



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT 2022 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 & Government year. Therefore, just as if the real Legislature would not consider a bill that would enact an already existing law, we do not want to consider any bills that would enact laws that we "enacted" in the previous year. This is an extension of the rule that a Youth & Government bill cannot enact a law that already exists.

Banned topics are those topics as it relates to the bills that were passed at the 2022 State Conference. Those bills are now "banned." The goal is for students to avoid submitting bills that are similar in topic or just modified in some way.

For example, the bill below:

HB#036 An Act prohibiting Texas public schools from banning any religious symbols and...

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR (Includes Hyde House, House of Representatives and Senate)

Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/ District
FS001	An act legalizing physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients and declaring an emergency	Acharya, Ahan	Imagine International Academy High School
FS026	An act regarding the improvement of health care in all Texas immigration detention centers and declaring an emergency	Hussain, Aleeza	Liberty High School
HB095	An act allowing minors to buy birth control without their parent's consent and declaring an emergency.	Roberts, Sereniti	Duncanville High School
FS033	An act limiting the sale of insulin to no more than \$25 per 30-day supply regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed to fill the person's prescription and declaring an emergency.	Mantzey, Garrett	McKinney YMCA Branch Club
HB068	An act to protect longtime homeowners who make less than \$50,000 in Household income, and the property tax is more than 3% of their income from gentrification and declaring an emergency.	Maguire, Brian	Vista Ridge High School
FS042	Pocket Veto -- An act banning the act of smoking in a vehicle when a minor is present and declaring an emergency.	Olatunji, Noah	Imagine International Academy of North Texas

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGHSCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **Abortion**

No bills will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics. Topics are banned when we had several years of students writing on the same topic.



GUIDELINES FOR BILL WRITERS

For All Bill Writers:

1. All bill topics must abide by our values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
2. We are honored to use the Capitol facilities in Austin, TX. Bill topics 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. Exceptions must be cleared by District Director, 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 Bill Banned List.
7. Students must use the bill template provided. You can download it at www.ymcatexasyg.org.
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Director and State Director.
9. Review Legislative Basics at www.ymcatexasyg.org
10. Research! Practice!

FARABEE SENATE AND HOUSE: House delegates have more than one year experience in Legislative. At State 150 seats in House are available.

Delegates in Farabee Senate are experienced upper classmen. 62 seats available in Farabee Senate See Banned Topics on PAGE 1 for House and Senate Delegates.

PLEASE NOTE: delegations/clubs must not have similar topics from the same club.

HYDE: Delegates in Hyde 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 their same Hyde bill again. 60 seats available in Hyde.

NOTE: HYDE SENATE will be added if additional seats are needed in Hyde. Experienced 9th graders (such as students who were in JYG will be selected to be in Hyde Senate).

Please Note: 9th grade students that participated in Junior YG for 2 years can move to House instead of Hyde House if there are seats available in the House.

JUNIORYG:

Delegates in Junior YG are in a recognized middle school/junior high school.

The following are the sections available:

- **Duran House:** Students that have little to no experience in Legislative. Students must write a Bill to participate in this chamber. Duran Senate: first year delegates that advisors feel have enough experience to debate with other similar students. Students must write a Bill to participate in this chamber.
- **House:** Students with some experience in legislative or debating (7th and 8th graders). If an advisor feels a 6th grader will be fine in House, they must get approval from District Director before registering them in the in House.
- **Farabee Senate:** Experienced 8th graders, these are student who have participated in the program at least one year. Returning Junior YG delegates need to generate a new bill topic from what they submitted their previous year



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- **Banned Topics:** Abortion
- **Optimum Size:**
- **Duran Senate** - to be determined once House and Senate have been filled Duran- to be determined once Duran House has been filled **House** 150 seats Farabee Senate 62 seats
- **Ambassador House** is for students who have started the program late. No Bill will be submitted. Approval to be considered for this chamber must be cleared by the District Director.

Reminder: Banned topic: Abortion NO BILLS will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics!

TIPS

So you want to write a bill? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea is not necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Texas does not mean that it is a good bill topic for Youth and Government delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Youth and Government bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably is not so good because no one will want to argue about it!

Really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We have broken it all down for you. Here is what we think makes a good bill:

- 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 one!
- 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, 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 is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.



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HELPFUL LINKS

<http://www.texas Transparency.org/moneygoes/>

<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/>