



Developing Your Play Book: How to Initiate a Bill in Your State

Initiate a NFRW advocacy project for passage in your state. It's is easier than you may realize.

Make a difference! Here's how to get started on initiating a bill and following it through:

1. Set up individual meetings with members of your House and Senate. Take copies of the sample bills and other material you have prepared to share with the elected officials. State why your state federation is looking for sponsors for the bills. Assure those agreeing to sponsor the bills that your federation will lobby for passage, outlining statewide participation by members in letters to the editor, news conferences, talk radio, calling, emailing and writing elected officials asking for their vote.
2. Assign one member to be totally responsible for communicating with clubs on organizing lobbying efforts.
3. Personally contact each legislator asking for their support. Make a list of supporters, those opposing and non-committals. This organizes your lobbying efforts.
4. Ask club members to write personal notes to supporters thanking them. Write notes to non-committals and opposition on why you would like their support on the bill.
5. Organize a news conference for the state federation issuing a news release and having authors of the bill and as many members present as possible. Organize the same efforts at the local club level encouraging them to have their legislator or some elected officials supporting the bill at the news conference.
6. Organize all clubs to promote a letter to the editor campaign. Provide talking points and a sample letter. Ask clubs to also participate in local talk radio as often as possible using the talking points for guidance.
7. Organize a demonstration day supporting passage at your state capitol. Encourage every club to participate by sending representation. Recommend local clubs do a similar demonstration at their court house, inviting the media.
8. Take a one page synopsis of the bill and which includes the reason it is needed. Leave a copy at the office of the legislators that you visit.
9. Follow the progress of the bill and continually provide all members with progress status. As you get closer to a floor vote continue to send emails and make phone calls to those not supporting passage.
10. Continually release information on the bill to the media letting them know the importance of passage; saving precious lives and taxpayer dollars! What a persuasive combination!
11. Recruit law enforcement officers and elected officials such as County Prosecutors to actively participate in your lobbying efforts. Use their quotes in news releases and have them available when possible for news conferences.
12. Prepare a PR package for each club president providing all of the materials they need to implement participation with their members. Make a similar package to distribute to the media.

Start Now. You Can Do It!