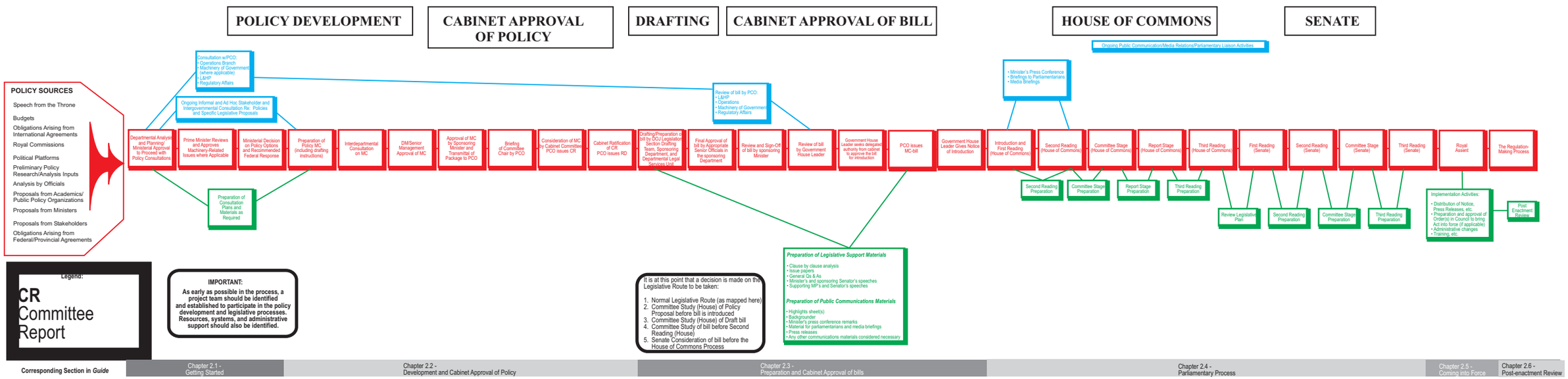THE FEDERAL LAW-MAKING PROCESS AND ASSOCIATED SUPPORT ACTIVITIES