



Practical Politics & Pharmacy

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A non-partisan website dedicated to the betterment of patient care.

The mission of Practical Politics and Pharmacy is to provide our future and practicing pharmacists with the tools necessary to successfully navigate the legislative / regulatory process so they may become grassroots advocates on behalf of community pharmacy and the broader patient community.

As advocates they will be able to inform our policy makers in government, both state and federal, on what we do as well as what we are capable of doing to improve the health care and quality of life of our patients.



Contribute your ideas

Our newly launched forum provides an area for students and professors to discuss their ideas and views in a moderated arena.

[Go to Forum...](#)



Webinars and Teleconferences

Find information on past and upcoming webinars and teleconferences.

[Learn More...](#)

News

April 21, 2011 at 4pm EDT -

Our second teleconference will take place on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 4pm EDT. The participants will be deans and faculty members of schools on the East coast who continue to support our mission in legislative progress.

February 10, 2011 at 3pm EST -

Our initial teleconference will take place on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 3pm EST. The participants will be deans and faculty members of schools on the East coast who have shown interest in developing a course like this.

Practical Politics and Pharmacy

Practical Politics and Pharmacy is an accredited college course which we have created for pharmacy students to provide a background in government and civic affairs. Its purpose is to encourage students to "THINK OUT OF THE BOX" and aid them in developing the process to become effective advocates for change in the field of pharmacy.

Students will gain insight and experience in identifying representatives that tend to be supportive of pharmacy issues, the need for and process of building coalitions within and outside of the health care profession, and developing proper and appropriate talking points.



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Webinars

Web-based seminars (or "webinars") are online sessions that allow us to hold conferencing events with faculty across the United States simultaneously.

Past Webinars

There have not yet been any webinars.

Past Webinars

Not available



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Our Mission

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[Our Mission](#)

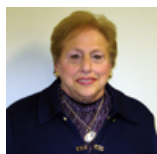
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Our Team

Loretta Brickman, RPh



Loretta Brickman, RPh. is a graduate of Temple University School of Pharmacy and has been teaching Practical Politics and Pharmacy

since 2002. She has been an advocate for pharmacy and our patients for over thirty years.

Harold Bobrow, RPh.



Harold Bobrow, RPh. graduated from Rutgers University School of Pharmacy and has been teaching Practical Politics and Pharmacy

since 2002. He has been an advocate for pharmacy and our patients for over thirty years.

Testimonials

As a former state legislator I can confidently say the profession of pharmacy needs, in fact requires, the very strongest of advocacy at the state and national levels of our governments...

I believe your course plays an important role in preparing new pharmacists for such advocacy and I'd urge other pharmacy schools to adopt your program...

[read more](#)

Rep. Curt Gielow

Executive Dean, Concordia University School of Pharmacy

There are few courses in pharmacy school that prepare you for the real world, practical politics and pharmacy is one of them. As a pharmacy owner, legislative knowledge is vital. Every aspect of pharmacy revolves around legislation...

Background

Politics impact patients and their health-care professionals.



Recognizing the importance of politics in an individual's life, Temple School of Pharmacy instituted a new elective, "Practical Politics and Pharmacy" in the spring of 2003 designed to spur advocacy and political interest early in a pharmacist's career. Since its inception, the course has grown in attendance and in its semester offerings to students.

This course teaches students not only to become politically aware, but more importantly, how to **advocate on behalf of their patients and the profession of pharmacy**. The course reinforces the idea that patient care is affected not just by education and training, but also by politics. It is our responsibility, students and practicing pharmacists alike, to make sure that our government agencies and legislators know the full story behind an issue.

Practical Politics and Pharmacy is taught by Loretta Brickman, R.Ph. a '63 alumna of TUSP, and Harold Bobrow, R.Ph., both longtime political and patient advocates and past presidents of the New Jersey Pharmacists Association. They discovered that pharmacy students report that they are not politically active because they are unsure about what to do and how to do it. Additionally students say that other pharmacists will take responsibility for becoming active in the professional associations, which unfortunately for the majority is untrue.

Brickman and Bobrow recognized that there was a way to educate pharmacy students to become not only competent health-care professionals, but to also encourage them to become the profession's leaders and advocates. **Patients** and **Pharmacy** would benefit from such a relationship. Hence, Practical Politics and Pharmacy was created.

Students learn about advocacy and communication. They begin with a lesson in civics. One must first know how the political process works before he/she can navigate the political maze. Next they go on to learn the **Art of Advocacy**, the various methods of communication and the way to be the most productive for their patients. The students research issues and discuss them in class. They build a consensus on which issue they would like to address on a state or national level. The students research the issue extensively and develop their own talking points. They contact their legislators to set up appointments on a designated day and the class goes to Harrisburg or Washington, DC for the day. Prior to their trip, they run mock visits and the class critiques the presentations. They learn first hand how to put their **knowledge** into **practice**. They attend government meetings, write letters and papers in support or against rulings and follow bills through committees to their ultimate outcomes. Because pharmacists have a solid health-care background and can fill in the gaps for the legislators, they are an essential part in the development of legislation that will affect every person's life.

Accomplishments

Some recent accomplishments and "firsts" of the course include:

Offering student elective rotations with legislators.

To our knowledge, this is a first in the country for any pharmacy school. Such electives offer students first-hand experience and the opportunity to impart their pharmacy knowledge by explaining the complexities of pharmacy.

--**During the Fall 2005 Semester**, four students were on rotation with PA Representative George Kinney, Jr., Chairman of the PA House of Representatives Health & Human Services Committee. Students attended committee meetings and researched issues for debate.

--Two students were on rotation with PA State Senator Shirley Kitchen. The students were educating the Senator's constituents on the new Medicare Part D Benefit, giving presentations and distributing tri-fold brochures that they created in "layman's terms". They also assisted the Senator's staff in addressing health-care issues that arose.

Subsequent students have continued to request these rotations. One of our students chose a rotation with the Chairman of the PA House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee last term and decided to develop a survey to determine the knowledge of the current members of the House on the education pharmacists receive, what they do and what they could accomplish if allowed to practice to their full capabilities. The results proved what many have suspected all along. Legislators do not understand the impact pharmacists can have on the healthcare outcomes of our patients. It emphasized the need for our course not only to be taught at TUSP but throughout the country in every school of pharmacy.

Another student who chose to do a rotation with PA Senator Shirley Kitchen was asked to do research on three healthcare issues for the Senator. When we met with the Senator after our student completed his rotation, she made sure to tell us what a remarkable job he did. The Senator said she never introduced bills written as well as those that our student did for her. She was sure his work would be the reason her bills would pass in the legislature.

2007 Has Become Another Milestone

This knowledge and education is vital to every pharmacist, especially to me as a pharmacy owner, because I use it in my personal navigation to guide me through my career as a pharmacy owner.

Most importantly, this course has taught me, that knowing how to operate within the system will allow me to dictate my own course....

[read more](#)

Chadd Levine

Former Student,
President, Philly Drugstore

It was a class that not only taught me about politics and pharmacy but about life and people. I learned to prepare for situations such as interviews, meetings, decisions, etc. by thinking five steps ahead of my initial thought...

[read more](#)

Frank Rubino

Former Student,
Temple University Class of 2012

Practical Politics & Pharmacy to me was not just a class, but an experience. I knew I had a passion for advancing pharmacy, but I needed guidance and this course provided me just that AND much, much more. I feel so proud of what I have done and I will remember this for the rest of my life...

[read more](#)

Malyha Mannan

Former Student,
Temple University Class of 2012

I believe [this course] would help pharmacy students understand the importance of being involved, united and proactive. I believe [this course]

We now have students doing rotations at CMS Medicare Part D. They currently are working on the formulary bids for 2009. Their pharmaceutical knowledge which is up to the minute is invaluable to CMS and the citizens covered by this program throughout the country.. Our students are obtaining first hand experience on the process, and they are able to enhance the expertise of those making such important decisions.

We also have students currently doing rotations in Harrisburg with Tom Snedden and the PACE/PACENET Program, a valuable rotation for the agency and the profession.

2008 Again Created A New Milestone

TUSP took this course to a new level again. A limited number of students that had shown exceptional interest in the course during the 2007 fall semester had the opportunity to take an advanced course designated as a seminar. This seminar was geared toward educating the Pennsylvania legislative leadership on what we as pharmacists currently do and what we are capable of doing if given the opportunity.

Hosting State Board of Pharmacy meeting at Temple School of Pharmacy.

This was the first time in over 100 years that the meeting was held outside of Harrisburg. The meeting was so successful that plans are underway to hold meetings at other Pennsylvania schools of pharmacy.

Students attend Sate Pharmacy Association meetings.

The class delivered a "white" paper to Dr. Mark McClellan, Commissioner, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Washington, DC on Medicare Part D.

The paper addressed the six issues identified by various health-care groups as weak, but which had yet to have solutions identified.

Distinguished guest speakers address the students.

Some include State Board members and representatives from pharmacy organizations. (Commissioner Basil Merenda, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Licensure, Leigh Davitian, Esq. American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, John Coster, Ph.D, R.Ph., NACDS, Laura Cranston, R.Ph., Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of Community Pharmacy, Tom Murry, PharmD., National Community Pharmacists Association, and PA State Senator Shirley Kitchen. Brickman and Bobrow were instrumental in getting the Chairman of the PA House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee, Representative George Kenney, Jr., to give the keynote address at the Temple University School of Pharmacy May, 2006 graduation.

CE programs

Because of the need for more pharmacists to become grassroots advocates and assist the state and national organizations in addressing patient and professional issues, Brickman and Bobrow have presented CE programs to registered pharmacists on "Practical Politics and Pharmacy" at national, state and county organization meetings as well as for TUSP alumni.

Some of the issues covered in the course include:

- Government definition of healthcare providers
- Medicare prescription benefit for senior citizens
- Medication error and drug safety
- Drug Re-importation
- Pharmacy Practice Act
- Immunizations
- Collaborative Practice
- Medication Therapy Management
- AMP and its affects on patient care and the profession of pharmacy
- Other Third Party Reimbursement Issues

Pharmacy Technician Registration and Certification - Bill currently in PA Legislature
Drug Therapy Management in the Community Setting - Bill currently in PA Legislature
2009 – TUSP conducted a seminar with students, faculty, Basil Merenda - Commissioner of Bureau of Professional and Occupational Licensure, Michael Podgurski - Chairman of the PA Board of Pharmacy and Tom Snedden – Director of the PACE/PACENET Program

NOTE: Commissioner Merenda personally requested our students to provide their assistance on passage of Drug Therapy Management in the Community setting.

would help pharmacy students understand the influence and power of the business side of pharmacy, and the actions they might need to take to protect and progress the profession...
[read more](#)

Bernard A. Brown, PharmD Candidate

Former Student,
 Temple University Class of 2012

Immunization of Children by Certified Pharmacists in PA and Students Certified in Immunization to be Allowed to Immunize Under Direct Supervision of a Certified Registered Pharmacist

2010 – Students attended a PA State Board of Pharmacy meeting to discuss these issues and answer questions by Board members. The Board members were extremely impressed with the knowledge and insight displayed by the students during their presentation.

Community Pharmacy Foundation Grant

2010 – Through this grant, The Community Pharmacy Foundation provided us the opportunity to offer a turnkey template of our course, Practical Politics and Pharmacy free of charge to all schools and colleges of pharmacy throughout the country.



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Participating Institutions:

The schools listed below have decided to include the political advocacy curriculum as an elective or to utilize the information within their current courses.

[Temple University - School of Pharmacy](#)

- University of Toledo
- University of Colorado At Denver
- Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
- University of California at San Diego
- Drake University
- University of the Incarnate Word
- Howard University College of Pharmacy
- The University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy
- Wingate University
- Concordia University School of Pharmacy
- Western University of Health Sciences
- Harding University
- Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy
- University of the Pacific

- Washington State University Spokane
- Husson University
- Campbell University School of Pharmacy
- Mercer University College of Pharmacy
- Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy
- University of Hawaii College of Pharmacy
- Creighton University School of Pharmacy
- Touro University
- University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy
- Texas A&M College of Pharmacy
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
- Ohio State University
- Roosevelt University
- Northeastern University School of Pharmacy

Course Description:

Description:

This elective course is designed to be interactive. Students will be introduced to the legislative process in order to develop effective advocacy skills on behalf of the profession.. Students in this course will be responsible to be current on pharmacy and related issues by reading professional journals, state and national association legislative updates, relevant newspaper articles, up to date bill listings and activities on relevant state and federal issues, and utilize the internet as a navigational tool to become informed about and facile with, the legislative issues directly affecting the profession. They will learn the backgrounds of their representatives through state and federal rosters and engage them in discourse.

Goal:

To develop pharmacy students to become effective advocates within the political process, thereby enhancing their position as valued professionals in the health care system so as to become a positive force in the development of improved patient-centered pharmaceutical services.

Teaching Strategies:

Lecture; discussion; workshop; experiential education; student presentations; guest seminars.

Course Content: (Approximate classroom time indicated in parenthesis)

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Syllabus:

A downloadable version of this syllabus is available:

[Download Now](#) (pdf)

I. Introduction (1 hour)

- A. Concept
- B. Course Requirements
- C. Objectives
- D. Student Expectations

II. Legislative Process (4 hours)

- A. Development of Legislation
 - 1. Tracking a bill
 - 2. Goals to be accomplished
 - 3. The role of the pharmacist in strategic intervention
- B. Development of Rules and Regulations
- C. Communication with Legislators and Government Agency Staff
- D. Coalition Building Process
 - 1. Coalition building within the pharmacy profession
 - 2. Developing alliances with other professional association
 - 3. Acquiring public support

III. The Legislator (3 hours)

- A. Obligation of the registered voter
- B. Obligation of the legislator to constituency
- C. The influence of constituents on their legislators
- D. The impact of a non-constituent on elected officials
- E. The use of political affiliation when meeting with elected officials and their staff
- F. Developing background information on legislators and their positions on public policies
- G. Knowing your legislator personally
- H. Communication with political representatives
- I. Developing legislator support
- J. Providing expertise to legislators
 - 1. Case studies for an issue
 - 2. Case studies against an issue

IV. Pharmacy Legislation (6 hours)

- A. Guest speakers
 - 1. Legislators
 - 2. Patients / Patient advocates
 - 3. Scholars
 - 4. Agency representatives (federal, state, local)
- B. Determining priorities for legislation
- C. Coalition groups
 - 1. Pharmacy associations – city, state and national
 - 2. Other healthcare associations
 - 3. Patient advocacy groups
- D. Developing a strategic game plan

V. Working Group Projects (3 hours)

- A. Friends versus shared goals
- B. Development of a legislative agenda

VI. Student Presentations (3 hours)

- A. Testimony (written and verbal) – at committee hearing
- B. Interaction between members of committee, students and others testifying for and against the issue

*VII. Presentation of Projects to Legislators and Administrative Agencies (3 hours)

- A. Meeting the state Senate President or Senate Majority Leader
- B. Meeting with the Speaker of the Assembly / House of Representatives or Majority

leader

- C. Sit in on general session and/or relevant committee meeting or hearing
- D. Legislative conference

***VIII. Understand the Functions of the Board of Pharmacy (4 hours)**

- A. Guest speakers – President and Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy
- B. The mission of the Board of Pharmacy
- C. Board membership and their backgrounds
- D. Authority of the Board
 - 1. Statutes
 - 2. Regulations
 - 3. Difference between legislative and regulatory process
- E. Develop a dialogue to further the profession for the benefit of the patients we serve
- F. Attend a Board of Pharmacy meeting

**IX. Potential Capstone Project:
Enhancing the Pharmacy Practice Act**

- A. Analyze the Pharmacy Practice Act
- B. Determine issues that need to be included or modified
- C. Determine your advocates and adversaries
 - 1. Build a coalition (as inclusive as possible)
 - 2. Understand your adversaries and develop a consensus wherever possible
 - 3. Work with state legislators, committee chairs and government agencies

**Optimally, students will participate in visits to legislative and/or state board offices.

Procedure for Evaluating Student Performance:

There will be one mid-term exam; written evaluations for all Site visits; and, a final paper.

Partnership:

Thank you for your interest in Practical Politics and Pharmacy.

If you are interested in teaching the course at your institution or want to contribute to this organization, please [contact us](#).



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Resources

The following resources are available for viewing or downloading. All material is intellectual property of their respective authors.

Presentations

Practical Politics and Pharmacy Seminar



Download: [Seminar](#) (PowerPoint) | [Seminar](#) (PDF)

Authors: Brickman, L., Bobrow, H.

Last Updated: 8/14/11 (v12)

Description: Introductory seminar on the course Practical Politics and Pharmacy.

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United States Legislatures: Illinois

Please select a state:

The Illinois General Assembly is the state legislature of the U.S. state of Illinois and comprises the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate. The General Assembly was created by the first state constitution adopted in 1818. Illinois has 59 legislative districts, with two representatives and one senator from each correspondent district. The current General Assembly is Illinois's 97th. The General Assembly meets in the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield.

IL Legislature Website: <http://www.ilga.gov/>

Surveys:

Political Advocacy Legislator Survey

Download: [Survey](#) (Word Doc)

Links:

This section contains links to sites that maintained by other organizations and may not be directly affiliated with Practical Politics and Pharmacy **listed in alphabetical order**. We do not endorse the views expressed on these Web sites, nor do we assume any liability for the accuracy, currency, or completeness of any information presented on these sites.

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

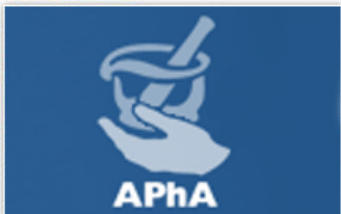


Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is the national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States. The mission of the Association is to both represent and be an advocate for all segments of the academic community in the profession of pharmacy. AACP is comprised of all accredited colleges and schools with pharmacy degree programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, including

approximately 57,000 professional degree students, 5,700 students enrolled in graduate studies and more than 5,600 full-time faculty.

AACP Website: <http://www.aacp.org>

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)



The **American Pharmacists Association (APhA)** is the organization whose members are recognized in society as essential in all patient care settings for optimal medication use that improves health, wellness, and quality of life.

Through information, education, and advocacy APhA empowers its members to improve medication use and advance patient care.

AphA Website: <http://www.pharmacist.com>

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)



The **American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)** is an international professional association that provides education, advocacy, and resources to advance the practice of senior care pharmacy, and that represents the interests of consultant pharmacists who work with elderly patients.

ASCP Website: <http://www.ascp.com>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

The **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)** is the membership



organization that works on behalf of pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems. For almost 70 years, we have been on the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety. Our advocacy efforts, publications, and educational offerings are designed to advance your practice as you improve patient care.

ASHP Website: <http://www.ashp.org>

League of Women Voters (LWW)



The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure. The League is a grassroots organization, working at the national, state and local levels.

LWW Website: <http://www.lww.org>

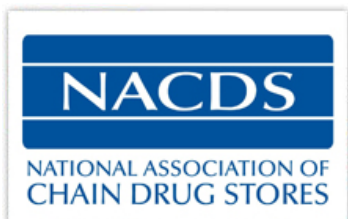
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)



The **National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)** is an impartial professional organization that supports the state boards of pharmacy in creating uniform regulations to protect public health.

NABP Website: <http://www.nabp.net/>

National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)



The mission of the **National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)** is to advance the interests and objectives of the chain community pharmacy industry, by fostering its growth and promoting its role as a provider of healthcare services and consumer products.

AphA Website: <http://www.nacds.org/>

National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)

The **National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)** is dedicated to the continuing growth and prosperity of independent community pharmacy in the United States. They are the national pharmacy association representing the professional and proprietary interests of independent community pharmacists and will



vigorously promote and defend those interests.

AphA Website: <http://www.ncpanet.org/>



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“Politics and the Pharmacist: Navigating the Maze”

Presented by:

Loretta Brickman, RPh
Harold Bobrow, RPh



Grant funding from CPF

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Seminar Objectives



- Demystify the political process
- Equip pharmacists and pharmacy students with the tools they need to feel confident **THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
- Create politically astute grassroots healthcare advocates
- Understand the necessity of coalition building
- Realize the necessity for membership in professional associations
- Recognize the impact of pharmacy speaking with **ONE VOICE**

Agenda



- Ultimate goals for the future of pharmacy
- Sources of legislative issues
- Characteristics of politics
- The art of advocacy
- The legislative process
- Current healthcare issues
- Recap
- Conclusion: “Three Golden Rules”
- Q&A

Ultimate Goals as Advocates



- Better serve our patients
- Guarantee the survival of our profession (not to be usurped by others)
- Enhance our position as valued professionals as an integral part of the new healthcare system
- Play a major role in determining our professional future
- Expand the pharmacy profession through the Pharmacy Practice Act
- Be adequately compensated and recognized as a healthcare provider

Sources of Legislative Issues



- Your own practice setting
- Other healthcare providers and their respective associations
- Pharmacy Associations (State and National)
- State Boards of Pharmacy
- Colleges of Pharmacy
- Our patients
- Manufacturers
- Government Agencies
- Legislators (State and Federal)

Information Sources



- Pharmacy Association websites
- Pharmacy journals and magazines
- State and Federal Government websites
- Private political websites
- News media

Websites



- www.ncpanet.org
- www.aphanet.org
- www.ascp.com
- www.ashp.org
- www.nacds.org
- www.PolitickerNJ.com
- www.Grassroots.com
- www.njleg.state.nj.us
- www.state.nj.us/
- www.state.ny.us/
- www.congress.org
- www.house.gov
- www.senate.gov
- www.nhianet.org
- www.politicalinformation.com
- www.state.pa.us/
- www.cga.state.ct.us/
- www.govspot.com
- www.ama-assn.org (AMA)
- www.onu.edu./Pharmacy/Webwatch
- www.ctpharmacists.org
- www.pssny.org
- www.papharmacists.com
- www.govnet.com
- www.NJPharma.org
- www.rollcall.com
- www.speakout.com
- www.incongress.com
- www.lwv.org (*League of Women Voters*)
- www.thisnation.com

Politics



- All politics is local
- “It’s not over till it’s over” – Yogi Berra
- The three most important things in politics are Money, Money, Money (time in kind is money)
- “You’ve got to be in it to win it” – New York State Lottery Slogan

Politics (cont.)



- “Dance with the one that brung ya” -
Ann M. DeLaney
- Importance of Voter Registration
- VOTE

Politics (cont.)



“We have a very competitive special-interest democracy today. If you fail to speak up or take action (advocacy), you leave it to others to do so. Democracy only works if you play the game.”

Rick Miller, VP Michael B. Dunn and Associates
– spoke at a workshop sponsored by the NCPA
Political Action Committee and the NCPA
Legislative Defense Fund

Politics (cont.)



- Most action happens only with the consent of the leadership
- Power is concentrated in the hands of the Governor, the leader of each house, and key committee chairpersons
- At different stages of the process, contact the sponsor of the bill, committee chairperson, Assembly / House Speaker or Senate Majority / President, staff members, Governor's counsel, agency director, etc.
- Introduce yourself to members of the committee with jurisdiction over the bill, staff members, and other legislators who may share or be persuaded to your point of view

Politics (cont.)



- The better informed the legislators are, the greater the chance of passing legislation
- Interest groups exert tremendous power over “their” issues by providing in-depth knowledge
- Conversely the same is true
- Knowing the origin of legislation assists you in determining the strategy needed to change or defeat it.

The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation: Face-to-Face



- KNOW YOUR ISSUE
 - Be prepared by knowing the facts. Do your homework. (know where legislators, their constituencies and special interest groups stand on issues)
- BE HONEST
 - Be honest and accurate. You expect the same. You are building the foundation for your relationship. Do not let your emotional involvement in the issue cloud your facts.
- PLAN FOR CONTACT
 - A face to face meeting is preferable. Make an appointment. You may want to bring 2 – 3 allies (no more) with you.



TIP!

Start your conversation with a Thank You for the legislator's support of a previous issue if possible or a non-pharmacy related issue that you agree with.

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation (cont.)



- BE BUSINESSLIKE
 - You set the tone of the meeting. Limit issues and focus on your goal. Be friendly and have your opener planned. Be brief. Know pertinent information (bill number, title, and description). Be courteous and maintain confidentiality.
- IDENTIFY THE OPPOSITION
 - Do not argue. Try to avoid a completely negative response. Leave an opportunity for you to return another time. You do not want to lose a good working relationship.
- LISTEN CAREFULLY
 - You can glean much information from what your legislator tells you about your issue.

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation (cont.)



- BE POSITIVE
 - Do not speak in negative terms. If you do not have an answer to a question, say so and offer to find the answer. If you promise to follow up, keep your promise. Thank the legislator for meeting with you. Thank legislators for their support once you have gained it.
- DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED
 - Do not give up. Be persistent. Get to know the legislator's staff. Join forces with other like-minded people (coalition building).
- MAINTAIN A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEGISLATOR –
 - Remain on friendly terms. Write a note of thanks. Your adversary today may be your best advocate tomorrow.

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation: Via Phone



- **BE PREPARED**
 - Have pertinent information written down: your position, bill number, title, description, etc.
 - Place call at crucial time for issue, e.g. before a key vote.
 - Address legislator appropriately. (congressman, congresswoman, senator, representative)
- **PRESENT YOUR POSITION BRIEFLY**
 - Identify yourself and where you live. (constituency is very important)
 - One issue per call.
 - Be factual and honest.
 - Use your own words.
 - Mention how issue will affect their district or community → their constituents.
- **ASK FOR THEIR VIEWS**
 - Try to ascertain their position and how they will vote.
 - Keep tone friendly.
- **END THE CONVERSATION POLITELY**
 - Thank the legislator
 - Offer to send information on your issue.

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation: (cont.)



IMPORTANT NOTE WHEN CALLING:

- If you cannot reach your legislator, do not refuse to speak with a staff person. You may gain useful information and find a helpful source for future reference

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation: Using E-mail



- E-MAIL YOUR LEGISLATOR
 - Address legislator appropriately
 - Keep it short and to the point. Let the legislator know what you expect
 - One issue per e-mail
 - Outline essential information: bill number, title, and description
 - Use your own words. Describe personal experiences and local impact
 - Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number
 - Include links when appropriate

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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The Art of Advocacy

Influencing Legislation: (cont.)



- REMEMBER THESE TIPS:
 - BE PERSISTENT - Don't give up! When your cause is worthy it is worth the extra effort and the wait.
 - BE POSITIVE - Don't contact your legislators just to complain or push an issue. Let them know you support them when they have done a good job. Be polite: say "thank you".
 - BE A PART OF THE PROCESS - Don't stop with one issue. Keep an ongoing dialogue with your legislators. Keep working for the betterment of your patients and your profession.

Source: Connecticut League of Women Voters

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Legislative Process



- Build relationships and coalitions
- Work in conjunction with administration, agencies, state boards
- Know your advocates and adversaries (individuals and groups)
- Know the backgrounds of legislators / representatives
- Know the impact of legislation (professional, financial, social)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

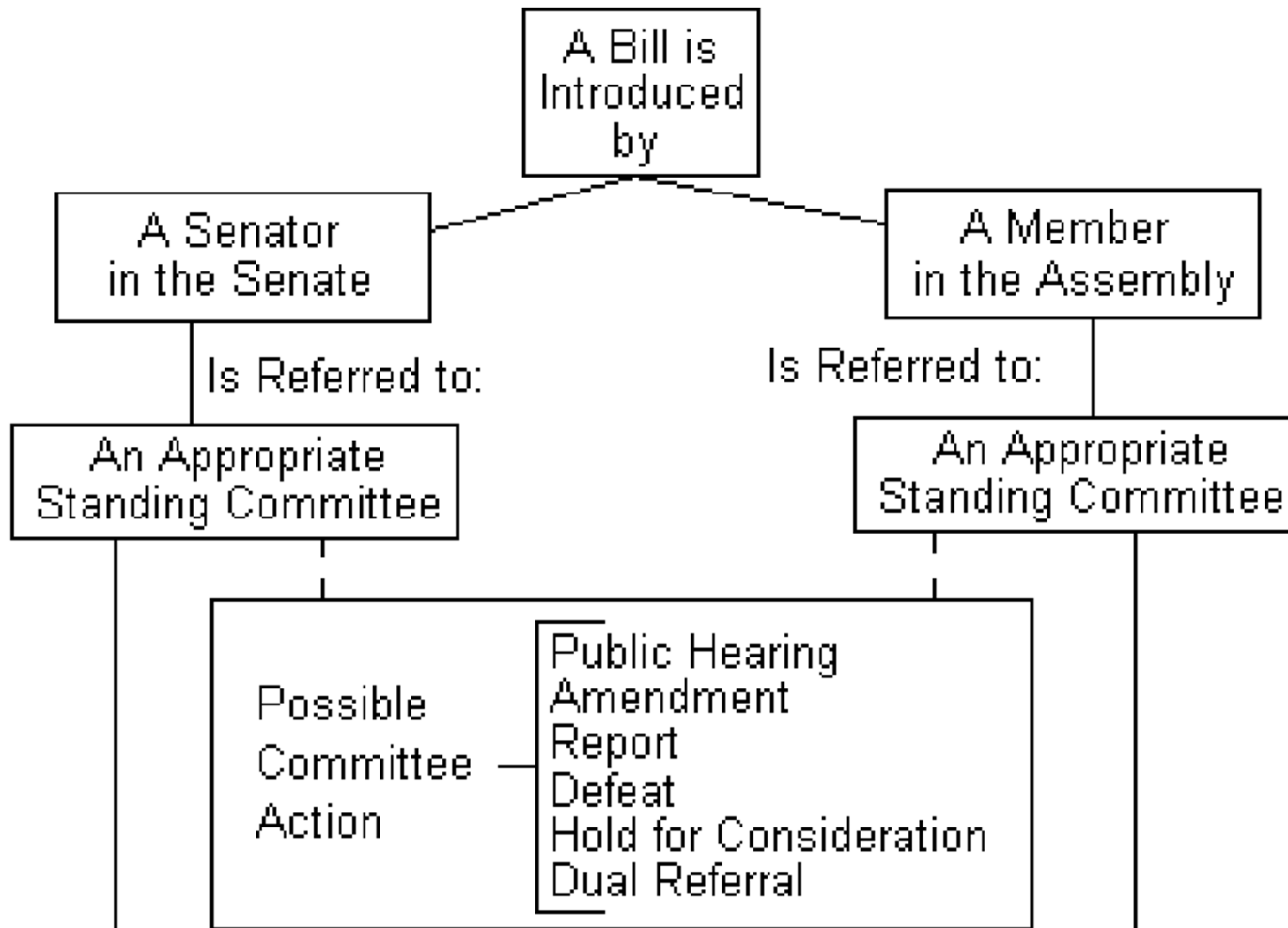


Refer to your state's website to find out how a bill becomes law!

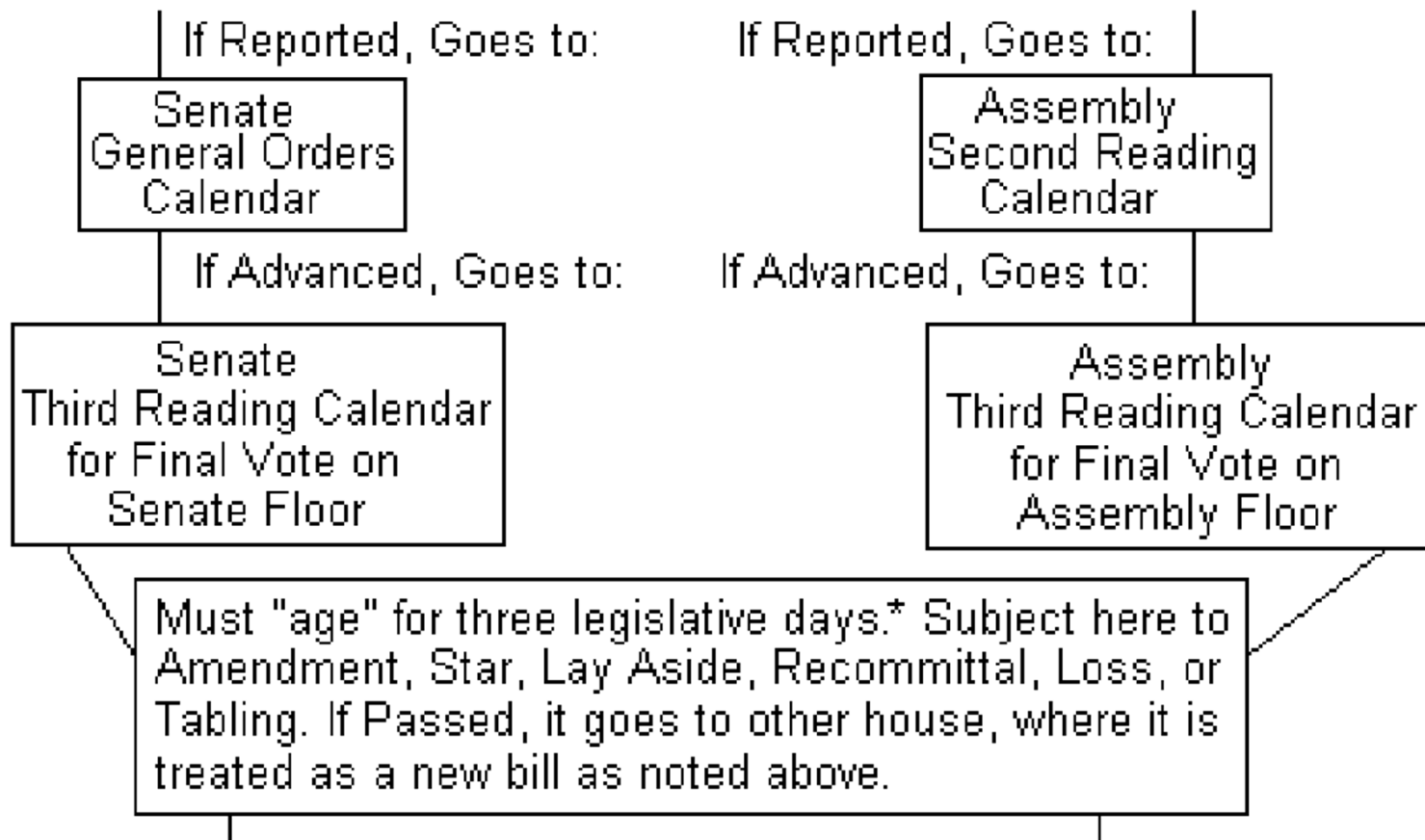
The following slides illustrate how a bill becomes law in:

- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Connecticut

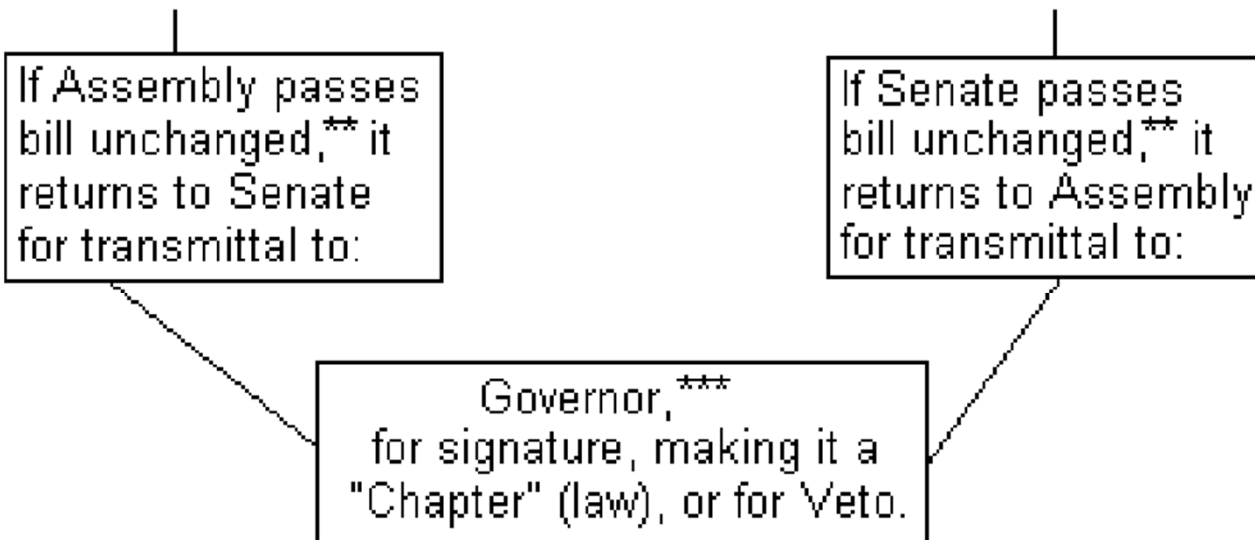
How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York



How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York (cont.)



How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York (cont.)



How a Bill Becomes a Law in New Jersey



- Idea developed
- Bill drafted – Advocate if possible

Assembly

- Legislator introduces bill
- Bill assigned to committee(s) – Advocate vigorously
- Committee holds hearings and vote (pass, defeat, refer amend) – Show presence
- Posting procedures – Advocate vigorously
- Floor vote (pass, defeat, amend, no vote)

How a Bill Becomes a Law in New Jersey (cont.)



Senate

- Legislator introduces bill
- Bill assigned to committee(s) – Advocate vigorously
- Committee holds hearings and vote (pass, defeat, refer, amend) – Show presence
- Posting procedures – Advocate vigorously
- Floor vote (pass, defeat, amend, no vote)
- If Senate passes different version of bill – goes back to Assembly for vote or to conference committee

How a Bill Becomes a Law in New Jersey (cont.)



Governor

- Sign
- Veto
- Conditional veto
- No Action
- Pocket veto

Law

- Becomes effective after specified time as stated in the law

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania



The unit of lawmaking is the "bill."

A bill is the written version of an idea which legislators consider as a new law or a change to an existing law. From its first appearance in print, every House or Senate bill travels the same precarious course to the moment it becomes law -- or goes down to the agony of defeat. On the next few pages, we'll examine that course and its optional twists and turns, as we follow the life cycle of fictional House Bill 652.

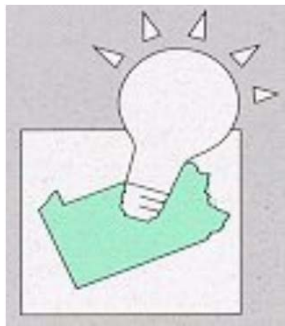
- Birth of a Bill
- Development
- Rites of Passage
- Peer Review
- Entering a Wider World
- Leaving the Nest
- The Final Interview
- Joining the Team

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

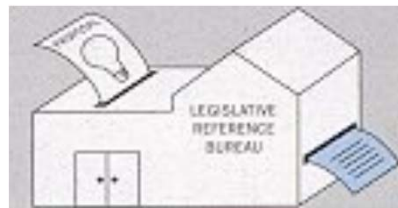
How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania (cont.)



1. Birth of a Bill



The idea for Bill 652 came from a group of Pennsylvania legislators committed to environmental issues.



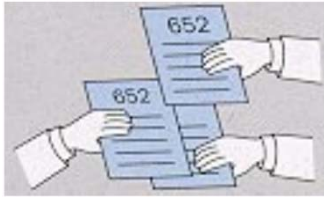

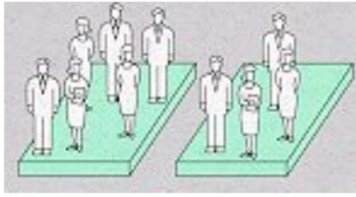
Legal experts at the Legislative Reference Bureau write the proposal in the proper form for a bill.



The Chief Clerk names the new proposal by assigning it a number.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania (cont.)



2. Development	3. Rites of Passage	4. Peer Review
 <p>The Speaker assigns the bill to a Standing Committee. At the same time, the new bill is copied and distributed to House members and made available to the public.</p>	 <p>House Bill 652 is examined by the Standing Committee on Conservation which votes to accept it as written and reports it to the House Floor. But first, the topic takes a brief detour into the caucus room for a second round of review.</p>	 <p>Majority and minority party members meet in separate caucus rooms. There, they review the content of House Bill 652 and decide whether to support or oppose it, as well as other bills scheduled for discussion on the House Floor.</p>

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania (cont.)



5. Entering a Wider World



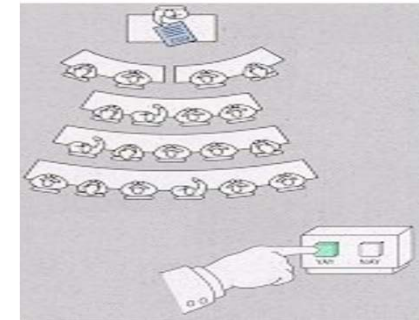
Like all bills, 652 is considered by members on the House Floor on three separate days.

The First Day of Consideration -

Bill 652 debuts on the House Floor with an announcement by the clerk from the podium that the bill has been reported from committee. Members begin to inform themselves about the bill.



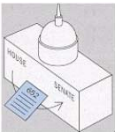
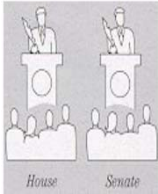
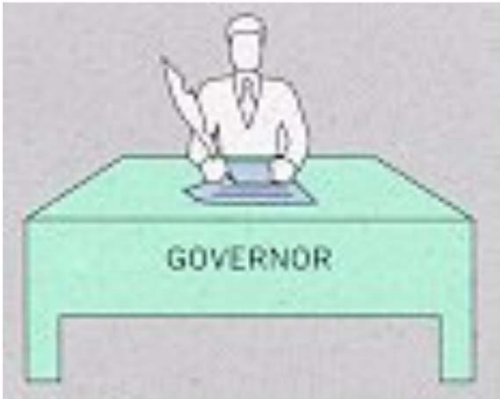

The Second Day of Consideration - The number and title of Bill 652 are again read to the members, who continue to prepare for discussion of the bill.



The Third Day of Consideration - Members actively debate House Bill 652. Ultimately, they vote for its passage.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania (cont.)

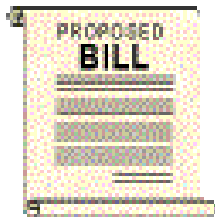


6. Leaving the Nest	7. The Final Interview	8. Joining the Team
<p data-bbox="302 651 823 1036">  House Bill 652 moves to the Senate where it is examined in committee, in caucus and by members on the Senate Floor. The Senate passes the bill without amendments. </p> <p data-bbox="302 1052 638 1403">  The Speaker of the House signs House Bill 652 on the House Floor and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate signs it in the Senate. </p>	<p data-bbox="873 669 1369 1065">  </p> <p data-bbox="873 1162 1381 1305"> The bill arrives on the Governor's desk where the Governor signs it into law. </p>	<p data-bbox="1432 669 1877 1065">  </p> <p data-bbox="1432 1162 1873 1305"> House Bill 652 officially becomes law and is given an Act number. </p>

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut



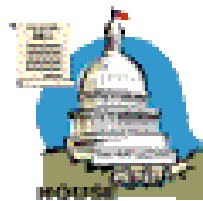
Beginning:



Proposed bill



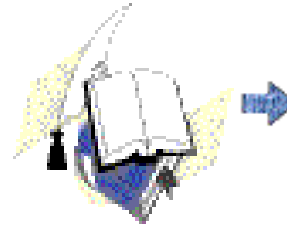
Send to Clerk:



Bill is sent to the clerk of the House of the sponsoring legislator for numbering.



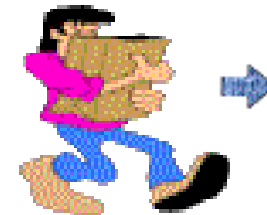
Add to Journal:



Bill title, number and sponsors are printed in the House and Senate Journals.



Sent to Committee:



Bill is sent to the appropriate joint standing committee of the General Assembly, depending on the bill's subject matter.



How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut (cont.)



Committee:



Committee may:
1. Draft bill in legal language; 2. combine with other bills & draft as a committee bill; 3. refer to another committee; or 4. take no action, bill fails. Committee may also write a new "raised" committee bill.

Hearings:



Committee holds public hearings for the public, state agency representatives and legislators on all bills it wishes to consider.

Reporting:



Committee may report the bill favorably, defeat the bill or issue no report (the bill fails).

Referral:



Bill requiring action by another committee is referred to that committee, e.g. a bill requiring expenditure is referred to the Appropriations Committee.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut (cont.)



To Commissioner:



After leaving the last committee, the bill is sent to the Legislative Commissioners' Office to be checked for constitutionality and consistency with other law.

Add Costs:



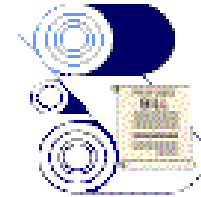
The Office of Fiscal Analysis adds an estimate of the bill's cost. The Office of Legislative Research adds a "plain English" explanation of the bill.

Calendar:



Clerk assigns the bill a calendar number.

Printing:



Final printing of bill.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut (cont.)



Debates:



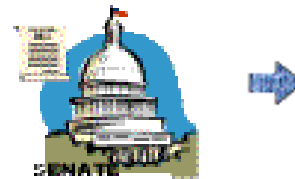
Debate and amendments in the house of origin. House may send the bill to another committee before voting.

Vote:



Vote on bill.

Calendar:



A "yes" vote sends the bill to the other house for placement on calendar.

Vote:

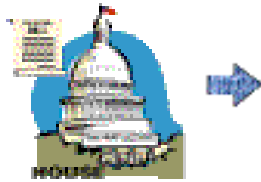


Other house votes on the bill.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut (cont.)



Concurrence:



Bill returned to first house for concurrence if amended by second house. If not amended, bill is sent to the governor. If House and Senate cannot agree, the bill is sent to a joint conference committee.

Reporting:



If the conference committee reaches agreement, a report is sent to both houses.

Pass/Fail:



If one or both houses reject the changes, the bill fails.

To Governor:



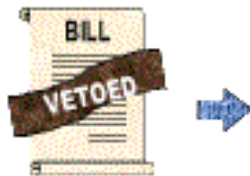
If both houses pass the bill, it is sent to the governor who can:

1. sign the bill.
2. veto it, or
3. take no action.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut (cont.)



If Vetoed?:



If governor vetoes, the bill is returned to the house in which it originated.

Reconsideration:



Vetoed bill can be reconsidered by both houses.

Bill becomes Law:



The bill becomes law if:

1. the governor signs it;
2. the governor fails to sign within 5 days during the legislative session or 15 days after adjournment;
3. the vetoed bill is repassed in each house by a 2/3 vote of the elected membership.

Current Issues



- Include Pharmacists in definition of Healthcare Providers
- Include Pharmacists in Accountable Care Organizations - ACO's
- Medicare Part D Plan for Seniors
- Drug Reimportation
- Pharmacy Practice Act
- Collaborative Practice / Medication Therapy Management
- Perform Immunizations

Current Issues (cont.)



- Medication Errors
- Third Party Reimbursement
“Critical issue: risking safety of patients”
- Workload
- Pharmacy Technicians
Registration, certification, supervision, etc...
- State Budget

Recapping Today's Objectives



- Take the mystery out of the political process
- The tools you need to feel confident that *You Can Make A Difference*
- Create politically astute grassroots healthcare advocates
- The importance of coalition building
- Understand the necessity for joining professional associations
- **THE NECESSITY FOR PHARMACY TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE**

Conclusion



THREE RULES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR PATIENTS, OUR PROFESSION, AND OUR FUTURE

- Be an active participant in the political process
- Strengthen our associations through membership and active participation
- Vote, Vote, Vote, Vote, Vote, Vote, Vote

For More Information



Contact:

Loretta Brickman, RPh

Adjunct Faculty

Temple University School of Pharmacy

Phone: 908.454.5099 E-mail: brickman@temple.edu

Harold Bobrow, RPh

Adjunct Faculty

Temple University School of Pharmacy

Phone: 973.762.9512 E-mail: HB@nac.net

POLITICAL ADVOCACY LEGISLATOR SURVEY

1. Based on your experience in a community pharmacy, what level of education do you believe pharmacists have?

2 year degree _____ 4 year degree _____ 6 year degree _____

2. The education of the medication expert - the registered pharmacist - today consists of an entrance exam to be accepted by an accredited pharmacy school to a six year curriculum, which encompasses a basic pharmaceutical education and many advanced courses in specialties such as nuclear pharmacy, oncology, nutrition, psychiatry, etc. After graduating with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, the graduate must pass a rigorous professional licensing exam to become a registered pharmacist within a state which then allows him/her to practice in various patient settings.

Based on the above statement, would you consider legislation that would expand the role of the registered pharmacist in health care?

YES _____ NO _____

3. Today, registered pharmacists are able to perform Medication Therapy Management (MTM) which enables the patient to utilize medications more efficiently and in a cost effective manner. This is done in collaboration with other members of the health care team. Would you consider legislation to improve patient care by instituting a reimbursement model that involves an outcome based metric?

YES _____ NO _____

4. The most accessible and frequently seen member of the health care team is the pharmacist. Do you believe that there is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of therapy and the number of quality encounters with a health care provider?

YES _____ NO _____

5. There is a direct correlation between appropriate medication use and overall health care costs. A large portion of these costs is paid for by federal and state monies. With the use of pharmacist interventions as demonstrated by the Asheville Project, the overall health care costs such as emergency room visits, hospitalization stays, diagnostic tests and physician visits, etc., of the patients involved decreased significantly. Have you ever seen data such as this that illustrates the overall health care cost savings by the use of appropriate medication therapy management provided by a registered pharmacist?

YES _____ NO _____

6. When contemplating legislation, a thorough understanding of the issues involved is necessary to create an appropriate bill. Do you feel that obtaining first hand knowledge in a pharmacy practice setting would provide better legislation concerning patient-centered pharmaceutical health care services?

YES _____ NO _____

7. The Health Care Reform Act that was recently past has many patient/pharmacist implications. What is your level of knowledge of this relationship on the direct effect on the health care of your constituents?

Please circle the appropriate number on a scale which denotes 1 as having no knowledge and 10 as being fully knowledgeable.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. In good health care management, the more knowledgeable all participants are, the better the outcome for the patient. Would you be in favor of more transparency between the buyers of Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) services, the providers and the patients in order to increase the efficiency and decrease the costs (state, federal and private) of the system?

YES _____ NO _____

9. Commissions are often created to determine future legislation on health care issues. All too often such panels are created without the inclusion of pharmacists. Since pharmacists are the medication experts, would you be in favor of requiring pharmacists to be on such panels?

YES _____ NO _____



Practical Politics & Pharmacy

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Email Us

Please use the contact form below for any inquiries. We will respond to your request within 48 hours. Thank you!

Name:

Email:

Topic:

Message:

Contact Information

If you prefer, you can directly contact us using the email address below.

Loretta Brickman, RPh.
Email: brickman@temple.edu
Phone: (908) 406-1877

Technical Assistance

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