



YMCA TEXAS YOUTH & GOVERNMENT 2011-12 Legislative Banned List & Guidelines

In our efforts to make the program model the real Legislature as closely as possible, we consider a bill that is either signed by the Governor, or vetoed with a subsequent override of the veto to have been "enacted into law" for the following Youth & Government year. Therefore, just as if the real Legislature would not consider a bill that would enact an already existing law, we do not want to consider any bills that would enact laws that we "enacted" in the previous year. This is an extension of the rule that a Youth & Government bill cannot enact a law that already exists.

Banned topics are those topics as it relates to the bills that were passed at the 2011 State Conference. Those bills are now "banned." The goal is for students to avoid submitting bills that are similar in topic or just modified in some way.

For example the bill below:

HB#036 An Act prohibiting Texas public schools from banning any religious symbols and...

What is banned in this case is anything to do with religious symbols in public schools, not public schools in general.

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR (Includes Hyde House, House of Representatives and Senate)

Governor Action	Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/District
Signed	HB061	An act calling for the abolishing of affirmative action in all colleges in the state of Texas and declaring an emergency.	Khambati, Aadil	Park Cities YMCA Dallas
Signed	HB098	An act mandating that all TX welfare recipients be subject to drug testing and declaring an emergency.	Hamblen, Morgan	Richardson YMCA Dallas
Signed	HB117	An act extending the right of individuals with concealed carry weapon licenses allowing them to carry handguns on public college campuses and declaring an emergency.	Gibson, Griffin	Fort Bend YMCA Houston
Signed	SB041	An act hereby implementing equal protection for born as well as unborn humans, as is prescribed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and declaring an emergency.	Penney, Jason	Fort Bend YMCA Houston
Signed	SB046	An Act mandating that all state-issued unemployment benefits be handed out only after the recipient has completed a certain amount of public service or community service in an allotted time period and declaring an emergency.	Dunn, Carly	Fort Bend YMCA Houston

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGHSCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL: Affirmative Action and Abortion

No bills will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics.



GUIDELINES FOR BILL WRITERS

For All Bill Writers:

1. All bill topics must abide by our values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
2. We are honored to use the Capitol facilities in Austin, TX. Bill topics should honor this privilege by being well researched, relevant and respectful.
3. Students need to generate a new bill each year.
4. All bills need to have ONE author per bill. Exceptions must be cleared by District Director, State Director and/or State Legislative Section Leaders.
5. Club advisors must clear bill topic prior to student writing the bill.
6. Bill topic MUST not be on the Bill Banned List.
7. Students must use the bill template provided. You can download it at www.ymcatexasyg.org.
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Director and State Director.
9. Review Legislative Basics at www.ymcatexasyg.org
10. Research! Practice!

SENATE AND HOUSE: House delegates have more than one year experience in Legislative. At State **150** seats in House are available.

Delegates in Senate are experienced upper classmen. **62** seats available in Senate
See Banned Topics on PAGE 1 for House and Senate Delegates.

PLEASE NOTE: delegations/clubs must **not** have similar topics from the same club.

HYDE: Delegates in Hyde are first year high school students in Legislative (9TH GRADERS OR FIRST YEAR 10TH GRADERS).

It is strongly encouraged that students moving up from Hyde House to House/Senate **DO NOT** submit their same Hyde bill again. **60** seats available in Hyde.

Please Note: 9th grade students that participated in JuniorYG for 2 years can move to House instead of Hyde House.

JUNIORYG: Delegates in JuniorYG are in a recognized middle school/junior high school.

The following are the sections available:

Duran House-students that have little to no experience in Legislative.

House-students with some experience in legislative or debating (7th and 8th graders). If an advisor feels a 6th grader will be fine in House, they must get approval from District Director before registering them in the in House.

Senate is for experienced 8th graders, these are student who have participated in the program at least one year. Returning JuniorYG delegates need to generate a new bill topic from what they submitted their previous year.

Banned Topics: Affirmative Action and Abortion.

Optimum Size:

Duran-to be determined. **House** 150 seats **Senate** 62 seats.

Reminder: Banned topics include Affirmative Action and Abortion Bills. NO BILLS will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics!



TIPS

So you want to write a bill? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea is not necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Texas does not mean that it is a good bill topic for Youth and Government delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Youth and Government bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably is not so good because no one will want to argue about it!

Really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We have broken it all down for you. Here is what we think makes a good bill:

- **Debatability**-- people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you can not think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different one!
- **Importance to Texas**-- the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers, internet or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- **Feasibility**--your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- **Researchability**--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.

HELPFUL LINKS

<http://www.texas Transparency.org/moneygoes/>

<http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Committees/MeetingsSenate.aspx>

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/TexasLawTimeLine.cfm>

<http://www.sll.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/>

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/arclegis.html>

<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/>