of the state legislatures. (Art 60)

Only the President may present draft laws concerning the structure, functions, administration, staffing and rates of pay for government ministries or the Armed Forces. (Art 61)

Once a law has been passed by both chambers of congress, the President has 15 days to approve it. If he chooses to veto it, in whole or in part, congress must consider the law again within 30 days in a joint session of both chambers. A Presidential veto can be over-ridden by an absolute majority of the membership of the two chambers, through a secret vote. (Art 66)

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT POWERS:

The President must obtain congressional approval for:
- Declarations of war or peace and granting the right to foreign armed forces to pass through or remain in national territory;
- Declarations of a state of defence, of siege or of intervention;
- All international treaties or agreements;
- All nuclear activities;
- All awards of radio and television station licenses;
- All mining concessions on Indian lands;
- All transfers or concessions of public lands greater than 2500 hectares;
- All referendums or plebiscites;
- His absences from the country for more than 15 days; (Art 49)

The Senate must approve through a secret vote Presidential nominations for Supreme and Superior court judges, Ambassadors, the Attorney-General and the President and Directors of the Central Bank (Art 52);

The Senate, the Chamber of Deputies or any of their commissions may require the presence of any government minister to appear before them to answer questions on any predetermined topic (Art 50);

THE BUDGETARY PROCESS:

Through the legislative process described above, the National Congress has the power to legislate concerning:
- Taxation, collection and distribution of income;
- The government's annual budget, public debt credit operations and multi-year investment plans;
- National, regional and sectoral programs and plans;