

BOMA/SUBURBAN CHICAGO

Legislative Advocacy Training 101

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Guest Speaker

State Representative David Olsen, 81st
District

The Illinois General Assembly

- A bicameral legislature comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- The Senate has 59 members while the House has 118 members
 - Two Representatives per Senate seat
- The Assembly just adjourned the 100th General Assembly. Next year will begin the 101st General Assembly

The Senate | Upper Chamber

- 59 Senators
 - 37 Democratic
 - 21 Republican
 - 1 Conservative
- 30 votes needed to pass legislation
- 36 votes needed to override Governor's veto
- Senate President: John Cullerton
- Minority Leader: Bill Brady

The House | Lower Chamber

- 118 Representatives
 - 67 Democrats
 - 51 Republicans
- 60 votes needed to pass legislation
- 71 votes needed to override Governor's veto
- House Speaker: Michael Madigan
- Minority Leader: Jim Durkin

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Bill Drafted:

- When a lawmaker has an idea for a bill, often at the suggestion of a constituent, he or she passes the information on to the Legislative Reference Bureau to be written in proper technical form.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Bill Introduced:

- Every bill must be read in front of the legislative body on three separate occasions before it can be passed. When the bill is first filed with the House or Senate Clerk, it is assigned a bill number and read before the body for the first time.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Referred to Committee:

- The Rules Committee in the House and Assignments Committee in the Senate – both made up of 3 members from the majority party and 2 from minority party – refers the bill to the appropriate committee for review.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Committee Hearing:

- The bill's sponsor explains the legislation to committee members, who can then ask questions. Lobbyists, representatives of concerned groups, and members of the public can voice support or opposition. Only if a majority of the committee votes in favor of the bill is it moved to the entire chamber.

How a Bill Becomes Law

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Second Reading:

- The bill is read for a second time before the full legislative body. Changes, or “amendments”, can still be proposed at this stage.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Third Reading:

- This bill is read for a third and final time before the full chamber. After the sponsor explains the bill, members of the chamber can ask questions. When debate is completed, the chamber votes on the bill. A simple majority is needed – 60 in House and 30 in Senate – for the bill to pass. Bills that are approved on third reading move over to the opposite chamber where it goes through the same process.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Second Chamber:

- If the second chamber approves the bill as it is written, it is sent directly to the Governor. If a bill is amended in the second chamber and then passed, it must return to the originating chamber so the members can vote to “concur”, or agree with the change. If the vote to concur is successful, the bill is sent to the Governor.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

Governor's Action:

- The Governor may sign the bill into law, veto it with recommendations for changes, or veto it absolutely.

How a Bill Becomes Law

****Refer to Handout #1**

New Law:

- The bill becomes law when the Governor signs it. If a bill is vetoed, it can become law if both chambers of the General Assembly vote by two-third majorities to override the Governor's veto.

Tracking Your Legislation

- Handout #2

Actions		
Date	Chamber	Action
1/30/2018	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Cristina Castro
1/30/2018	Senate	First Reading
1/30/2018	Senate	Referred to Assignments
2/7/2018	Senate	Assigned to Human Services
2/9/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Omar Aquino
2/16/2018	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Daniel Biss
2/21/2018	Senate	Do Pass Human Services ; 009-000-000
2/21/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading February 22, 2018
2/27/2018	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins
4/10/2018	Senate	Second Reading
4/10/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading April 11, 2018
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Emil Jones, III
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson
4/11/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford
4/17/2018	Senate	Third Reading - Passed; 053-000-000
4/17/2018	House	Arrived in House
4/17/2018	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Anna Moeller
4/17/2018	House	First Reading
4/17/2018	House	Referred to Rules Committee
4/18/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Pat McGuire
4/26/2018	House	Assigned to Aging Committee
5/18/2018	House	Do Pass / Short Debate Aging Committee ; 013-000-000
5/21/2018	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
5/23/2018	House	Second Reading - Short Debate
5/23/2018	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate
5/24/2018	House	Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 108-000-000
5/24/2018	Senate	Passed Both Houses

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 1: Identify the parties involved

- Lawmakers
- Staff
- Advocacy groups
- Lobbyists
- Citizens

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 2: Work the bill

- Amendments to legislation
- Educate members about your issue or legislation
- Committee Testimony

Passing & Stopping Legislation

Step 3: Roll Call

- Committee members
- Full chamber

Examples

- Stopping the sales tax expansion
- Duel-Credit Agreements

How do you set up a meeting with your legislator?

Do you know who your legislators are?

- To find your elected officials, visit the State Board of Elections website to use the district locator tool.
 - <http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/addressfinder.aspx>

Contacting your legislators

- The best way to coordinate a meeting with your lawmaker is to contact their district office...even if you have their personal cell or email.

Talking to Lawmakers

KISSS

- **Keep**
- **It**
- **Short** – two minutes at most
- **Simple** – use a group's whole name – no initials
- **Stick to the facts** – don't make things up

Q&A