

FLORIDA GIRLS STATE - SAMPLE BILL

BILL TITLE - REQUIRED - The title of the bill broadly describes the subject (in this case Education) that it relates to and then briefly describes the content of the bill (everything after the enacting clause).

A bill to be entitled: An act relating to education; requiring public and private vehicles used to transport school students to be equipped with safety belts; providing a penalty; providing an effective date

ENACTING CLAUSE - REQUIRED - The enacting clause must appear in all bills. The enacting clause stands on its' own and does not require further elaboration

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Seminole...

SHORT TITLE - OPTIONAL - This is a "short title". It rarely appears in a bill, but gives an easy phrase to refer to. Use a short title only if it will help others to readily identify your bill.

Section 1. This act may be known as the "School Bus Safety Act of 1998."

STATEMENT OF INTENT - OPTIONAL - The intent section is used to describe what the legislature intends to accomplish within the bill.

Section 2. Intent. It is the intent of the Legislature that vehicles used to transport students to public and private schools be equipped with seat belts for all passengers as a means of reducing the risk of injury in case of an accident.

BODY OF THE BILL - REQUIRED - This is the part of a bill which actually spells out your suggestion for a new law. It requires or authorizes something to be done. Spend most of your time thinking about this section. Think about whether a department of state government will have to implement your law and if so which one. If your law will require funding, think about an appropriate source of funds which ties in with the purpose of your bill.

Section 3. Every motor vehicle owned by a private or public school shall be equipped with seat belts for every passenger. (a) The Department of Transportation shall develop standards for seat belts to be used by motor vehicles owned by private and public schools. (b) The standards established under paragraph (a) of this section shall be followed by local school boards when carrying out the provisions of this act.

PENALTY CLAUSE - OPTIONAL - This is a penalty section. It is used only if there is a need for consequences if a required act is or is not done. Most bills will not need this section. But if you are prohibiting or controlling a person's actions by law, you may need to consider what should be the penalties (i.e. fines or time in prison) if a person breaks your law.

Section 4. Any person who violates this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE - REQUIRED - This is the effective date. It can be any date, though usually the bill should give people time to get ready if it requires them to do something.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

DRAFTING A BILL - SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION

Every Bill must contain the first three (3) items listed whether it is a General, Local, or State Bill.

Note: * = Optional

1. Title
Example
Preamble
Short form of what the Bill is related to.
"A Bill to be Entitled an Act Relating to Bicycle Paths."
Whereas Clause(s)*
2. Enacting Clause
Example
Purpose of the Bill.
"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Seminole that bicycle paths be established along major highways."
3. Body of Bill
Section
The action to be taken (New Material Amendments)
 1. Short Title*
 2. Legislative Intent*
 3. Definitions*
 4. Main Provisions
 5. Subordinate Provisions
 6. Procedural Provisions
 7. Temporary Provisions

(OR)

 1. Creation of Agency or Commission
 2. Membership and Tenure
 3. Powers and Duties
 4. Administration
 5. Personnel
 6. Salaries and Expenses
4. Penalty*
5. Appropriation*
6. Liberal Interpretation*
7. Severability*
8. Repealer*
9. Effective Date or Referendum*

*(Used only in Resolutions)

Bill Drafting Information

You must bring your bill written before you arrive. Sample bills have been included in your packet and Legislative Handbook.

- Bring your bill on a CD-RW
- If you bring your own laptop, you must still bring a CD-RW for your bill to be placed on.
- Your bill must be in Word format
- Put your name and bill title on your CD-RW
- You will be given time to edit/revise your bill at Girls State.
- A printing lab will be available for you to print your bill.
- Research your idea thoroughly and bring your research with you to help during your debate. There is strength in numbers and sometimes several delegates have similar ideas for a bill. So, you might want to consider partnering with another delegate after you arrive, if you find you have similar bills with another delegate. The combination of your bills may make for a powerful piece of legislation.
- Don't feel overwhelmed about the writing process. If you are having difficulty, many knowledgeable people will be on hand at Girls State to help you complete your bill.