
While cosponsorship is a relatively low cost form of legislative behavior, its impact on a bill is consequential. Adapting optimal transport theory for the American legislative context, we offer a model of the legislative process where cosponsors add their ideological and political pull to a bill as it makes its way through the chamber. The final form of a bill, as well as its position in ideological space, may be considered as a function of the ideological and political pull of all collaborators (i.e., the initial sponsor and all cosponsors). Being robust and internally consistent, our model shows cosponsorship is impactful on the legislative process despite the low cost to collaborators. (Received August 29, 2017)