in the legislative branch that mandate action from federal agencies.

Regulations can be challenged and changed, either through judicial action or by Congress disapproving a rule — in which case it must successfully override a presidential veto — or passing legislation that changes the law.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



PUBLIC HEARINGS

may be conducted and stakeholders may be consulted.

JUDICIAL Branch



A COURT MAY CHALLENGE THE RULE

and nullify all or part of the proposed regulation.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



A federal agency then proposes a rule designed to carry out the intent of the law. If a rule is subject to public comment, the agency responds by either withdrawing, modifying or maintaining the rule.

The Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs reviews the agency's proposed rule and later the final rule.

The proposed rule is posted in the Federal Register, opening it to public comment for about 60 days.

The final rule is also posted before being sent to the Government Publishing Office.

The Federal agency that originated the proposed rule reviews public comments posted in the Federal Register and incorporates changes into a final rule.

The Government Publishing Office prints the code and publishes it online. After the Federal Register posts the final rule, it becomes effective in no less than 30 days — except in cases of exemption, relief of restriction or if the rule addresses an emergency.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

and consultation can be provided.

PUBLIC MEETINGS may be requested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

and opinions are submitted online, by mail, email or fax and may be added to the final version of the proposed rule.

THE RULE MAY BE CHALLENGED IN COURT,

which could nullify all or part of it.

CONGRESS MAY OVERTURN THE RULE

by passing a measure blocking implementation.

Sources: Federal Register, congress.gov, reginfo.gov, ecfr.gov

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