How a Bill Becomes a Law

HINTS:
- Get the language right. Changes will happen throughout the legislative process — know your limits and be open to compromise.
- Allow time for legislative research to draft concepts to bill.

HINTS:
- Consider requesting a favorable committee assignment from the chamber’s Presiding Officer.
- The chair is critical. Always review your issues with him/her.
- Engage members of the committee before the hearing.
- Provide concise and thoughtful information on the bill — try to make a connection.
- Ask if the bill might be wrapped into a larger committee substitute.

HINTS:
- The key person is the Majority Floor Leader.
- Work out problems, if possible, before going to the floor.
- Make sure you count votes — ground work will increase your chances of getting floor time.
- Make sure your sponsor is prepared for floor debate.

HINTS:
- Bills must pass the House and Senate in the exact same form.
- Differences can be reconciled in two ways:
  1. One chamber concedes to the other; or
  2. A conference committee creates a compromise bill.
- Both chambers must vote on the product of a conference committee.

HINTS:
- Chambers must pass identical forms of the bill for it to be T.A.F.P.
- There is a staff person in the Governor’s Office who reviews bills on each subject. Find out who this individual is and communicate.