

Legislature

- “Law-making” branch?
- 3 Functions of Legislatures
 - Policy making
 - Making statutes
 - Establishment & amendment of constitutions
 - Financial Functions
 - “Power of the purse”
 - Taxes & appropriations
 - Representation
 - Representatives of the people
 - Who is being represented?
 - Oversight
 - Investigate
 - Hearings by committees

- Oversight

- MA legislature
 - General Court

 - Since Mass Bay Colony
 - 1st Gen Court

 - System of representation

 - Split into two branches

 - Revocation of charter by Charles II
 - James II created Dominion of New England

 - William III & Mary II granted Province Charter

 - Gen Court dissolved by Gov. Gage

 - Provincial Congress
 - Replaced w/ Gen Court under Const of Commonwealth

 - Legislative Organization

- Senate

- House of Representatives

- Convenes on 1st Wed in Jan.
 - Term

 - Sessions

 - Quorum

 - Special sessions

- Presiding officers
 - Leaders = Sen Pres & Speaker

 - Leadership in Sen = Sen Pres

 - President Pro Tempore

 - Majority Leader

 - Minority Leader

 - Leadership in House = Speaker

 - Speaker Pro Tempore

- Majority Leader
 - Minority Leader
- Determine rules
 - Each branch:
- Committee System
 - 4 types
 - Standing Committees
 - Bills in the 3rd Reading
 - Ethics
 - Rules
 - Ways & Means
 - Joint Standing Committees
 - Public hearings = held by Joint-Standing
 - Conference Committees
 - Special Committees

— Other elements of Gen Court

- Bipartisan composition
- Compensation

— Legislative Process

- Begins w/ petition
- “Any citizen”
- Must be endorsed by member
- May be recommended
- Petitions may originate in either branch except revenue
- Process officially begins:
 - Support staff
 - Clerks
 - Legislative Aides
 - Legislative Service Bureau

— Sergeant-at-Arms

— Legislative Data Processing

— Legislative Post Audit Bureau