

OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA STATE YMCA

Youth in Government Student Manual

Quick Facts – Student Legislature

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Table of Contents

Quick Facts – Student Legislature..... 1



Quick Facts – Student Legislature

Youth in Government builds an understanding of how state government works. Student Legislators propose legislation to improve our state.

Legislative bills are draft legislation within the authority of the state constitution.

Legislative ideas come from any the Governor, Legislators and any other citizen.

Committees are presided over by Committee Chairpersons.

The Senate President, elected by Senators, presides over the Senate.

The Speaker of the House, elected by House members, presides over the House.

State Legislators are elected by the people.

Legislators take an oath or affirm they will support the Constitution.

Generally, bills passed by the Legislature only become law when signed by the Governor.

A Governor's veto of a Bill may be over-ridden by the Legislature.

Legislators get to speak by being recognized by the Presiding Officer.

During Legislative debate, Legislators address the chair.

Bills may be amended in Committee or on the Floor. Once an amendment is made, it must be voted on.

Student Legislation Impacts State and Federal Law

- The father of the 18 year old vote, the late US Senator Jennings Randolph credits YG as one of the reasons he championed the 26th Amendment to the US Constitution.
- White line on the side of the road
- Photos on drivers licenses
- Vocational education
- Drivers Education

And more than 100 other current state laws were first considered in Youth in Government.

For a Successful Student Legislature:

- Know your Bill inside and out
- Understand any opposition and be able to respond
- Be prepared to present your Bill to Committee and Floor
- Know Youth in Government rules of procedure
- Connect with Lobbyists, Governor's Cabinet and Committee members considering your bill
- Before YG read every Bill in your House or Senate so you are ready to participate in Committee and Floor Sessions
- Help your committee give every Bill a complete and fair hearing
- Be respectful of others in every position and situation
- Speak up – take part in Committee and Floor sessions
- Dress the part at the Statehouse – be professional Legislators

Share your personality – be you

- Meet others
- Be friendly
- Go beyond your school group and make friends from other schools
- Help others
- Be polite and friendly to hotel and Statehouse/Capitol staff
- Take care of all Statehouse/Capitol and hotel facilities
- Keep your hotel and meeting rooms clean
- Say thank you to Statehouse/Capitol and hotel staff and all who help you
- Be serious in Committee and Floor sessions – outside those enjoy friends and all the new friends you are making!