Legislative branch

The Parliament is unicameral, consisting of only the Council of Representatives. The number of members is elected according to population, equaling one representative for every 100,000 Iraqis. Currently, there are 328 members elected to 4 year terms, with 8 of the seats reserved for women and minorities. In order for a bill to become law, it must first be introduced by the President, the Prime Minister, 10 members of Parliament, or by a special committee of the legislature, and only then may it be voted upon in the Council of Representatives. The Parliament, in addition to its legislative authority, also has the ability to serve as a check on the other branches. It has the power to monitor the performance of the Government by questioning the President, Prime Minister, and the Minister. The Parliament’s check on the Government is further augmented by their ability to remove its members. The Council of Representatives can pass a vote of no-confidence in any Minister and, on request of the President, in the Prime Minister, forcing them to resign their office. It may not only elect the President, but it may also remove him once he has been convicted by the highest federal court for perjury, violation of the constitution, or high treason. Other powers of Parliament include approving judicial, ambassador, and high government appointments, approving the appointment of Iraqi army officers as recommended by the Cabinet, and consenting to declarations of war and state emergency by a two-thirds majority on a joint request of the President and the Prime Minister.

In addition to the national government, there is also a Federation Council which includes representatives from the regions. The formation, organization, requirements for membership, and functions of the Federation Council are all regulated by the Council of Representatives. It is the task of the Federation Council to handle the regional affairs and responsibilities not assigned to the national government.