

The Role of Corruption in Legislation

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Abstract: *This paper critically examines the intricate relationship between corruption and the legislative process. It explores how corrupt actors manipulate law-making to serve private or vested interests and how weak legislative structures, lack of transparency, and inadequate oversight enable such manipulation. Corruption, in this context, is not merely a consequence of poor enforcement but is often embedded within the process of drafting, debating, and enacting laws. The study highlights the concept of “state capture,” where influential groups distort legislation to institutionalize their advantages, thereby undermining democratic governance and public trust. Furthermore, it identifies key loopholes in legislative design—such as ambiguous provisions, excessive discretion, and weak accountability mechanisms—that perpetuate corruption. The paper also emphasizes the necessity of corruption-proofing legislation through systematic review, transparency in parliamentary procedures, and the strengthening of institutional checks and balances. In conclusion, it proposes that effective legislative frameworks, robust ethical standards, and vigilant oversight are essential to ensuring that legislation functions as a tool for justice and equity rather than as a conduit for corruption.*

Keywords: corruption, legislation, law-making, oversight, state capture, anti-corruption legislation, legislative design

