

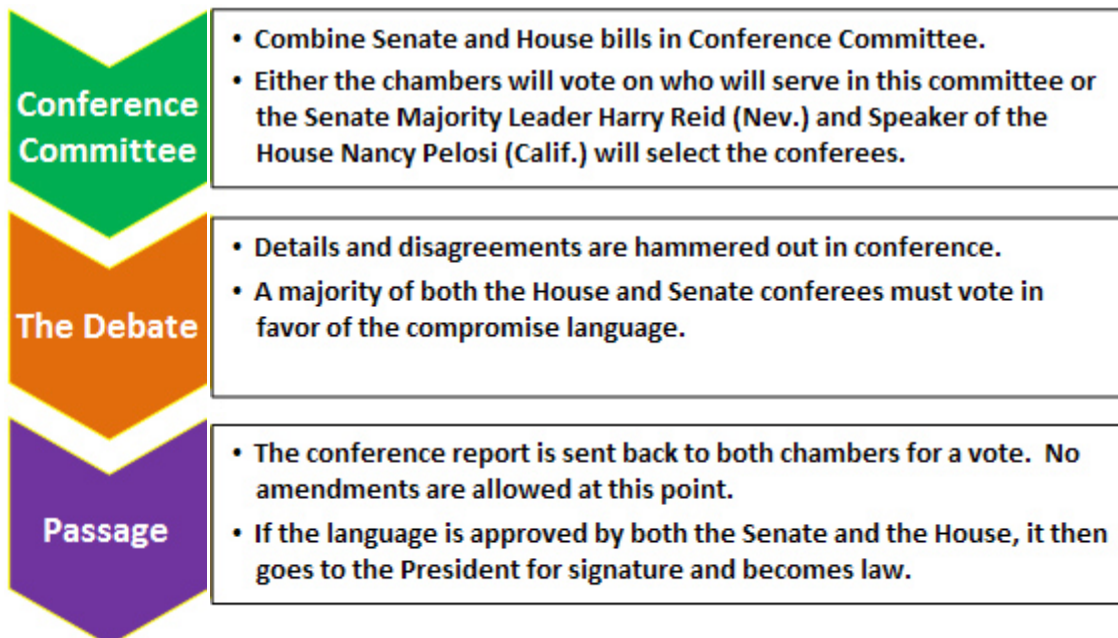
ADA Policy Initiatives and Advocacy Report

Passing health care reform: Getting legislation from Point A to Point Z

On December 24, the Senate passed its health reform legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The House of Representatives had passed its version of health reform November 7. Now, both the Senate and the House have the daunting task of developing compromise language in conference committee, which can then be passed again in both chambers (see the graphic below) and be sent to President Obama for his signature.

Because Senate and House versions of health reform are significantly different, a conference committee made up of both Senators and Representatives is the only possible way to reach a true compromise. The biggest hurdle is that the Senate spent four months developing language that could attract the necessary 60 votes, and the House will have to yield on many of its broader provisions that require more federal funding and oversight, which were not favorably received in the Senate.

Below is a summary of how the next month or two might play out in Congress. The goal will be to have a bill on the President's desk before he gives his State of the Union address, which is usually in late January; however, the work that needs to be done might take much longer.



After the legislation is passed and signed into law, the rule-making process begins in the federal agencies. ADA will work throughout the entire process, representing RDs and DTRs, and needs the help of every member to be successful. To learn how you can make an impact, attend ADA's online [Public Policy Workshop](#) beginning March 22.

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