

Lawmaking  
**CHAPTER 2**

# Lawmaking

- ◎ Legislatures make laws in the United States.
  - However, the executive and judicial branches of government also have a role in lawmaking.
  - Sometimes, government agencies, appellate courts, and even voters themselves can act as lawmakers.

# Legislatures

- ⦿ Federal and state legislatures and local lawmaking bodies all have the power to pass laws.
- ⦿ Federal law prevails when statutes conflict.
- ⦿ Lawmaking bodies respond to the needs of citizens by introducing legislation in the form of bills.
  - When bills are approved and passed by legislatures they become laws.
  - If disputes arise regarding the meaning of laws, they may be resolved in court.

# Legislatures

- Supremacy Clause – “the Constitution and the Laws of the United States...shall be the supreme law of the land.”
- ***McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)***