

Authorizations vs. appropriations

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The authorization and appropriations processes establish and fund federal programs

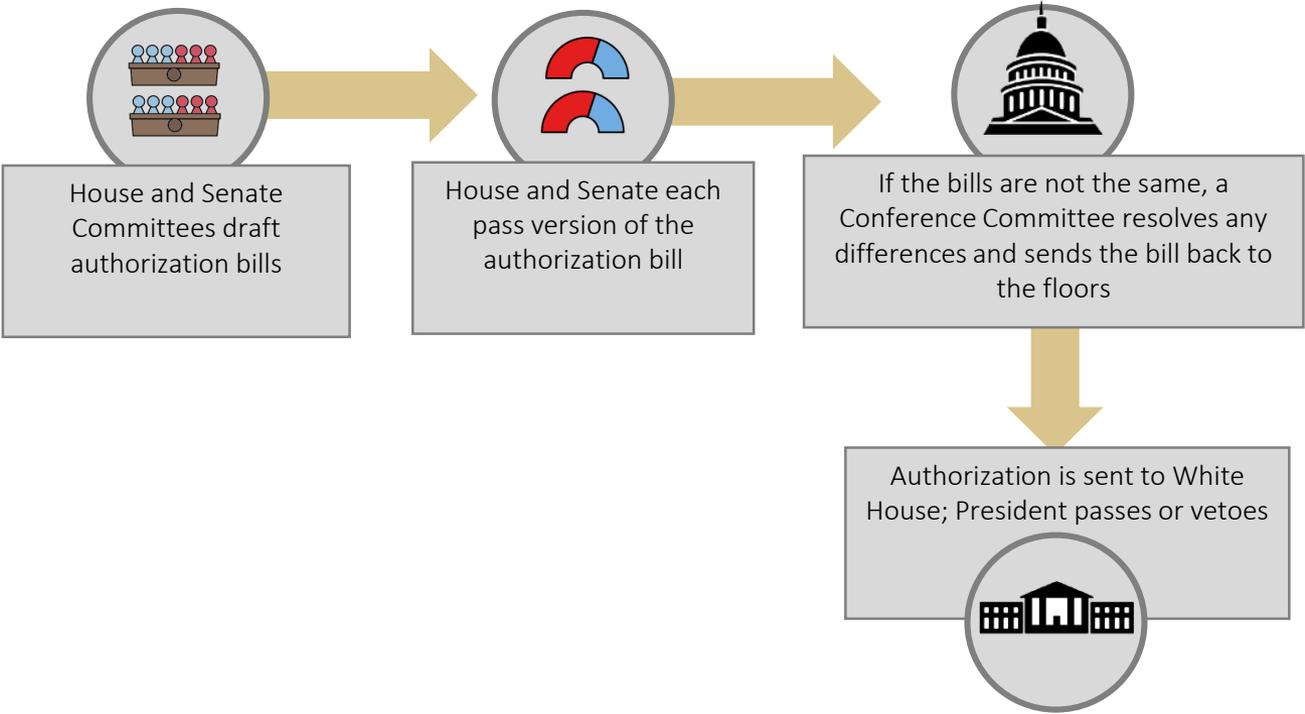
Authorization v. appropriations

	Authorization	Appropriation
What it does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes federal programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines how money will be spent on federal programs during the next fiscal year
Who does it How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressional committees with jurisdiction over specific subject areas write the legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 12 appropriations subcommittees in each house of Congress; they are divided among broad subject areas and each writes an annual appropriations measure
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorization legislation authorizes the expenditure of funds from the federal budget; it may specify how much money should be spent on a program, but it doesn't actually set aside the money or elaborate on where the money to pay for the budget will come from The committees are supposed to review programs before their expiration to determine how well they are working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After subcommittees in the House and Senate mark up appropriations bills in response to the President's budget, the House and Senate must pass the same version of an appropriation bill to give a program funding It is very possible for programs to be authorized but not funded

Source: David Baumann, "The Difference Between Authorization and Appropriation," About News, December 15, 2014.

In order for a program to be funded, it must first be authorized

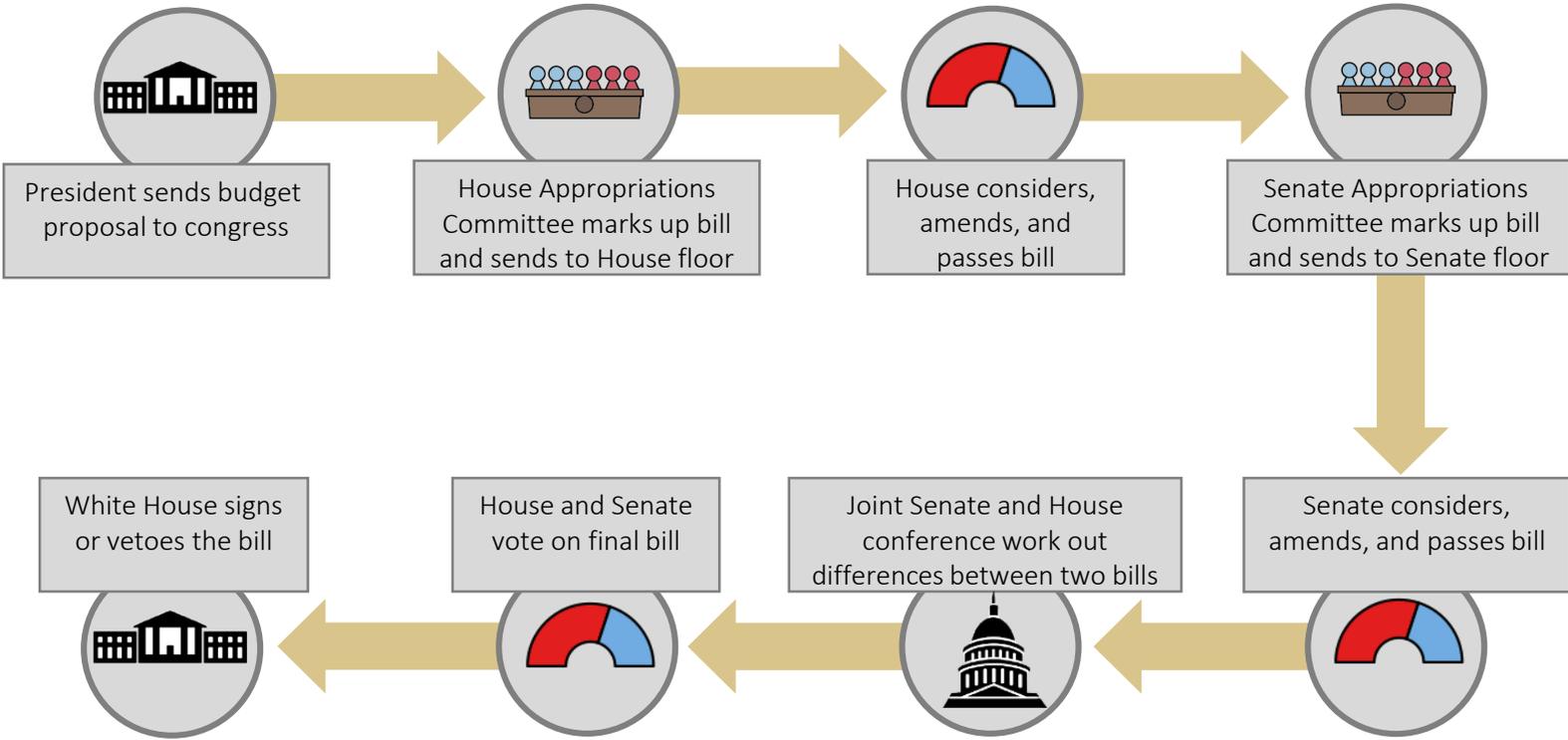
1. Authorization process



Source: National Journal research, 2016.

Once a program is authorized, it can be funded through an appropriations bill

2. Appropriations process



Source: National Journal research, 2016.