

Advocacy & Lobbying 101

Brought to you by

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1.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

The Legislative Process

Step One: The Legislative Chambers (House & Senate)

1. **FIRST COMMITTEE HEARING** - Amendments can be made by committee. Then the committee votes whether to send the amended bill to the full chamber.
2. **FULL CHAMBER** - The bill is then debated by the full chamber. Amendments can be made, then the whole chamber votes whether to pass the amended bill to the next step.
3. **SECOND COMMITTEE HEARING** - Again, amendments can be made by committee. Then the committee votes whether to send the amended bill to the full chamber.
4. **FULL CHAMBER** - Lastly, the bill will be debated by the full (second) chamber.

BOLD - opportunity for public to come to the Capitol and comment on legislation in person.

ITALIC - proceedings are streamed live online at legis.la.gov.

Step Two: Reconciling Different Versions Passed

5a. If passed by the second chamber with amendments, sent to original chamber so they can vote to accept changes.

6a. If the original chamber rejects any amendments, sent to conference committee (members of both chambers) to work out a version all can agree to.

7a. If conference committee reaches agreement, send final version to both chambers for approval.

7c. If one or both chambers doesn't approve, the bill dies.

5b. If passed without amendments, sent to the governor - see Step Three!

6b. If other chamber accepts amendments, send to governor - see Step Three!

7b. If conference committee doesn't reach agreement, the bill dies.

7d. If both chambers approve, send to governor - see Step Three!

Step Three: The Governor

8a. The governor signs the bill, and it becomes a law!

-or-

8b. The governor vetoes the bill. The bill dies unless $\frac{2}{3}$ of both chambers vote to override the veto.

-or-

8c. The governor takes no action, and the bill becomes a law!

2.

ADVOCACY VS. LOBBYING

What are the differences?

Advocacy

- ◆ Advocacy activities are NOT restricted for non-profits and are a great way to engage policymakers about issues facing their constituents.
- ◆ Does not endorse or oppose specific legislation, but informs the community at large how public policy decisions impact them.

Lobbying

Lobbying is a type of advocacy which attempts to influence legislators to support or oppose a particular issue or piece of legislation and is **allowed for non-profits within certain parameters.**

DIRECT LOBBYING

- Communication to an elected official expressing a view on a specific piece of legislation.

GRASSROOTS LOBBYING

- An attempt to influence specific legislation by encouraging the public to contact legislators about that legislation.



How to lobby!

Let's look at different tactics and strategies to employ when communicating with legislators.

CALLING LEGISLATORS: What to Expect

- ◆ Your call will likely be answered by a legislative aide who will make a note of your comments.
- ◆ They may ask for your address to see if you live in their district.
- ◆ The call will likely be short and sweet!

CALLING LEGISLATORS: What do I say?

Hi, my name is _____, and I live in _____. I'm calling to ask Rep./Sen. _____ to support/oppose House Bill/Senate Bill ##. This is important to me because _____. Can you tell me how they plan to vote on this?

Note: Share a personal story if you have one.

CALLING LEGISLATORS: Who and When?

- ◆ Always call the Representative and Senator from YOUR district because they need you to get elected!
Who represents you? Go to www.geauxvote.com.
- ◆ Contact all members on the committee the bill is assigned to when it is scheduled for a hearing.
- ◆ Be polite, respectful, and say thank you!

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

- ◆ Just call and ask for a meeting. Scheduling is often the trickiest part, especially if you are outside of their district.
- ◆ Meeting before the legislative session in their district is the best option.
- ◆ During the session, you can pull them off the floor or speak to them in the hallway during a committee hearing.

TIPS AND STRATEGIES

- ◆ Stay on message!
- ◆ Share a personal story.
- ◆ Be polite and assertive, but not aggressive.
- ◆ Gauge where they are on your issue and try to move them along.

WHO SHOULD I BRING?

- ◆ An expert.
- ◆ Someone from their district with a relevant story.
- ◆ Someone who knows politics and the players.

Note: Bring brief, solid information to put in their hands.



Thanks!

Any questions?

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