



MODEL ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT
Original Legislation Handbook
2007-2008

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SECTION 1: Original Legislation Overview

The MIG Speaker of the House and MIG President of the Senate each select real bills under consideration in the Illinois General Assembly for their respective chambers to debate during the simulation, but these important bills are only part of the MIG legislative experience.

The other key component is original legislation – the chance for MIG delegates to express their own creativity by authoring unique bills that can address practically any topic the real General Assembly might undertake. They can create new laws, strike out old statutes, or make changes to what already exists.

Original legislation can address any aspect of Illinois life; the content is completely up to the author. Format, however, must remain consistent from one bill to another to facilitate a smooth logistical process. Also, only one subject can be addressed in each piece of legislation.

It is important to bring 100 copies of your original legislation to the simulation and submit them to the Attorney General to ensure everyone who needs a copy gets one. You should also have additional copies available for others who might be interested in seeing it or that you wish to lobby.

Your legislation will go through the same process as regular bills. First, your bill will be assigned to a committee, which will deliberate on it. If the committee recommends your bill for approval¹, it will go before the entire chamber. Your bill will then be debated on the chamber floor. If the chamber approves the bill, it will be sent to the other chamber and the process will be repeated again.

If both chambers approve your legislation, the Governor will either sign it in to “law” or veto it. If it is vetoed, it might end up reappearing later in the simulation in an attempt to override the veto.

¹ If the committee does not recommend your legislation, it will *not* automatically go before the chamber for further debate. It will instead require a majority vote of the chamber to be considered.

SECTION 2: *Original Resolution Overview*

Original resolutions are ways for a chamber to formally express its opinion, such as support for a person or cause, without affecting the law.

It is important to note that resolutions go straight to a chamber floor without first going through a committee.

There are three types of original resolutions accepted: house resolutions, senate resolutions, and joint resolutions.

Like original legislation, a synopsis and full text are still required for original resolutions along with the submission of 100 copies at the simulation.

Original resolutions are not eligible for the Award for Outstanding Original Legislation.

SECTION 3: *Numbering System*

Original legislation and resolutions have a numbering system different from the other bills under consideration at the simulation.

Every piece of original legislation has a 4-digit number used to identify and track it. The first number represents what house it starts in (1 for Senate, 2 for House) and the second reflects the committee to which it is assigned. The third number ranges from 01 to 99 and is used to track the number of original legislations assigned to that committee.

For example, OL-1212 is the twelfth piece of original legislation in the senate assigned to committee two.

Original resolutions, unlike original legislation, use a 3-digit numbering system. The first number determines what chamber it originates in (3 for Senate, 4 for House, 5 for joint). As resolutions do not go through a committee, the second and third number reflects the order in which it was received.

For example, OR-402 is the second resolution for the House, and OR-311 is the eleventh resolution for the Senate.

You will be informed of the number of your legislation/resolution so that it can be printed on the 100 copies you must submit at the simulation. Receiving a number is confirmation that your original legislation and/or resolution has been received.

SECTION 4: *Formatting*

The format of legislation must remain consistent to facilitate a smooth logistical process.

There must be a cover page before the full text of the bill. The cover page includes the synopsis and the phrase “A BILL FOR” at the bottom. The number assigned by the Attorney General must also be printed on the cover page.

Page one of the full text must include a title and enacting clause. The one-sentence long title reflects the subject of the bill:

- If amending an existing act, the title begins with “AN ACT to amend...”
- If amending several existing acts, the title begins with “AN ACT concerning...”
- New acts begin with “AN ACT...”

The following enacting clause must be used exactly: “Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly.” It appears after the title and before the rest of the text.

The bill text must have numbered lines in the left hand margin. Under “page setup,” Microsoft Word can be set to automatically add line numbers.

Only one subject may be addressed in each legislation/resolution.

All original legislation and resolutions must be received by Saturday, February 17, 2008. They can be e- mailed to attorneygeneral@modelillinoisgovernment.org.

A sample piece of original legislation is at the end of this guide.

SECTION 5: Tips and Suggestions

Know your topic – research and preparation will help you lobby for your bill.

Investigate your topic – make sure you are proposing something that is different from current law.

Choose an interesting topic – base your bill on something delegates will want to debate. While a resolution honoring Abraham Lincoln is sure to pass, it will not be very exciting.

Don't take it personally – your topic may be important to you, but you should not take criticism of your bill's content to heart. MIG is a learning environment for everyone.

Lobby – talking to others to build support for your bill increases its chances for approval.

Have fun – MIG is an educational and enjoyable experience.

Senate Bill _____

**93rd General Assembly
State of Illinois
2003-2004**

Introduced by Senator Jane Doe

Introduced February 5, 2005

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED

Creates the Teacher Accountability Act of 2004. Limits teachers in the State of Illinois to two attempts for passing the basic skills test and subject matter test. Requires potential teachers who failed both attempts to complete additional courses of collegiate coursework. Prevents potential teachers from becoming certified teachers in the State of Illinois for two years if they fail the tests after taking the coursework.

Effective June 1, 2005.

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT to amend the Chapter 105, Section 5/21(a) of the Illinois Compiled Statues,
2 2000, relating to the certification of teachers in the state of Illinois.

3
4 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the**
5 **General Assembly**

6
7 Section I. Any applicant for a teaching certificate shall be limited to two attempts
8 at passing the basic skills test and the respective subject matter test.

9
10 Section II. After two failing attempts on the basic skills test, the applicant shall
11 complete a college course in math and a college-level course in English composition.
12 The classes must be recognized by the Board of Higher Education for this purpose.

13
14 Section III. After two failing attempts on the subject matter test, the applicant
15 shall be required to take two college-level courses in the respective subject matter, at
16 the expense of the applicant. The classes must be recognized by the Board of Higher
17 Education for this purpose.

18
19 Section IV. After completing the additional college-level courses, the applicant
20 shall be allowed to retake the two-part teaching certification test an additional two times.

21
22 Section V. Any applicant who fails to achieve teaching certification after
23 completing the requirement of additional college-level courses will be barred from
24 reapplying for teacher certification within the state of Illinois for a period of two years.
25 The applicant may work as a classroom aid during this time.

26
27 Section VI. This bill will go into effect June 1, 2005, upon the signature of the
28 Governor of the State of Illinois