



A Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association

The Legislative Process & How Advocacy Fits

A Physical Therapy Advocacy in Action Microlearning

Objectives

- Describe the process for how a bill is developed and becomes a law in PA
- Discuss how advocacy fits into the legislative process



Vocabulary

- **General Assembly** – refers to both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate
- **Chamber** – refers to only one of the two (House or Senate)
- **Speaker of the House** and **President Pro Tempore** – presiding officers of their respective chambers



Introduction of a Bill

- Legislator(s) submits idea for a bill to the Legislative Reference Bureau
- Bill filed for introduction
 - In the House: filed with Chief Clerk of the House, given it to Speaker of the House
 - In the Senate: filed with the Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Senate, given to President Pro Tempore of the Senate



Bill Sponsorship

- The primary legislator to introduce a bill in the Pennsylvania General Assembly is the **Prime Sponsor**
- Bills generally have numerous **Cosponsors** who add their name in support of the bill
 - Greater number of cosponsors equals more support and more likely passage of bill
- Cosponsors can be added prior to the drafting of the bill and throughout the legislative process



Referral to Committee

- Bill is referred to a standing committee
 - May be referred to sub-committee
- Examples of committees for bills related to PT:
 - Professional Licensure (House)
 - Insurance (House)
 - Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure (Senate)
 - Banking & Insurance (Senate)



Responsibilities of Committee

- Role of committee is to review and prepare bills to be reported to their respective chamber
 - May hold public hearings
- Possible actions of committee:
 - Report to the floor as committed (i.e. without change)
 - Report to the floor as amended
 - Refer the bill to another committee
 - Take no action on the bill

Consideration of Bills

- Each bill is considered on 3 different days in each chamber before a vote on its final passage
- First Consideration: bill is reported from committee to the full Chamber
 - *bills are NOT subject to amendment, debate, or vote in this stage
- Second Consideration: bill subject to debate & amendment
- Third Consideration: final debate & passage of the bill



Movement Between Chambers

- After passing the vote in the initial Chamber, a bill is then sent to the other Chamber
 - Similar process with committee review & three considerations on the Floor
- If amendments are added, the bill must return to the Chamber in which it originated for a vote.
- Signed by Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate

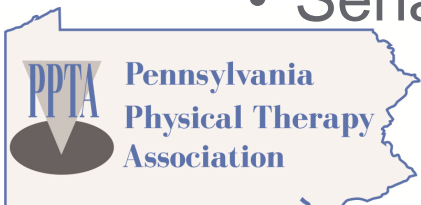
After Passing Both Chambers

- Bill sent to the Governor
- Approve & sign → bill becomes law
- Veto → bill returns to its house of origin
 - General Assembly can pass with two-thirds vote
- No action → bill automatically becomes law
 - After 10 days if General Assembly still in session
 - After 30 days if General Assembly adjourned



Where Do I Come in as an Advocate?

- Get to know your legislator!
- Recommending legislation to your legislator
- Bills needing co-sponsors
- Bills in committees
 - Advocating to committee member
 - Attending public hearing
- Bills on the floor
 - Senate vs House



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Resources

- [The Biography of a Bill](#)
- [Making Law in PA](#)



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Listen to upcoming PPTA advocacy webinars to learn more about the advocacy process & how you can get involved.

Please email office@ppta-hq.org with any questions or concerns.