

Advocacy Overview

October 22, 2018



Why is Advocacy Important for Nonprofit Entities?

Nonprofit entities reflect their communities and have community-wide networks – your opinion matters!

Nonprofit entities can educate legislators to help them understand the practical implications of proposed legislation.

Nonprofit entities are often uniquely capable of identifying unintended consequences surrounding proposed legislation.

Nonprofits Are Effective Advocates

Fill gaps in services left by government
lending insight into needs of
constituents.

Used to bringing coalitions together to
get things done.

Used to bringing people and
organizations together to leverage
resources needed to promote change.

Advocacy vs. Lobbying

Advocacy builds public awareness and educates.

Lobbying is intended to influence legislation.

Lobbying is advocacy but not all advocacy is lobbying.

Permissible Activities

Lobbying by nonprofits is limited.

Nonprofit board oversees lobbying activities.

No limits on advocacy within the nonprofit's organizational mission and goals.

Goal of Lobbying is to Persuade

Give local facts – how does action impact community and/or constituents?

Quantify impact.

Personal stories are powerful.

Relate requested action to legislator's worldview.

Relationships are Key

Get to know your legislators, legislators on relevant committees and local officials.

Help them understand what your organization does.

Regular communication builds relationships and facilitates collaboration.

Navigating the Colorado Legislature

Session convenes January 4, 2019. Regular session runs for 120 days.

2018 election will bring changes to legislative leadership, may impact party-control of the two chambers and will bring a new Governor.

17 out of 35 Senate seats are up for re-election.

All 65 House seats are up for re-election.

Both the Senate President and Speaker of the House are termed-out.

Role of the Committees

Bills will be assigned to a committee of reference for review and public comment.

Colorado Constitution requires that every bill receive a hearing.

Legislators sitting on the committee will determine if the bill moves forward in the legislature.

House and Senate daily calendars include scheduled committee hearings and calendared bills.

Senate Committees of Reference

Agriculture,
Natural Resources
& Energy

Appropriations

Business, Labor &
Technology

Education

Finance

Health & Human
Services

Judiciary

Local Government

State Veterans &
Military Affairs

Transportation

House Committees of Reference

Agriculture,
Livestock &
Natural Resources

Appropriations

Business
Affairs & Labor

Education

Judiciary

Local
Government

Public Health
Care & Human
Services

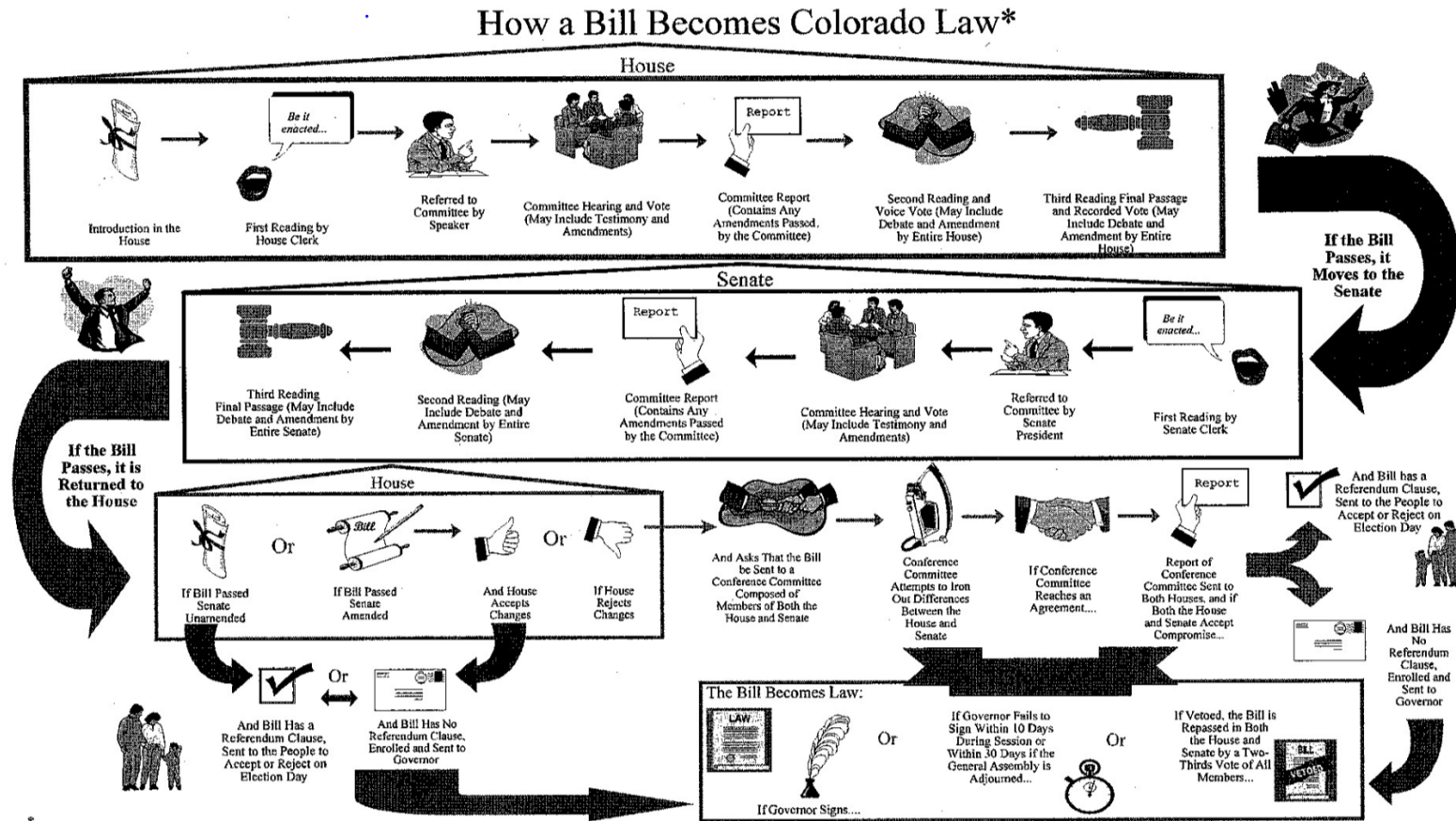
State, Veterans
& Military
Affairs

Finance

Health,
Insurance &
Environment

Transportation
& Energy

A Bill's Path Through the Legislature



Providing Testimony

Sign up sheets located in committee hearing rooms.

Direct remarks to the committee chair.

Remarks must not exceed 3 minutes.

Clearly state position and perspective on bill.

Handouts provided to Legislative Council staff before you testify.

Be clear on action you would like committee to take.

Be prepared to answer questions or provide follow up information.

Remote Testimony

Sign up for remote testimony through General Assembly website.
(<http://leg.colorado.gov/remote-testimony>)

Requests for remote testimony made by legislators, approved by legislative leadership.

Remote testimony sites located at Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction), Otero Junior College (La Junta), Fort Lewis College (Durango), Trinidad Junior College (Trinidad), and Adams State University (Alamosa).

Need Help?

Information Center located in
Legislative Library (Room 048).

Provides copies of bills, calendars,
journals and information on
scheduling for specific bills.

General Assembly website:
<http://leg.colorado.gov/>