

HOW TO BEGIN WRITING A BILL

SELECT A TOPIC: Bills can be on any subject. However, topics that are timely or controversial are the most interesting and educational. The subject of your bill can be based on your own interest or the concern of your community. For ideas on topics think about the following:

- State youth policies (4-H, FFA, Girls State) to be changed
- Problems in your local school
- Problems in your local community
- Issues of Local or State debate or concern

To help select your topic, visit with local government (County or State officials), school teachers and superintendents, church people, business people, ranchers and farmers, law enforcement officers, trade associations, union members, friends, and parents.

WRITING THE BILL: The important thing to remember is that the bill should be on one main subject only. It should clearly state the change in policy or law, who is to carry out your law, how it is to be enforced, and where the money is to come from if your change requires funding. It should not list the pros and cons. Arguments about the worth and purpose of the proposed law should be saved for the committee and floor debates. Try to get with your local legislators when you start to write your bill. They will be able to help you with the language and the format of the bill. It will be good experience to work with them. You will learn about their job as a legislator and they will learn about your youth program.

When your draft is ready to type for mailing, please use the enclosed form or at least follow the format. Each line is to be numbered. Start each page with the top line as "1". Each main idea of your bill is a section (identify each section by the proper Arabic number). Subsections (divisions of sections) are identified with lower case letters (a, b, c, etc.). You may use as many pages as are needed. They are to be numbered in the center at the bottom of the page. Double space. If you are working with matter that affects State law, be sure to make reference to the section of the law so others can find them easily.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: The Wyoming Legislature has twelve standing committees. The Girls State Legislature will have six (6) such committees as follows: Agriculture/Environment, Corporations, Education, Judiciary, Social Services, and Transportation/Recreation/Wildlife. Final designations for your session will be made after all bills have been submitted. The Wyoming Legislature does not act on all bills introduced; and the Girls State Legislature may not have time to consider all bills.