**How to Write a Bill**

Now that you have an idea and the information to develop it, you can begin to put it into bill form. This means actually wording it the specific way it will appear at the YMCA NC Youth Legislature. Drafting a bill in the proper form is crucial to getting it passed by the legislature. Just follow the template below.

Introduced by: (*List all names of bill authors)*

Delegation: *(This is formatted as your YMCA and delegation. If you are not part of a YMCA,*

*just list the delegation)*

Purpose: *(This section simply states why this bill is being written. What does this bill hope*

*to accomplish?)*

Action Clause: **BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH LEGISLATURE**

*(The above phrase must be on every bill, directly above Section 1)*

Section Formatting: *(Formatting for every section is the same. Refer to the Sample Bill to*

*see exactly what this looks like. Starting with the Action Clause, there should be a line space between every section. Each section should be listed with a number and followed by a period, i.e. Section 1. or Section 2.There should be one space between the section number and the first word of the section, i.e. Section 1. A tool shall…)*

Definitions: *(Throughout your bill, you may find it necessary to define any terms which are*

*key to the bill. Remember that this is a law and will need to be interpreted by law enforcement. Thus, it is important for the language of the bill to be as clear as possible)*

Penalties: *(You will need to state what penalty, if any, would be applied to someone who is*

*in violation of your new law. Penalties can take many forms, and are often related to the intent of the bill. Please note that penalties are not a requirement for bills)*

Funding: *(One of the great things about the YMCA NC Youth Legislature is that we do not*

*use funding as a consideration for bill selection or passage. We prefer students debate about content rather than appropriations. Money is only necessary for your bill if you are using it in relation to penalties)*

Effective Date: *(This is the date on which your bill takes effect. Some can go into effect*

*immediately (“upon passage”) while others will take time to implement. If you decide that you want to have a specific effective date for your bill, please note that the date must be after the YMCA NC Youth Legislature in February, 2012)*

As you are preparing your bill, please keep in mind that your bill should be no more than 2 typed pages in length. It is recommended that you get feedback on your bill throughout the brainstorming and writing stages. You can use the Bill Feedback handout to help ensure that your bill meets all of the YMCA NC Youth Legislature requirements. Good luck!

**Bill Feedback**

Once your bill is written out, and throughout the course of the bill writing process, it is recommended that you use this handout to gather the best feedback for your bill. Have a peer, teacher, parent, attorney, etc. answer the following questions about your bill to determine if you are on the right track.

1. As far as you know, is this bill in conflict with the State Constitution, Federal Constitution, or Federal Law? If yes, please explain.

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1. As far as you know, is this bill already a law in North Carolina?

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1. Does this bill affect the entire state of North Carolina or only a portion? Explain.

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1. Does the timeline for when this bill would take effect seem reasonable? Explain.

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1. Is this bill “debatable”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Does the responsibility for this bill fall to the state government, or is it a local or federal concern?

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