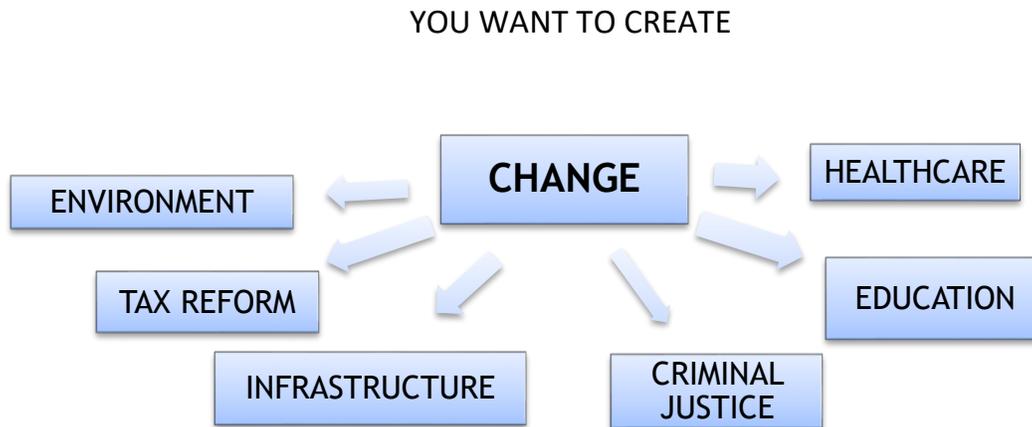


## Bill Writing Guide

### What is a bill?

A **BILL** is a written proposal to affect the State of Louisiana. It will be debated and voted upon in the House and Senate. If it passes in these chambers and the Governor approves your proposal, then the bill becomes a law. Everyone has to write a bill because no positions (Supreme Court, Attorney General) are guaranteed. Only if you are elected to Supreme Court at Pre-LEG are you exempt from writing a bill.

### Getting Ideas



What are things that interest you?  
What would you like to see the state of Louisiana do differently?  
What state issues and laws are affecting you?  
You have the opportunity to propose change. Use it!

### COMMON BILL TOPICS

- Infrastructure
- Criminal Justice
- Prison Reform
- Social Justice
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Government Reform
- Education
- Energy
- Transportation
- Tax Reform
- Louisiana Economy
- Trade
- Entitlement Reform (Welfare)

Once you have an idea, research it. This will prepare you to debate and defend your bill. The most well written, well-researched bills are the ones that prompt debate and make it to the Governor's desk.

Good Preparation = Good Presentation

### Writing Your Bill

Using your topic and the information you have gathered in your research, write drafts of your bill to review with your bill partner and club members. Maximum of two delegates can collaborate on a bill together. Once your bill is finalized, fill in the components of the Bill in the submission form on the LA Youth & Government Website.

Don't worry about the Enacting Clause, the Repealing Clause and the Severability Clause. Those are already filled in for you!

# BILL FORMAT

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill # \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_  
House Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor's Action \_\_\_\_\_

## AN ACT

TO: (This is where the title should be placed. The title of the bill is a concise statement of the goal or objective of the law.)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

### SECTION I

(A brief overview of your bill, restatement of title and definition of terms)

Elaborate and give supporting details on the proposed law. This is a great place to put what problem/issue the bill is trying to approach. Give a few short facts, statistics, motives and effect this bill will have.

### SECTION II

(Implementation)

What needs to happen for this bill to take effect? Put here how and when the law would take place. Explain how you plan to implement this law in Louisiana.

### SECTION III

(Means of financing)

How much money is needed to implement this bill? Explain where the money to support this law will come from. Will you need to create taxes or readjust budgets?

### SECTION IV

(Penalties, if necessary)

What are the consequences for breaking this law, if passed?

### SECTION V

#### SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

### SECTION VI

#### REPEALER CLAUSE

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.