



Legislative Advocacy

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Legislative Process

Basic legislative process

- Bill is introduced
- Bill referred to Committee or subcommittee
- Bill is sent to House or Senate
- Bill is passed and sent to President or Governor for action
 - Signed
 - Vetoed



Congress

- Committee staff usually draft the bills;
- Advocacy representatives or lobbyists work with committee
- Bill may be introduced any time
- Mark-up by committee
 - Chairman's Mark
- Action by House or Senate
- Conference Committee



Congress

- Sent to President for his action
- President may
 - Sign the bill into law
 - Veto the bill
- To override a veto by the President
 - Two-thirds of the members present must vote to override the veto in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate



TN General Assembly

- Bill often drafted by advocates
- All bills must be introduced by designated cutoff date in early February
- Budget amendments can be submitted until the March deadline
- Identical bills introduced in each chamber
- Committee action



TN General Assembly

- Committee action
 - Senate subcommittees – Appointed when needed to hear specific group of bills
 - House General subcommittees –
 - One subcommittee for each standing committee to hear complex, controversial or bills with large fiscal notes.



TN General Assembly

- Reconciling bill differences
- Governor
 - Sign
 - Veto
 - Pass without signature



Constitutional Majority

- Constitutional majority needed
 - Pass a bill
 - Override veto by Governor
 - 50 votes in the House
 - 17 votes in the Senate



Terms

- P1C – Passed 1st Consideration
- P2C – Passed 2nd Consideration
- Placed on committee calendar
- Rolled two weeks
- Reset on calendar
- Taken off notice (House)
- Assigned to General subcommittee (Senate)



Terms

- Caption
 - Describes what part of TCA is to be opened and what the bill will address
- Caption bill
 - The caption defines what section of TCA is to be opened but has a very broad statement



Captions

- Senate Bill 2798 By Woodson
House Bill 3268 By Maddox

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, relative to administration of anti-seizure medications in school settings in emergency situations.



Caption bill

- AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title 12; Title 16; Title 30; Title 36; Title 39; Title 40; Title 45; Title 47; Title 48; Title 55; Title 56; Title 57; Title 61; Title 62; Title 67; Title 68; Title 69; Title 70 and Title 71, relative to taxation.
- AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to intellectual disability



Tyranny of the Fiscal Note

- Every bill has a fiscal note
- Fiscal Review committee develops the fiscal note
- Information obtained from department impacted by bill
- New fiscal note attached with each amendment



Bill information

Federal website

<https://www.congress.gov>

General Assembly website

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/>

TN Legislative Updates

<http://www.thearctn.org/Public-Policy.php>



Effective Advocacy

- Be prepared
- Know legislator's action on issue
- Be polite
- Be persistent



Successful strategies

- Visits with legislator or state official
- Phone calls
- Letters or faxes
 - Send faxes, not letters, to Congress
- Emails



What NOT to do

- Don't yell at legislator
- Don't be abusive
- Don't corner a person



Who Are You?

- Constituent
- Educator
- Lobbyist



Representing a 501 (c)(3) non-profit agency

- Be clear about who you represent
- Cannot endorse a candidate
- Can **educate** on an issue



Presenting Testimony

- Be prepared
- Respect time allowed
- Tell your personal story
- Do not overexaggerate