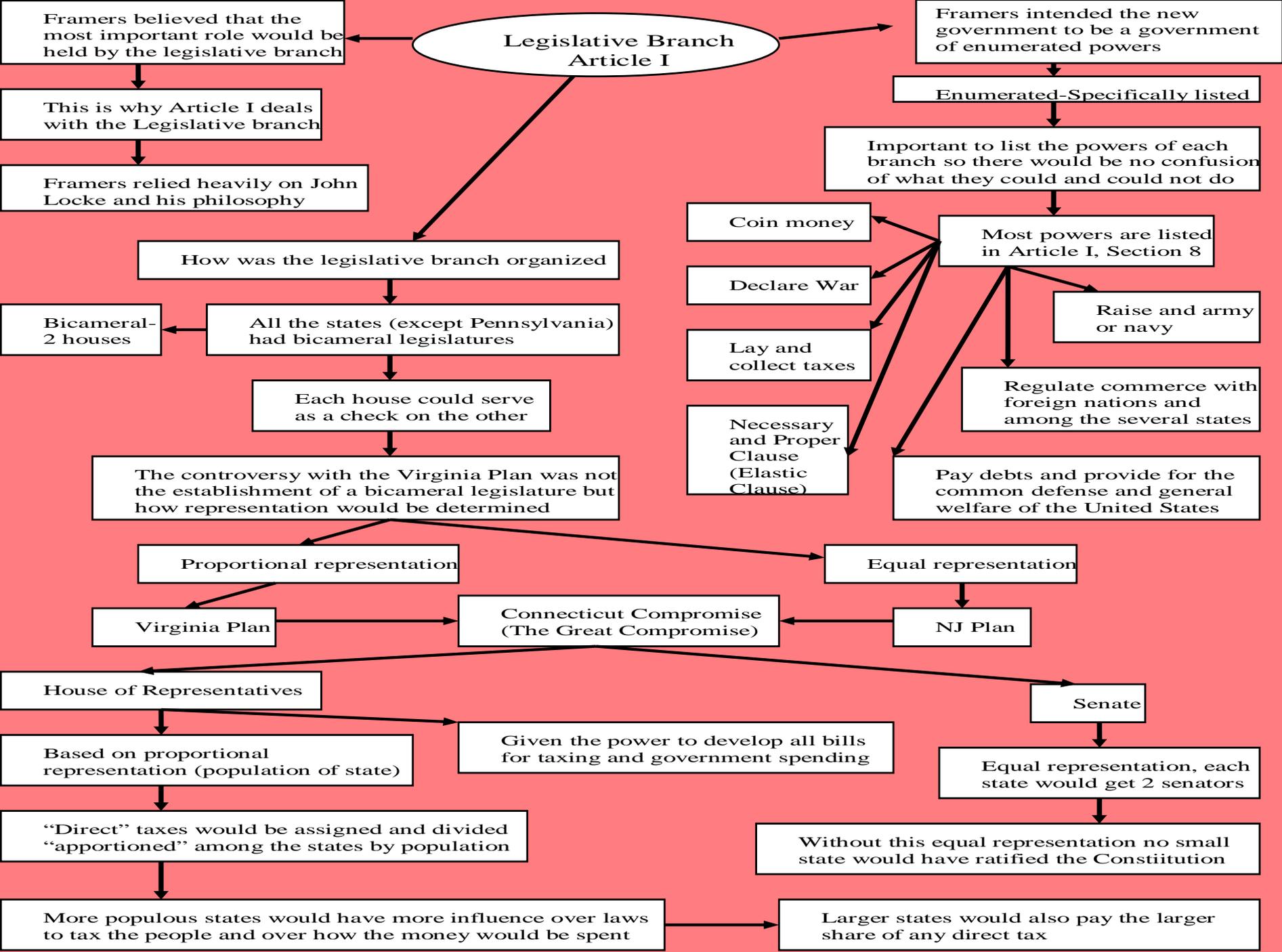


Legislative Branch

Standard 12.4.1: Discuss Article I of the Constitution as it relates to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office and lengths of terms of representatives and senators; election to office; the roles of the House and Senate in impeachment proceedings; the roll of the vice-president, the enumerated legislative powers; and the process by which a bill becomes a law

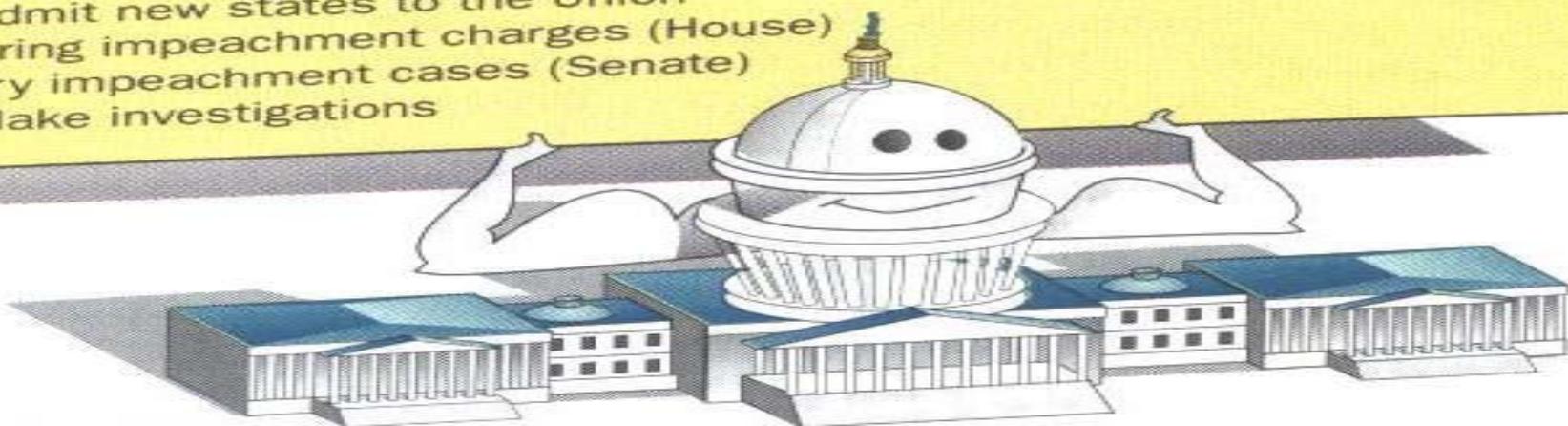


Congress has the power to:

- Collect taxes
- Borrow money
- Regulate trade with foreign nations and among the states
- Make laws about naturalization and bankruptcy
- Coin money and set a standard of weights and measures
- Punish counterfeiters
- Establish post offices and highways
- Issue patents and copyrights
- Create federal courts
- Protect American ships at sea
- Declare war
- Raise an army
- Provide a navy
- Make rules for the armed forces
- Call up the National Guard
- Make rules for the National Guard
- Make laws for the District of Columbia
- Make laws necessary and proper to carry out powers listed above

Congress has other, nonlegislative powers to:

- Elect a President (House) and a Vice-President (Senate) if no candidate gets a majority in the electoral college
- Confirm appointments and treaties made by the President (Senate)
- Propose amendments to the Constitution
- Call conventions to propose amendments
- Admit new states to the Union
- Bring impeachment charges (House)
- Try impeachment cases (Senate)
- Make investigations



House of Representatives

- Members must be at least 25 years of age, a citizen for 7 years, and a must reside in the state from where he is elected
- Term of office is 2 years
- Number of representatives per state are proportional to the census that happens every 10 years
 - The minimum is 1 representative
- Has the power to Impeach federal officials (President, judges)

Senate

- Members must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen for 9 years, and a must reside in the state from where he is elected
- Term of office is 6 years
 - 1/3 of the Senators are up for re-election every 2 years, so not all the senators are up for re-election at the same time.
- 2 Senators per state
- Vice President is the President of the Senate, he has no vote unless there is a tie.
- Has the power to try all impeachments (2/3 majority)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Except for money bills, a bill may be started in either house. It will then pass through each house before going to the President. The diagram shows the process

for a bill started in the House (red arrow) and a bill started in the Senate (blue arrow). In practice, a bill is often started in both houses at the same time.

