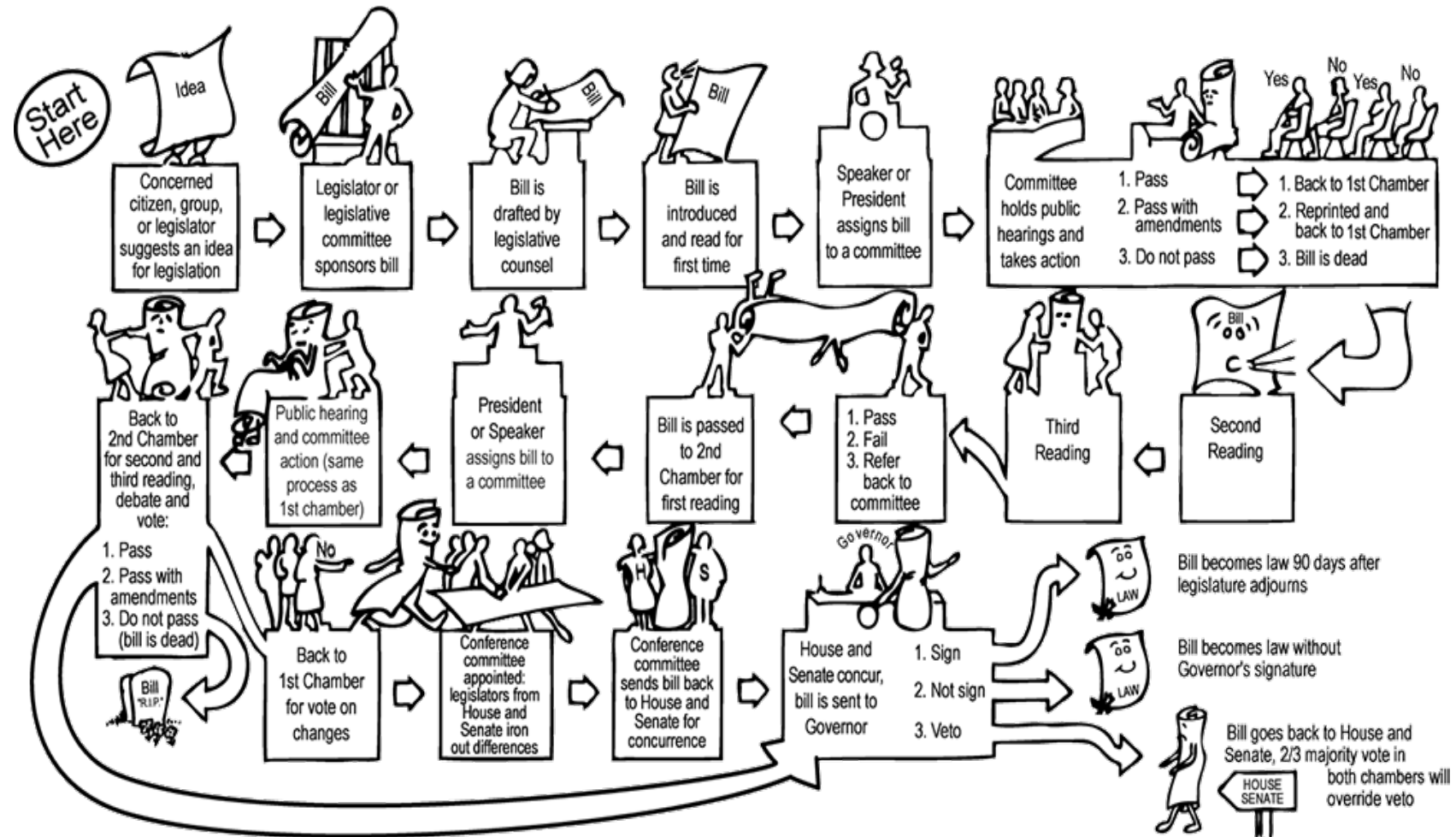


HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

SO THIS IS HOW IT WORKS



<https://vimeo.com/24334724>



Acknowledgement:

School House Rocks website.

http://media.atlantic-records.com/media/schoolhouse_rock_rocks/schoolhouse_rock_rocks/bill.wav

2018 BILLS OF INTEREST

SB 2154 / HB 2288 CHANGES NAME OF VETERINARY TECHNICIAN -

- ◉ **Sen. Mike Bell/Rep. Bob Ramsey**
- ◉ **Senate Status -- 03/15/18 - Taken off notice in Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.**
- ◉ **House Status -- 03/21/18 - Taken off notice in House Government Operations Committee**
- ◉ **TNA WILL STRONGLY OPPOSES ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION**

TNA REASONS FOR STRONG OPPOSITION

- ◉ **TNA believes the title registered nurse has always been linked to the provision of care to human.**
- ◉ **TNA believes the Registered Veterinary Nurse initiative would undermine the title “Nurse” that TNA fought hard to protect.**
- ◉ **TNA believes in transparency of those who provide care for human beings and those who care for other forms of life and the title nurse should remain distinctive.**
- ◉ **LASTLY, NO OTHER STATE HAS ENACTED SUCH LEGISLATION**

SENATE BILL 1926/HOUSE BILL 2122 -- THE NEW HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER ACT, WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A LICENSE FOR A NEW PRACTITIONER

- ◉ **Sen. Richard Briggs/Rep. Ryan Williams**
- ◉ **Senate Status – Senate re-referred to Senate Calendar Committee – Bill sponsor withdrew legislation**
- ◉ **House Status – Bill taken off notice in House Health Committee**
- ◉ **TNA OPPOSED**

TNA REASONS FOR OPPOSITION

- ◉ Introduces a new license for Tennessee physician assistants (PAs)
- ◉ Evidence is lacking which supports the creation of a new education model and license for Pas
- ◉ Bill sponsors stated lack of primary care in rural areas was rationale for introducing
- ◉ TNA believes bill ignores APRN's who already practice primary care and are available to practice to the full extent of their training and education.
- ◉ No other state has such a practice model.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 713

Rep. John DeBerry

- ⦿ Expresses support for a minimum mandatory school nurse to student ratio of 1:750
- ⦿ Encourages LEAs to access grants to fund school nurses, and encourages school nurses to work in collaboration with other health care professionals
- ⦿ TNA SPONSOR RESOLUTION

TN TOGETHER -- *ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS*

Legislation introduced by Governor Bill Haslam

HB1831/SB2257

- As amended, will place more guidelines for and checkpoints between healthcare practitioners and patients before an individual is put on a chronic regimen of opioids.
- Exempts certain individuals with chronic illness and diseases.
- TNA collaborated with other stakeholders as the introduced bill was amended to address concerns.

FOR COMPLETE BILL HISTORY AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

- ◉ <http://www.tnaonline.org/-government-affairs/government-affairs>
- ◉ <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 101

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- Your nursing practice, your ability to care for patients safely, your role in delegation and supervision of unlicensed care givers, your ability to practice in an Advanced Nurse Practitioner role, are all determined by state law, the Nurse Practice Act.

YOU ARE THE EXPERT!

- You are the expert when it comes to the nursing profession and the health of your patients and communities.
- Legislators care what you think. Your point of view is important to legislators as they craft the laws and regulations that affect your profession and patients.
- Nurses are always speaking on behalf of their patients' welfare and this process is exactly what is effective in dealing with the legislature: gathering information, assessing the effects, providing a plan and speaking out to make changes.

SO, HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

- ◉ First, find out who represents you on Capitol Hill, who are your local legislators and how do you contact them.
 - Visit the Tennessee General Assembly website at <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators/>
 - Go to “Locate Your Legislators.” Just enter your address and both your Senator and Representative will appear, complete with pictures and contact information.

TO EFFECTIVELY LOBBY YOUR LEGISLATORS...

- ◉ DO YOUR HOMEWORK Just as your time is very limited, so is a legislator's. Know the bill number (SB for Senators, HB for Representatives) and the issues. Have your facts ready.
- ◉ IDENTIFY YOURSELF Introduce yourself as a registered nurse (nursing student) and a voter from a specific city or county. And remember, you are speaking on behalf of yourself as a nurse, not as a lobbyist for any organization.
- ◉ KEEP IT SIMPLE AND CLEAR State your position clearly and then be available to either answer any questions the legislator might have or offer to find out the answer to any question you don't know. It is alright to say "I don't know the answer"...never fake it! Offer to get the information to them as quickly as possible and always follow up with the legislator.
- ◉ CONCENTRATE ON THE ISSUE, NOT THE PERSON Doing your homework and preparing for your conversation with your legislator will allow you to concentrate on the issue. Remember, they are public servants trying to represent ALL of their constituents.

COMMUNICATE LIKE YOU RUN YOUR UNIT/FLOOR/CLINIC OR BUSINESS

Be cooperative

Be realistic

Be practical

And Listen

Never break your word...if you tell a
legislator you will do something, do it.

TIPS FOR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND LETTERS

- ◉ Keep it clear and focused. A one-page letter should be enough to communicate your thoughts and express your stand on a particular issue.
- ◉ Write it yourself, make it personal, and don't simply send on a mass-produced letter.
- ◉ In the salutation, use Dear Senator (last name) or Dear Representative (last name) and not "Congressman" (that is the federal designation).
- ◉ Provide your contact information (address, phone number, E-mail).
- ◉ E-MAILS Put the Bill number and your request in the subject line and follow guidelines as for a letter.

LASTLY...

- ◉ Take time to contact your legislator when you approve of their action, as well as when you wish to voice your opposition to a bill.
- ◉ Always thank your legislator for a positive action on a request; they get lots of requests, but not many thanks.
- ◉ Please complete Legislative Appointment Feedback Sheet and return via email to Wilhelmina Davis at wilhelmina.davis@tnaonline.org

YOU ARE NOW READY TO MEET WITH
YOUR LEGISLATOR

ENJOY YOUR VISIT!!!