

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN PA



An idea is introduced...

Any legislator can create a piece of legislation and introduce it to the House and Senate.

TAKE ACTION POINT! : Women Against Abuse can bring awareness to a local Representative about a problem in our community that needs to be addressed. I.E. gun laws that affect DV survivors.

The bill is referred...

The bill then goes to the appropriate committee(s) and is then assigned to a subcommittee.

Legislation becomes a bill...

The bill is then officially assigned a number and labeled with sponsor names and legislators are given the opportunity to co-sponsor it.

TAKE ACTION POINT! : We may hold a rally in support or send out an advocacy alert letting the community know about the new piece of legislation and how to act.

The bill is sent back to the floor...

The main committee sends the bill back to the House and Senate and put on the voting calendar.

The bill can be changed...

The main committee can amend and comment on the bill and decide whether to support or oppose it.

TAKE ACTION POINT! : This is the stage where hearings are held for experts and professionals. Women Against Abuse could be asked to testify in support or opposition to the bill being discussed.

The chambers vote...

Both House/ Senate vote. If one chamber passes the bill it is sent to the other chamber for consideration.

The bill is debated...

Legislators can debate and amend the bill. The House gets an allotted amount of time and the Senate has an unlimited amount.

TAKE ACTION POINT! : We would contact elected officials in Philadelphia to urge them to vote a certain way. This is also when WAA urges clients and community members to contact their legislator regarding the bill.

If both chambers disagree...

If the House/Senate pass different bills, it is sent to a Conference Committee (most legislation goes here).

If both chambers agree...

If the other chamber votes against, the bill dies. If both chambers pass the same bill, it is sent to the Governor's Office for his/her signature...

Vote on Conference report...

If both House/Senate pass the Conference Report- the bill is sent to the Governor's Office for his/her signature...

Final vote...

If the Governor passes the bill it becomes a law, if he/she vetoes it, 2/3 of the chamber can override the veto, and it becomes a law.

TAKE ACTION POINT! : Whether Women Against Abuse was in favor the law that is passed, the response is always to create action steps to ensuring safety and support for survivors and the community.