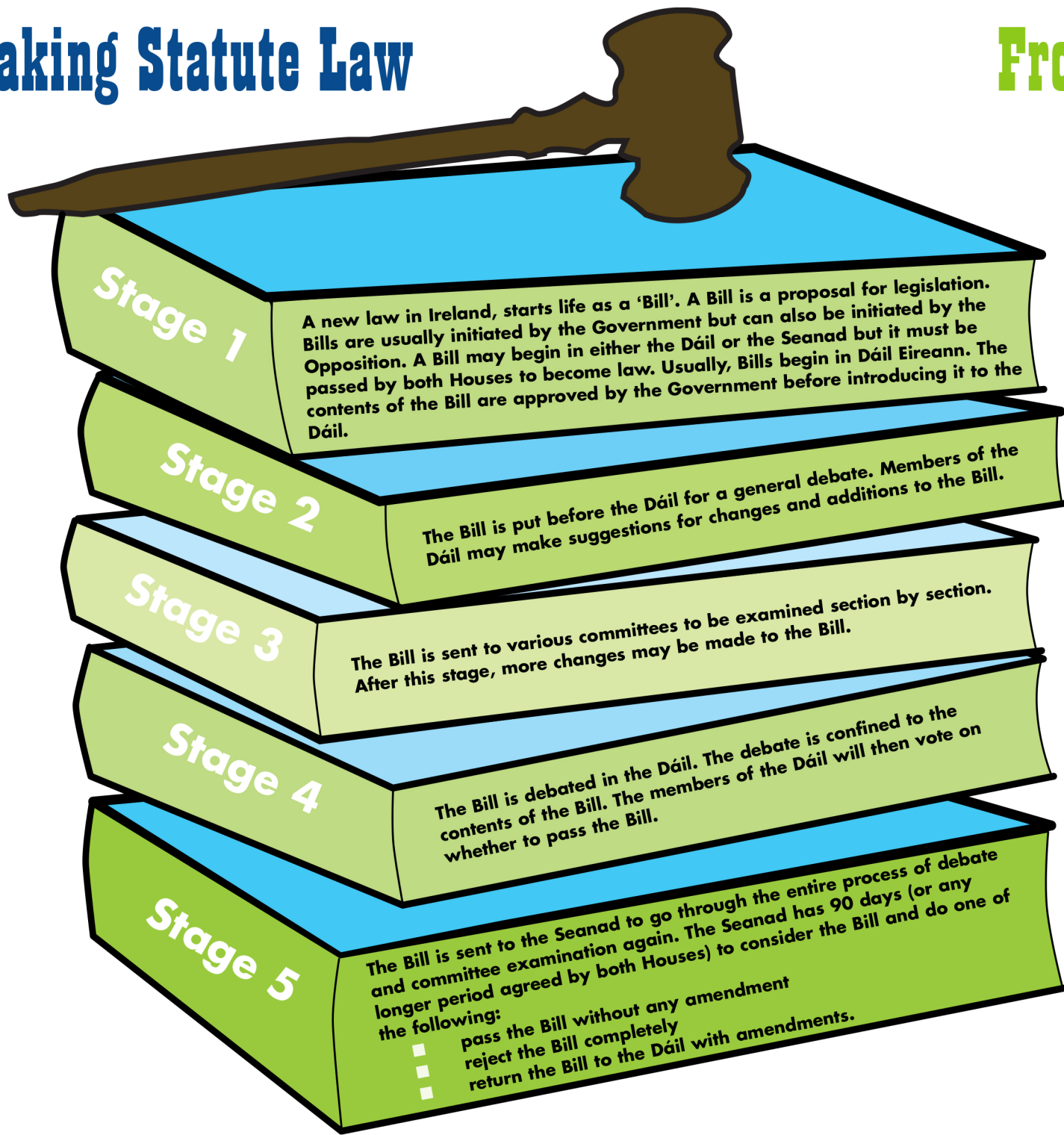


# Making Statute Law

# From a Bill to an Act



If the Seanad rejects the Bill or returns it to the Dáil with amendments that the Dáil does not accept, the Bill will lapse after 180 days. The Dáil may, within those 180 days, pass a resolution declaring that the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses. This provision means that the Seanad cannot generally stop the Dáil from introducing legislation - it can only cause delays.

Once the Bill has been passed by both Houses, the Taoiseach presents a copy of the Bill to the President for signature. Once the President has signed the Bill it becomes an 'Act' and has legal force.

When the President receives the Bill for signature, he or she has a very important power. If the President considers that the new Bill may conflict with the Constitution, he or she can refer the question of whether or not the Bill is constitutional to the Supreme Court, after consulting with the Council of State. The Supreme Court must then decide whether or not the Bill is constitutional before it can be made law.

**Apart from the European Union, the Oireachtas is the only institution with power to make laws for the State.**

