



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Girls State**

Guidelines for Writing a Bill for Legislation

You are invited to write one submission for legislation prior to coming to Girls State. There will be about 5 chosen for debate during the week. They may be edited or combined and will be used to facilitate discussions and help form the party platforms. Each citizen will get a copy of each, and is welcome to run for State Congress to work more closely with the bills. There will be an open hearing where each citizen will get the chance to voice their opinion to the body before they make their final vote.

Be guided by the following suggestions:

1. Only one idea or bit of legislation per bill.
2. Only legislation that pertains to the State, not an individual Community or the Nation.
3. Keep it simple. No more than two (2) pages, please. 4. Each Bill is for serious, effective legislation for the good of our own Commonwealth or for Girls State.
4. Write about something you can explain, sell to others, and defend against opposition.

Use the information and format below to write your bill.

A Bill

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts Girls State assembled that:

SECTION 1: *State the new policy in a brief declarative sentence, or in as few sentences as possible.*

SECTION 2: *Define any ambiguous terms inherent in the first section.*

SECTION 3: *Name the government agency that will oversee the enforcement of the bill along with the specific enforcement mechanism.*

SECTION 4: *Indicate the implementation date/timeframe.*

SECTION 5: *State that all other laws that are in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be declared null and void.*

Submitted

by: _____

****See sample below****

Sample Bill

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts Girls State assembled that:

SECTION 1: All buildings must have clearly marked exit doors with emergency exit plans posted.

SECTION 2: *Exit doors* are defined as doors that will lead out of the building. *Emergency exit plan* is defined as the quickest route to exit the building in case of an emergency situation.

SECTION 3: The State Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS). The building inspectors will begin checking for this upon their inspections. Fines will be based upon number of warnings given, starting at \$500.

SECTION 4: These inspections will begin on January 1, 2024.

SECTION 5: All other laws that are in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be declared null and void.

Submitted by: Jane Doe