

Bill Writing for Student Congress

Two Forms: Bills and Resolutions

Bill: Creates a New Law
Addresses current problem
Suggests action to solve problem
Submitted to a Committee: Economics, Foreign Affairs, Public Welfare

Includes Articles or Sections

Article I: Specifically State the new policy action

Article II: Clarify any ambiguous terms in AI

Article III: Set the time when policy will take effect
Immediate or Phase-In

Article IV: Enforcement Mechanism
Penalties for Non-Compliance
Agency responsible for enforcement

Article V: Nullification of Existing Policies/Avoid Conflicts

Why Propose legislation in Bill Form?

- 1) A New Law may be needed to solve a recently recognized problem... Clinton's Cuba policy
- 2) Inadequacy of Existing laws
- 3) Inconsistent State laws require uniform Federal Legislation
Drinking Age disparities/Speed Limit disparities

Resolution: Observe problems and make recommendations for improvement
Do not have the force of law
Urge action without specifying how problem is to be solved
Congress encourages President to be tough on Japanese Trade

Writing the Resolution: Whereas versus Article/Section
flow as one long sentence connected by semicolons

Why Propose Resolutions?

- 1) Sense of the Legislature
No specific date or enforcement
- 2) When unable to write a bill
Jurisdiction of US over another country/ Israel & Golan Hgts

Writing Bills & Resolutions Generally:

- 1) Suitability of Topics for Debate
--Importance, accomplishment, impact
- 2) Double-Spaced
- 3) Committee Determination

STANDARD FORMAT FOR A BILL

- 1 Article I: State the new policy to be adopted in a brief
- 2 declarative sentence, or in as few sentences
- 3 as possible.
- 4 Article II: Define any ambiguous terms inherent in
- 5 Article I.
- 6 Article III: Indicate the Implementation Date.
- 7 Article IV: Name the government agency that will
- 8 oversee the enforcement of the bill along
- 9 with the specific enforcement mechanism.
- 10 Article V: State that all other laws that are in conflict
- with this new policy shall hereby be declared
- null and void.

Respectfully Submitted to
the Committee on (Public Welfare,
Economics, Foreign Affairs)

(Signature)

Type your Name
Type your School Name

A Bill to License Walk-In Medical Clinics

1 Article I: All private and public walk-in medical clinics shall be subject
2 to licensing by the federal government.

3 Article II: This federal licensing shall limit their medical services to
4 nonemergency or non-life-threatening procedures.

5 Article III: This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

6 Article IV: The Department of Health and Human Services will oversee
7 this licensing. Failure to comply will result in the loss of
8 license to operate.

9 Article V: All laws in conflict with this bill ~~will~~ hereby be declared null
10 and void

Respectfully Submitted
to the Committee on
Public Welfare

(Signature)

Maria Frye
Williams High School

STANDARD FORMAT FOR A RESOLUTION:

- 1 Whereas: State the current problem (this needs to be accomplished in one
2 brief sentence); and
3 Whereas: Describe the scope on the problem cited in the first whereas
4 clause (this clause needs to flow logically from the first); and
5 Whereas: Explain the Impact of or the harms perpetuated by the current
6 problem (once again, the clause needs to flow in a logical
7 sequence).
8 Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that:
9 state your recommendation for dealing with the problem (the
10 resolution should be a clear call for action).

Respectfully Submitted to the
Committee on (Public Welfare,
Economics, Foreign Affairs)

(Signature)

Type your Name

Type your School Name

A Resolution to Reorganize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

1 Whereas: The Federal Emergency Management Agency is not
2 responding to recent natural disaster victims in an efficient
3 and expedient manner; and
4 Whereas: This lack of efficiency and expediency has left thousands of
5 individuals without an adequate supply of food, clothing, and
6 shelter; and
7 Whereas: This lack of supplies has fueled a public outcry for change.
8 Therefore, be it resolved by this Student Congress here assembled that
9 FEMA be reorganized to better meet the needs of natural-
10 disaster victims.

Respectfully Submitted
to the Committee on
Public Welfare

(Signature)
Type Your Name
Type Your School Name