

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

We strongly encourage you to write a bill for Girls State. It will make your experience fun and educational. On occasion, bills adopted at Girls State have gone on to become actual Idaho law. Furthermore, Girls State bills may also get some media attention. Writing a bill and getting it passed is also good to list on a resume or scholarship application.

You need to write the bill in *Microsoft Word*, according to the following instructions and sample. You must attach the Word document and email it by June 1, 2016. Bills will be numbered and dated in the order they are received. The sooner the better! Please indicate “Girls State Bill” in the reference line of your email. A template can be found on this website.

Bills will be organized and assigned to committees in the House and Senate. You may work with other delegates from your school on the same bill. The first name listed on the bill will be the main sponsor. Each delegate may only be the main sponsor for one bill. If the bill passes the assigned committee at Girls State, the sponsor will need to find a co-sponsor (during the session – a fellow delegate) to carry the bill in the other chamber. (There are two (2) chambers: House and Senate.) You will *not* receive your chamber assignment prior to Girls State.

Four (4) Steps for Bill Adoption at Girls State: (If the bill originates in the House...)

1. The bill is debated and passes the House Committee
2. The bill is sent to the floor of the House where it is debated and passes.
3. The bill is sent to the floor of the Senate where it is debated and passes.
4. The bill is sent to the Governor who signs the bill into Girls State Law.

You must e-mail the bill (as a *Word* attachment). **Deadline:** All bills must be emailed by June 1, 2016.

1. PLEASE EMAIL TO:

idahogirlsstatebills@msn.com

Include your name in the email, and in the reference line of your email note “Girls State Bill”.



LEGISLATIVE BILLS

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A BILL

Please read and follow all instructions carefully!

1. Getting the Idea:

- A. Bills should have significance.
- B. Use only one idea and keep it simple.
- C. **DO NOT REFER TO IDAHO CODE** and try to change it. Write your bill so it creates a new law for a new state – **SYRINGA GIRLS STATE**. The delegates for this year will decide what laws they want in “their state.”
- D. Do not use exact ideas from bills that were submitted to the Idaho Legislature the previous year.
- E. Be prepared to explain the bill and defend it against opposition.
- F. Use supporting facts to document the main points.
- G. Each bill should be original and must not be copied from the bill book.
- H. Suggested Topics to get you thinking:
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Crime
 - 3. Tax and Revenue
 - 4. Illegal Drugs
 - 5. Alcohol and Tobacco Control for Minors
 - 6. Education Vouchers
 - 7. Charter Schools
 - 8. Traffic
 - 9. Transportation
 - 10. Environment
 - 11. Agricultural
 - 12. Wildlife
 - 13. Hunting
 - 14. Endangered Species

2. Writing the Bill: (Template is available online at www.idahogirlsstate.com)

- A. Include six (6) parts in the bill
 - 1. **Bill Name** – Use a short phrase to name the bill.
 - 2. **Sponsor’s Name** – More than one name may be listed, but the first name listed will be the primary sponsor.
 - 3. **Title** – A concise statement of the intent of the bill. Include reference to each different element of the bill. Start with “AN ACT...” and capitalize the entire title.
 - 4. **Enacting Clause** – “Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Syringa...”
 - 5. **Body** – The provisions of the bill including standards and penalties. Each different point should have its own sections with subsections as needed.

6. **Statement of Purpose** – Explain the reason and purpose of your bill. Give a short sales pitch on why you think your bill is needed. Brief facts may be listed.

B. Formatting:

1. Please use *Microsoft Word*. Arial font - 12 point with one (1) inch margins, single spaced. Margins may be as small as ½ inch if it helps get it to fit on one page.
2. Add line numbers (see sample bill). In *Word*: Go to “file” - “page setup” - “layout” tab - “line numbers”
3. **Use only one (1) page** if possible, but absolutely no more than two (2) pages.
4. Do not write or type on the back of pages.
5. Use the same format as shown in the sample bill.