

Practical Politics and Pharmacy



“Politics and the Pharmacist: Navigating the Maze”

Presented by:

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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

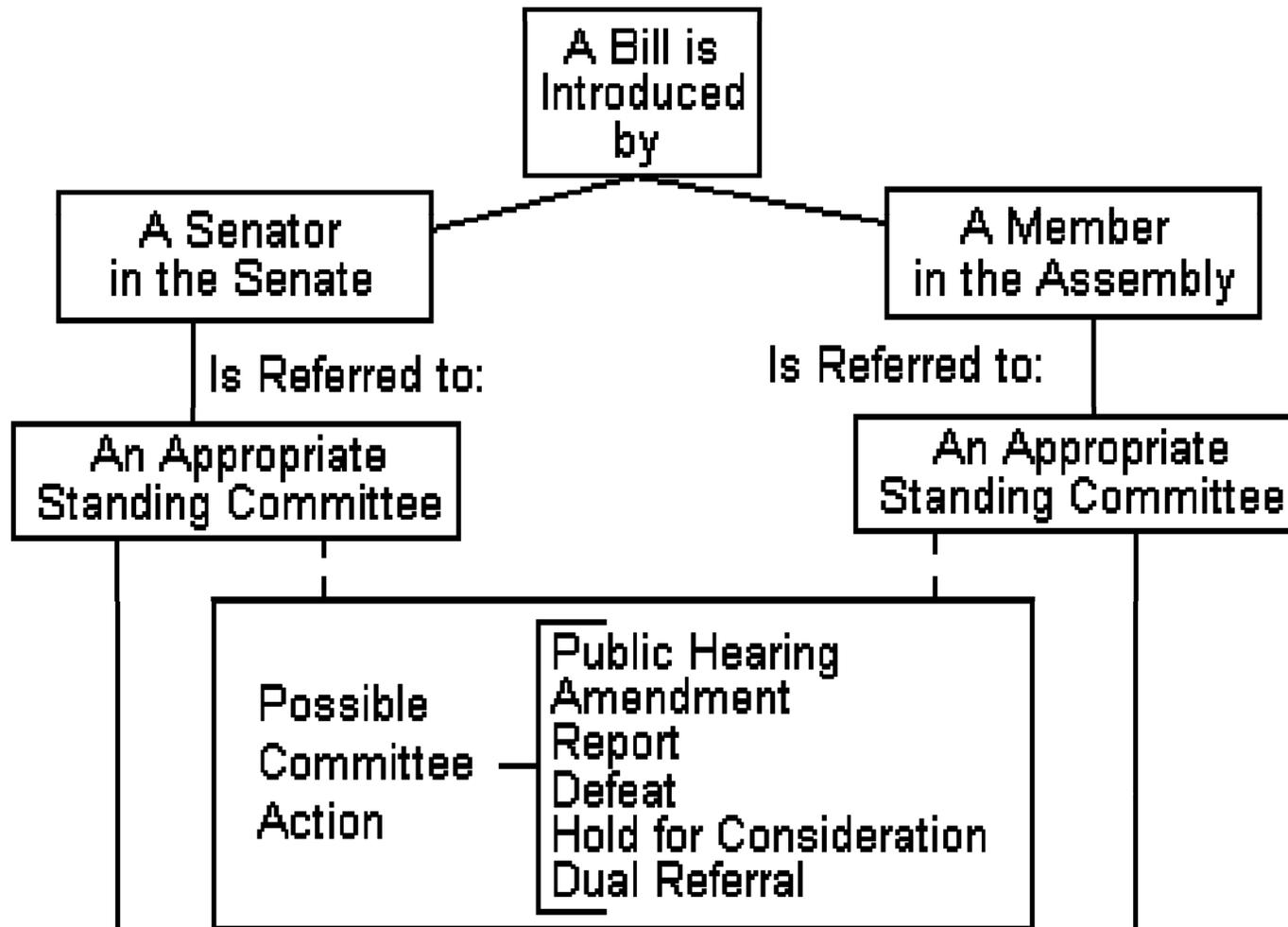


Refer to your state's website to find out how a bill becomes law!

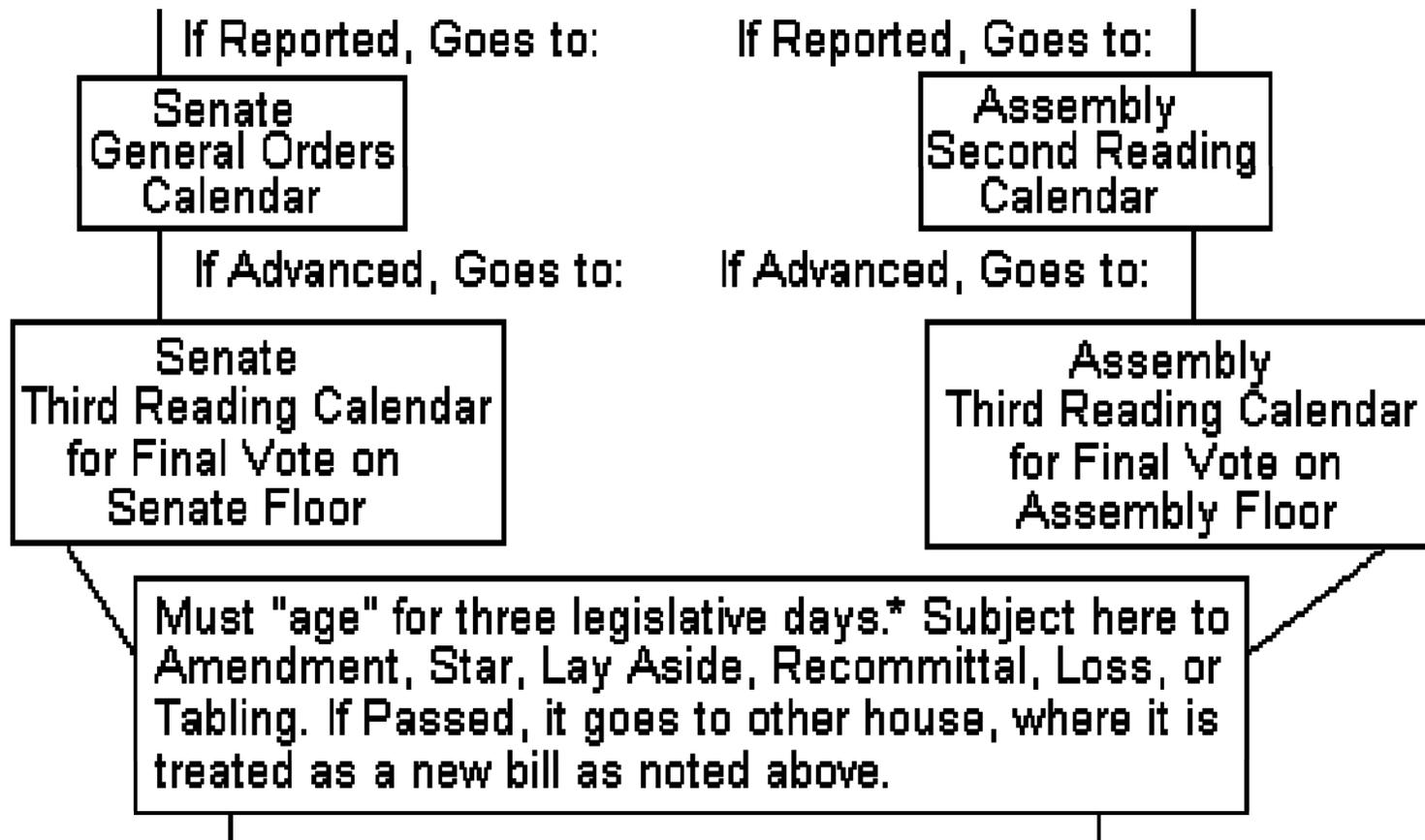
The following slides illustrate how a bill becomes law in:

- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Connecticut

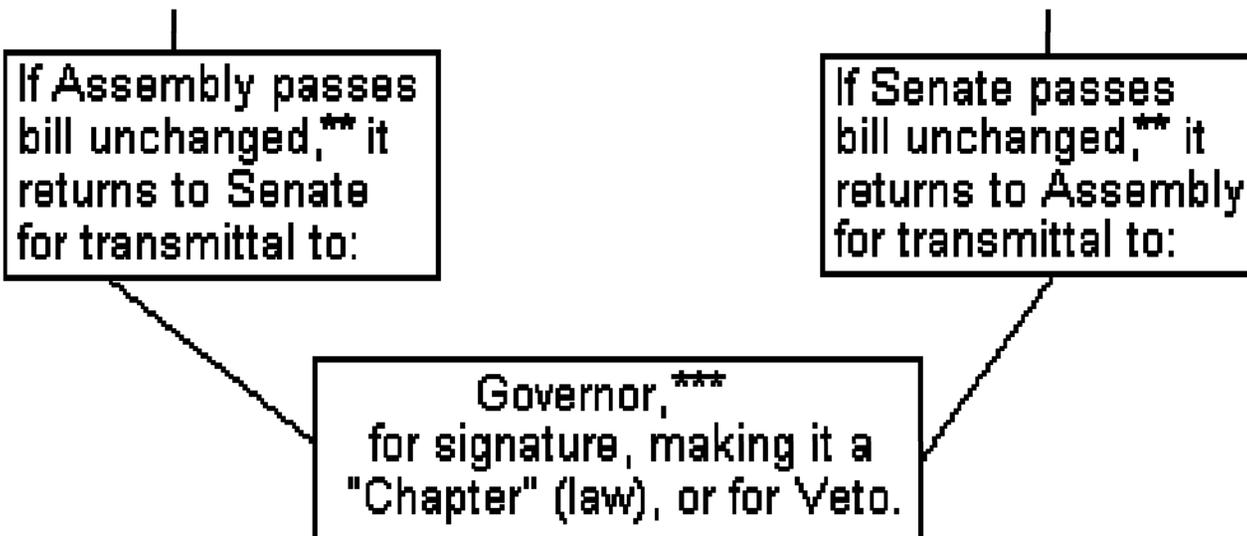
How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York



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.

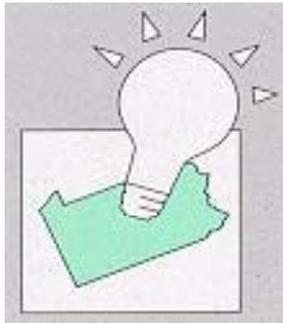
- Birth of a Bill
- Development
- Rites of Passage
- Peer Review
- Entering a Wider World
- Leaving the Nest
- The Final Interview
- Joining the Team

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

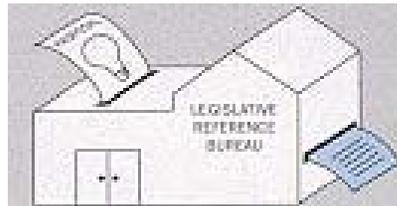
How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania (cont.)



1. Birth of a Bill



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



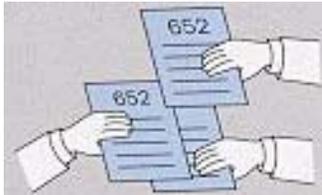
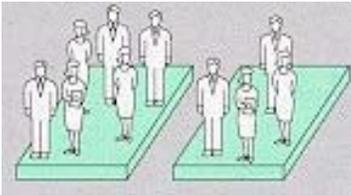
Legal experts at the Legislative Reference Bureau write the proposal in the proper form for a bill.



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



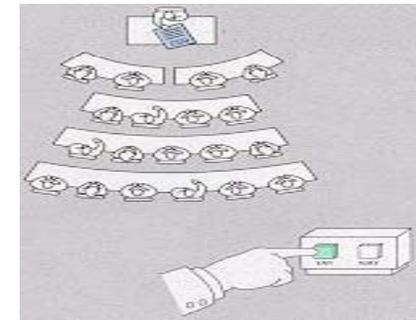
Like all bills, 652 is considered by members on the House Floor on three separate days.

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.



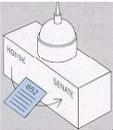
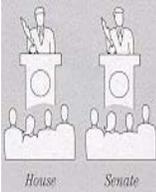
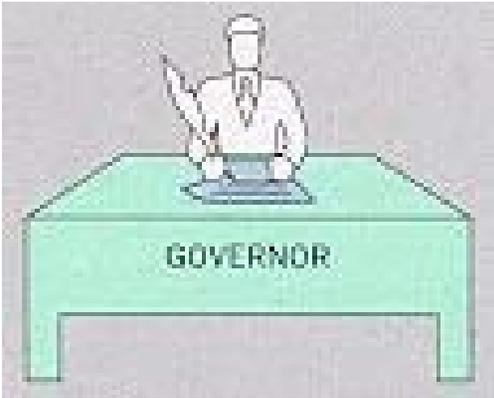
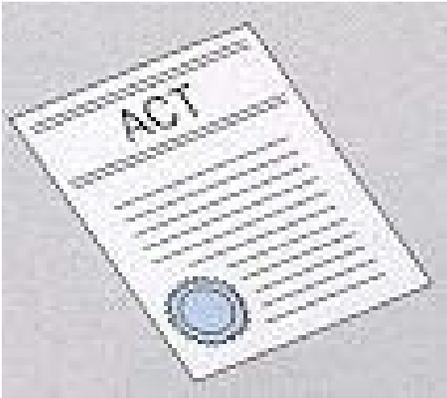
The Second Day of Consideration - The number and title of Bill 652 are again read to the members, who continue to prepare for discussion of the bill.



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.)

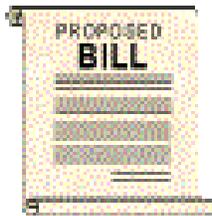


6. Leaving the Nest	7. The Final Interview	8. Joining the Team
<p data-bbox="302 651 823 1036">  House Bill 652 moves to the Senate where it is examined in committee, in caucus and by members on the Senate Floor. The Senate passes the bill without amendments. </p> <p data-bbox="302 1052 737 1403">  The 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="873 667 1367 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="1430 667 1877 1065">  </p> <p data-bbox="1430 1162 1871 1305"> House Bill 652 officially becomes law and is given an Act number. </p>

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Connecticut



Beginning:



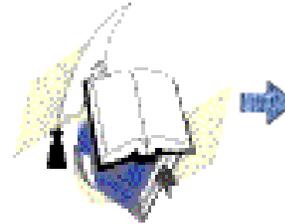
Proposed bill

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.)

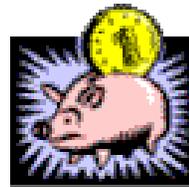


To Commissioner:



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:



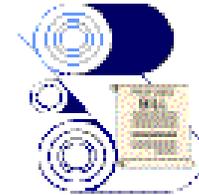
The Office of Fiscal Analysis adds an estimate of the bill's cost. The Office of Legislative Research adds a "plain English" explanation of the bill.

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:

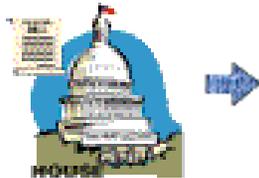


Other house votes on the bill.

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?:



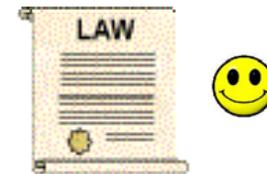
If governor vetoes, the bill is returned to the house in which it originated.

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



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