

Bill writing requirements

1. Each line of the bill must be numbered.
2. The bill must have two sections: Section 1 clearly defines the ‘problem’ to be solved. What is the problem? What does it look like? Provide specific examples of what the problem is.
3. Section 2 describes the penalties for breaking the law. What will the punishment be for not following the guidelines established in the first section? What will the different levels of punishment be for each offense? These punishments should get more severe because the goal of any law is to eliminate the “bad” behaviors. Remember the 8th amendment!
4. The bill must be clear so that everyone can understand the law. If your bill is confusing or unreasonable, it will not pass your committee and will never be heard by Congress!
5. Think about all the possible “what ifs” that someone would ask and try to answer them in your bill. If you have thought of all the possibilities it increases your chances for success.

*****Write the following to start your bill. Fill in the blanks with your appropriate information, ideas, details and descriptions.***

IN THE SENATE

(today’s date)

Senator _____(your name)_____ introduced the following bill, which was referred to committee on ____ (next Monday’s date)_____.

A BILL

To establish _____(summarize the goal of your bill – what are you “fixing”?)_____.

******SECTION ONE **Copy the following lines word for word. Remember to number your lines – NOT SENTENCES!******

1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in*
2. *Congress assembled, that* a law about (your topic) to solve / fix / create / protect / end (the
3. issue you are addressing). (Describe in detail what you hope your law will accomplish) at
4. Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School). This bill, hereafter called the (name/title/goal) bill, defines (the
5. problem or solution) as (clearly explain, with details so there is no confusion, your definition
6. of the exact problem or solution related to your topic). (Use examples to clarify and describe
7. what is or is not part of your bill). (Think of all the possible examples you can – be thorough -
8. you don’t want your bill to be shot down by a fellow Senator because of some “what if”
9. situations or examples you didn’t take the time to explain thoroughly and thoughtfully!)

******SECTION TWO **After completely describing the problem in section 1, you begin to describe the levels of punishment / solutions / assistance for “breaking the law” or fixing the problem and who will be in charge of enforcing the law. Keep your punishments practical and constitutional!******

#_ The punishment / interventions for (doing what was described in section 1) will be as follows.
#_ For the first offense...for the second offense...for the third offense (your punishments /
#_ interventions should be fair, but also designed to deter or “fix” the problem. If people aren’t
#_ worried about the consequences, why would they stop misbehaving?)

*****After describing all of the consequences, the bill should be concluded by copying and numbering these final official lines. If your thoughtful and convincing, the President might even sign it!*****

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict. If any portion of this act is declared unconstitutional it is the intention of this legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.

If you type your bill it will be easier to read. Make sure you use the spell check feature on your word processor and format it correctly. If you write it out by hand, use ink. It looks nicer. Also, use the dictionary to ensure proper spelling. Notice how the #'s are at the beginning of each line, not each sentence. Also, the **bold words** show you how the words from each sample section on the front were incorporated into this sample bill. Be specific and detailed. Try to think about the answers to all the questions your classmates might ask before they ask them.

In the Senate

January 25, 2014

Senator Harold Baines introduced the following bill, which was referred to committee on January 25, 2014.

A BILL

To establish guidelines to distinguish between the fair weather fans of the Chicago White Sox Baseball Club and the hard core fans of the same.

1. **Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in**
2. **Congress assembled, that** by definition a hard core fan of the Chicago White Sox Baseball Club
3. ("The Club") is an individual who, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity, shows unwavering
4. dedication and support to The Club, regardless of current won-loss record, and an in depth knowledge
5. of The Club's history and accomplishments. An individual who meets these criteria will obviously be
6. someone who treats each and every opening day of the baseball season with hope, promise and
7. optimism at the prospect of having his or her hard core fan status rewarded with the opportunity to
8. take part in the emotional thrill of a post season run. Clothing shall not be definitive proof of an
9. individual's fan status as money cannot buy commitment. Plenty of wealthy fair weather fans can
10. afford to look the part sitting in their expensive box seats at a warm weather contest during a late
11. season championship run. In like manner, many hard core fans may have few team related clothing
12. accessories to wear while sitting in the right field bleachers during a chilly April evening contest.
13. Therefore, fan status shall be determined using the following criteria. A hard core fan should be able
14. to quickly, accurately and absolutely answer the following questions related to The Club. Identify
15. and describe your first memory associated with The Club. Name the position played by each of the
16. players whose numbers have been retired and are displayed on the outfield wall. Name the starting
17. lineup and rotation of the team that won a world championship for the club. Name at least five
18. starting fielders and pitchers that played on The Club in each of the past four decades. Name the
19. years in which The Club has played for a world series title. Describe at least three different uniform
20. designs worn by The Club. Lastly, list 90% of the players on the current active roster, complete with
21. their fielding position, of The Club. **The punishment for** being unable to answer any of these
22. questions in an accurate and complete manner **will be as follows.** The individual will be identified
23. as being a fair weather fan and cannot claim hard core status for a period of at least one month.
24. Following this time, they must once again demonstrate the ability to respond accurately and
25. completely to the questions. Until successfully completing this task, an individual will be deemed to
26. be in fair weather status. While in fair weather status, individuals are encouraged to continue to
27. supporting The Club, but will not be allowed to use any pronouns that reference any direct or
28. passionate connection with The Club. Examples would include using the term "we", as in "we really
29. slammed the Royals last night", or "we need to get our middle relief in order if we have any chance
30. and winning the division this year." **All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby**
31. **repealed to the extent of the conflict. If any portion of this act is declared unconstitutional it is**
32. **the intention of this legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.**