

Getting A Bill On Child Obesity Passed

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Childhood Obesity Legislative History

25 States have enacted legislation

- **Nutritional Standards
Schools**
- **Nutritional Education**
- **Body Mass Index**
- **Physical Activity**
- **Nutritional Information
School menus**

Leading States

West Virginia

5/5

Colorado

4/5

7 others tied

3/5

Minnesota Legislative History

- **Nutritional Education requirement was considered in 2005 but not adopted**

Critical Elements to Pass a Bill

- **Good idea**
- **Passionate champion**
- **Committed following**
- **Good legislative author**
- **Patience/persistence**

Ground Work

- **Relationships**
 - Key legislators**
- **Political involvement**
- **Campaign assistance/contributors**
- **Developing base support**

Bill Development

- Write down what you want
- Identify a legislator interested in carrying your idea
- Legislative staff will write idea into “statutory” form

Process

Passing a Law is Intended to be Difficult

- **Bicameral Legislature**
- **Bipartisan Legislature**

Introducing a Bill

- **Two Moving Targets**

Senate Bill

House Bill

- **Two Authors Can Work Together**

Referral to Committee

- **Committee Jurisdictions**
- **Speaker of the House**
- **President of the Senate**

Requesting a Hearing

- **Written Request**
- **Requests that are denied**
 - Appeal to the Speaker or Majority Leader**
 - Appeal to the Rules Committee**
 - Appeal to the House or Senate**

Hearing the Bill

- Role of the Chair
- Role of the Author
- Explanation
- Discussion
- Voting

Voting

- **Amendments**
 - Author's Amendments**
 - Other Amendments**
- **Committee Recommendation**
- **Roll Call Votes**
- **Voice Votes**

Floor Action

- **Second Reading**
- **Engrossing**
Incorporating Amendments into a clean version of the bill
- **General or Special Orders**

Amendments

- In writing
- Approved by the Engrossing Secretary
- Copies for all Members
- Germaneness
- Third-Degree Amendments Prohibited

Third Reading

- Ready for Vote on Final Passage
- No more amendments

Reconciling the Differences

- The same bill ideally should pass both bodies

- If there are no differences

Final Passage

- If there are differences

Conference Committee

Conference Committee

- **3 or 5 Members from each legislative body**
- **Develop Conference Report for Final Approval by both bodies**

Approval by the Governor

- **Presentment**
- **Time Limits**
- **Vetoes**
- **Overriding a Veto**
- **Effective Date**

Final Thoughts

- **Anyone can do this**
- **Need to be committed**
- **Understand the legislative process is chaotic**
- **Legislators are good people but they need to be convinced**
- **There may be opposition to work through**

Good Luck!

The Process of Getting a Bill Passed

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- **Were the steps for moving a bill through the legislative process identified?**

The Process of Getting a Bill Passed

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- **Were inadequacies identified and suggestions made to position this policy for success?**