



## YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT 2018-19 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	HB121	An act legalizing the action of assisted suicide in a hospitalized situation and declaring an emergency.	Schulle	Cedar Park High School, Austin
Signed	FS055	An act to change the methods by which all direct elections to state government positions are held and declaring an emergency.	Vollbrecht	Hays High School, Austin
Signed	FS058	An act addressing the opioid crisis in Texas and declaring an emergency.	Williams	Leander High School, Austin
Signed	FS046	An act declaring that a medical practitioner must inform their patients when prescribed medication if they have received any payments from that drug company and declaring an emergency.	Noble	Boyd High School, Dallas
Signed	HB090	An act eliminating the sales tax on feminine hygiene products and reclassifying them as a medical necessity; non taxable item and declaring an emergency.	Mora	Ann Richards High School, Austin

### **BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR:**

Governor Action	Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/District
Signed	HB120	An act prohibiting private or non federal companies using sexual orientation or race as a factor of salary and declaring an emergency.	Jax Schuck	Dowell Middle School, Dallas
Signed	HB071	An act relating to children's rights in family court and declaring an emergency.	Angi Kurian	Austin Academy for Excellence, Dallas

### **BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

- Legalization of marijuana
- Texting while driving



## 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 Legislative Section on our website <https://ymcatexasyq.org/program-sections/legislative/>
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Directors and State Director.
9. Review Legislative Basics on the Legislative Section page at <https://ymcatexasyq.org/program-sections/legislative/>
10. Research! Practice!

### HIGH SCHOOL YG: The following sections are available:

**FARABEE SENATE:** Delegates in Senate are 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders with legislative experience. **62** seats are available in Senate.

**HOUSE:** House delegates are primarily 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade placement.

**HYDE HOUSE:** Delegates in the Hyde House are first-year high school students in Legislative (9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS OR FIRST-YEAR 10<sup>TH</sup> 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. **85** seats are available in Hyde House. Please note that 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade high school students. **72** seats are available in Hyde Senate.

### JUNIORYG: The following sections are available:

**SENATE:** Delegates in Senate are 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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/>