

# A bill is born: Lawmakers rarely write legislation alone

People and groups outside of the government sometimes have a hand in writing legislation. Providing ready-made “model legislation” is one way outside organizations try to influence the legislative process.

## Brainstorm

Lawmakers identify issues.

They might notice some problem in their own lives or hear about an issue from constituents, lobbyists or from lawmakers in other states.

Researchers might take language from model legislation or legislation from other states.

## Research

For many lawmakers, the next step is to contact either the House or Senate research department.

Research analysts and legislative aids help lawmakers understand the consequences of potential laws. They analyze earlier legislation and research possible legal issues.

## Write

If lawmakers want to go forward with the issues, the research department often helps lawmakers draft bills.

Lawmakers might also skip the research process entirely and instead introduce model legislation written by an outside interest group.