

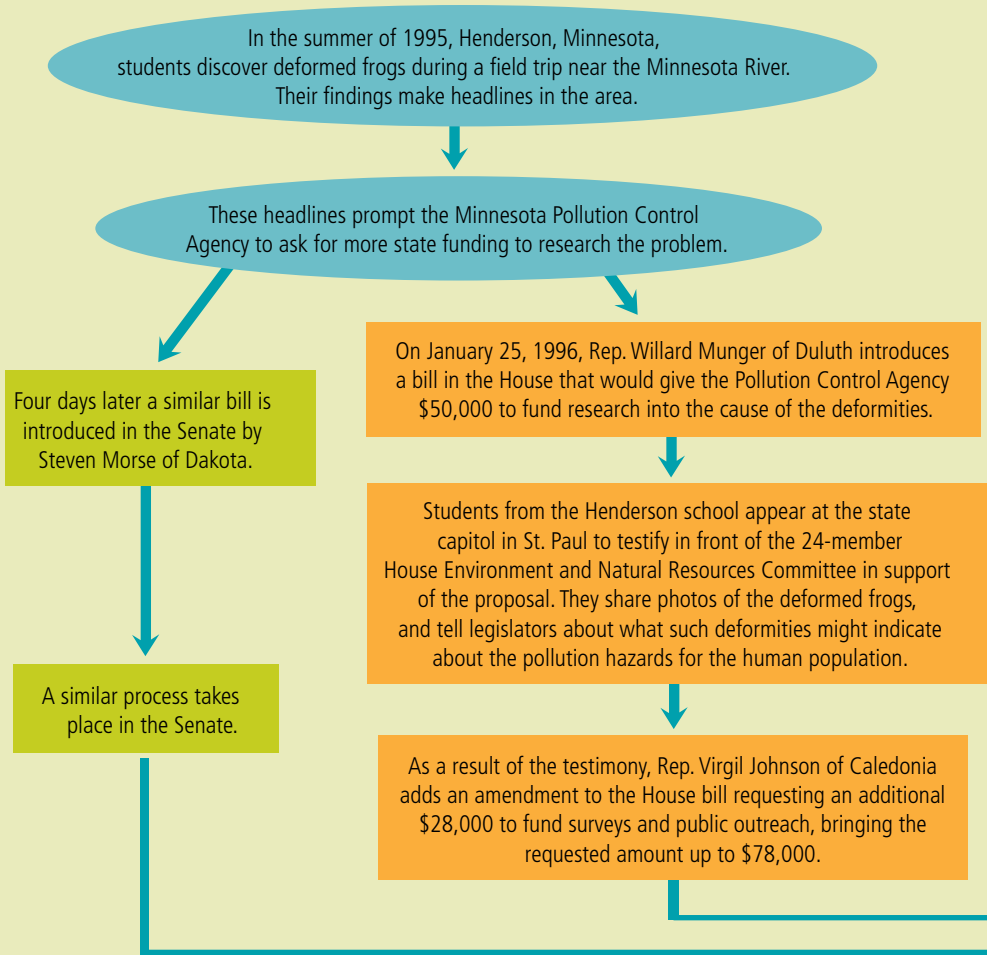
FIGURE 7-1

# HOW IT WORKS

## A One-Eyed Frog’s View of the Legislative Process, or How a Bill Really Became a Law in Minnesota

The mechanisms by which a bill becomes a law at the state level are similar to the mechanisms at work at the federal level. And we’ve all seen the flowcharts that outline the ins and outs: A bill goes in one side, gets debated, marked up, and reported out, and then comes out the other side as a real-life law to be implemented, or it gets returned to the legislature for an override, or it gets “killed.” You’d be forgiven for thinking that beneath that abstraction lies a more complex and interesting process.

You’d be right. Below is a different flowchart, this one fleshing out what actually happened when a group of Minnesota teens brought to light the fact that the frog population in their area was turning up with extra limbs and missing eyes. About eight months and \$151,000 later, the frogs were in much better shape.



Source: Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, “Capitol Steps: How Six Bills Became Law.”