YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
2017-18 Legislative Banned List & Guidelines

In our efforts to make the program model the real Legislature as closely as possible, we consider a bill that is either signed by the Governor or vetoed with a subsequent override of the veto to have been "enacted into law" for the following Youth and Government program year. Therefore, just as the real Legislature would not consider a bill that would enact a preexisting law, we do not want our Legislature to consider any bills that would enact laws that we "enacted" in the previous year. This list of banned topics is an extension of the rule that a Youth and Government bill cannot enact a law that already exists.

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR:

Governor Action	Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/District
Signed	SB029	An act to reduce the chance of dangerous chemicals, including lead-poisoned water, from entering the Texas water system and declaring an emergency.	Jonas Woods	Episcopal School of Dallas, Dallas
Signed	HB033	An act regarding the electoral system of Texas and declaring an emergency.	Taylor Enslin	Sachse High School, Dallas
Signed	SB015	An act requiring all Texas public universities to establish a division of campus police devoted to the prevention and resolution of sexual misconduct and declaring an emergency.	Ashley Hicks	Boyd High School, Dallas
Signed	HB032	An act to end the use of state private prisons and declaring an emergency.	Liam Mahagan	Lakeview Centennial High School, Dallas
Signed	HB018	An act requiring school districts to have a junior or senior from each high school on their school board and declaring an emergency.	Shea Berthelot	Boyd High School, Dallas
Signed	HH016	An act requiring all persons falsely accusing another of rape to be subject to trial in a court of law and declaring an emergency.	Julia Bowers	Duncanville High School, Dallas
Signed	SB018	An act requiring all Texas public schools to provide a mandatory financial literacy class for graduation and declaring an emergency.	Nikhil Jalla	Liberty High School, Dallas

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BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR:

Governor Action	Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/District
Signed	DH030	An act allowing businesses to deny service to customers if the request conflicts with the owner's religious beliefs and declaring an emergency.	Nancy Ayala	Kennemer Middle School, Dallas
Signed	DH057	An act mandating all unclaimed bodies from the coroner's office be donated to medical schools and declaring an emergency.	Joynae Tennison	Kennemer Middle School, Dallas
Signed	DS039	An act requiring the installation of storm shelters in all homes built from 2016 onward in the state of Texas and declaring an emergency.	Asher Wolfe	Christian Life Preparatory School, Fort Worth
Signed	HB046	An act requiring random background checks in industries that have high rates of human trafficking and declaring an emergency.	Amisadai Aldama	Kennemer Middle School, Dallas
Signed	SB042	An act requiring any police officer on trial for police brutality and/or murder be placed on unpaid leave until the conclusion of the trial and declaring an emergency.	Varis Handy	Kennemer Middle School, Dallas
Signed	SB023	An act requiring all districts to have CPR training and first aid training courses for their teachers and declaring an emergency.	Daisy Milliken	Dowell Middle School, Dallas
Signed	HB068	An act requiring sports stadiums in Texas to have bag checks and declaring an emergency.	Thomas Baril	Richardson Homeschool Delegation, Dallas
Vetoed but Overridden	HB025	An act to add the Armenian Genocide into the world history in Texas curriculum and declaring an emergency.	Jack Graman	Dowell Middle School, Dallas

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **Same-sex relationships**
- **Animal testing**
- **Legalization of marijuana**
- **Cell phone/texting ban**

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GUIDELINES FOR BILL WRITERS

For All Bill Writers:

1. All bill topics must abide by our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.
2. We are honored to use the Capitol facilities in Austin, TX. Bills should honor this privilege by being well researched, relevant, and respectful.
3. Students need to generate a new bill each year.
4. All bills need to have ONE author per bill (or a maximum of two authors if bills are written for the JYG Duran House, Duran Senate or Duran Council). Exceptions must be cleared by District Directors, State Director, and/or State Legislative Section Leaders.
5. Club advisors must clear bill topic prior to student writing the bill.
6. Bill topic must not be on the Banned List.
7. Students must use the bill template provided. You can download it from the Resource Portal at www.ymcatexasyg.org.
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Directors and State Director.
9. Review Legislative Basics on the Resource Portal at www.ymcatexasyg.org.
10. Research! Practice!

HIGH SCHOOL YG: The following sections are available:

SENATE: Delegates in Senate are 11th and 12th graders with legislative experience. **62** seats are available in Senate.
HOUSE: House delegates are primarily 10th and 11th graders, have more than one year of experience in the Legislative section. **150** seats in House are available. Please see guideline for Chamber Assignments Memo for 12th grade and 9th grade placement.
HYDE HOUSE: Delegates in the Hyde House are first-year high school students in Legislative (9TH GRADERS OR FIRST-YEAR 10TH GRADERS). **It is strongly encouraged that students moving up from Hyde House to House/Senate **DO NOT** submit a bill they submitted in Hyde again. **75** seats are available in Hyde House. Please note that 9th grade students that participated in JuniorYG for two years can move to House instead of Hyde House if there are seats available in the House.
HYDE SENATE: Delegates in the Hyde Senate are first-year 10th and 11th grade high school students. **62** seats are available in Hyde Senate.

JUNIORYG: The following sections are available:

SENATE: Delegates in Senate are 8th graders. These students have participated in the program at least one year. Returning JuniorYG delegates will generate a new bill, different from the bill they submitted the previous year. **62** seats are available in Senate.
HOUSE: House delegates are students with some experience in the Legislative section or debate (7th and 8th graders). **150** seats are available in the House.
DURAN HOUSE: Delegates in Duran House are students that have little to no experience in the Legislative section. Students must write a bill to participate in this chamber. **150** seats are available in Duran House.
DURAN SENATE: Delegates are first-year delegates that advisors feel have enough experience to debate with other similar students. First-year 7th and 8th grade students are placed here. Students must write a bill to participate in this chamber. The number of seats will be determined after House and Senate seats have been filled. A maximum of **62** seats are available in Duran Senate.
DURAN COUNCIL: This section is made up of first-year 6th grade students. Students must write a bill to participate in this chamber. **150** seats are available in Duran Council.

TIPS

Youth and Government bills need to present ideas that can be debated effectively.

Great debate can only happen when specific conditions are met. We have broken it all down for you. Here are qualities we think good bills share:

- **Debatability:** people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you cannot think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different topic!
- **Importance to Texas:** the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers, on the Internet, or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- **Feasibility:** your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world. It's realistic.
- **Researchability:** you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it presents an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put in the work that will make it successful.

HELPFUL LINKS

https://comptroller.texas.gov/transparency/

http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/

http://www.senate.state.tx.us/

http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Committees/MeetingsSenate.aspx

http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org

http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/

http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/TexasLawTimeLine.cfm

http://www.sll.state.tx.us/

http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/

https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/arclegis.html

http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/