

REGIONAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP II

PROCESS OF BILLS IN YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT STATE SESSION

Before the model Legislature convenes in the State Capitol, all bills received will have been printed, numbered, assigned to committees, and filed in a Bill Book, a copy of which will be provided to each delegate. Study the Bill Book carefully and form your ideas about the merit of the bills it contains. House and Senate bills are grouped separately. Be ready to discuss other bills as well as your own. Preferably, discuss several bills in your school club or group to ascertain your constituents' views.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL

All bills will be numbered by the clerk and assigned to committees which meet the first day. Every delegate is assigned to a committee, but only Senators and Representatives are members.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Legislature cannot deal intelligently with the number of bills presented for consideration, so these are divided among smaller committees which can more carefully study them and report their recommendations to the Legislature.

Only bills reported out favorably by the committee (either in the original form or with amendments) will be debated and acted upon on the floor of the Legislature. Some bills never progress any further than the committee. Committees do not pass bills; they only decide if bills should be "reported out" for consideration by the Legislature.

The legislative committees will have a chairperson and a secretary appointed previously at the opening of the session. Adult supervisors and consultants will be assigned to committees to help answer questions and assist with procedures.

Here is a typical "order of business" in committees of the model Youth Legislature:

- a. The Chair calls the committee to order.
- b. The Secretary calls the roll of members to establish quorum.
- c. Committee calendar is set (that is, the order in which bills will be discussed is decided and a time limit for discussion of each is adopted). The chair may set the committee calendar in advance.
- d. Lobbyists and other nonmembers of the committee are recognized, giving their names and specifying bills on which they wish to speak.
- e. Committee considers bills in order:
 - Author explains purpose and major provisions.
 - Other members favorable to the bill speak for it.
 - Members opposed speak against it.

- Chair may call for lobbyists or others to speak for or against it.
 - Chair calls for a motion on the bill.
- f. Motions on bills adequate for our purposes are:
- Recommendation of *do pass*.
 - Recommendation of *pass without recommendation*.
 - Only the committee members may vote on the motion. (Senators and Representatives only.)
- g. After the bills have been considered and acted upon, the chairperson will then have the committee place priority rating on all do pass bills (1st and 2nd priority) so that all 1st priority bills from committee will receive top calendar positions in each House for third reading. In arriving at priority of the bills the committee will consider importance of Senate and House bills together.

SECOND READING OF BILLS

For our purposes, and to conserve time, the second reading of bills "reported out" from committee is done by the Rules Committee. These committees, composed of all officers and committee chairs, develop the House and Senate calendars based on the do pass bills with recommendations and their priorities.

THIRD READING OF BILLS

The House and Senate convene at the time scheduled in the Bill Book to begin debate on bills reported out of the committees for consideration. The presiding officers announce that the House is now ready for the third reading of the bills, and the clerk calls each bill as it is considered by the respective House.

The sponsor(s) should then stand and be recognized and should address the chair as follows:

"Mr. President [or Mr. Speaker], I ask for unanimous consent that further reading of this bill be dispensed with."

If there is an objection, the sponsor may state a motion to dispense with further reading.

The sponsor has the privilege of opening and closing debate on a bill. After the vote on the bill is taken, and if the vote is favorable, the bill is transmitted to the other House for action. Each bill received by one House from the other House shall be treated in the same way as a bill originating in that House.

In order that bills from both Houses may have prompt consideration, the first bill from the opposite House is placed next after the first three bills which originated in and are before that House. Subsequent bills are alternated on the calendar.

Bills passed by both Houses will be returned to the presiding officer of the House of origin for transmittal to the Youth Governor.

DEBATE PROCEDURES

Upon rising, each person who wishes to speak will address the chair as "Mr. Speaker" (in the House) or "Mr. President" (in the Senate). Questions asked of another member must be addressed through the presiding officer. Permission to question another member of the House must first be granted by the presiding officer.

When debate is ended, the chair will recognize the sponsor(s) of the bill under consideration, after which the sponsor(s) may present their closing arguments. The vote will be taken, a majority being necessary to carry. In case of a tie vote in the Senate, the presiding officer shall cast their vote to break the tie. The Speaker may always vote.

A colleague is always referred to as "the Gentleman", "the Lady", "the Senator", or "the Representative" from (name of school or team).

SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bills passed by both Senate and House go to the Governor for a signature. The Governor may sign or veto the bill.

How a bill becomes a law

