Legislative Advocacy

Doria Panvini
Legislative Process

Basic legislative process

- Bill is introduced
- Bill referred to Committee or subcommittee
- Bill is sent to House or Senate
- Bill is passed and sent to President or Governor for action
  - Signed
  - Vetoed
Congress

- Committee staff usually draft the bills;
- Advocacy representatives or lobbyists work with committee
- Bill may be introduced any time
- Mark-up by committee
  - Chairman’s Mark
- Action by House or Senate
- Conference Committee
Congress

- Sent to President for his action
- President may
  - Sign the bill into law
  - Veto the bill
- To override a veto by the President
  - Two-thirds of the members present must vote to override the veto in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate
Bill often drafted by advocates
All bills must be introduced by designated cutoff date in early February
Budget amendments can be submitted until the March deadline
Identical bills introduced in each chamber
Committee action
Committee action

- Senate subcommittees – Appointed when needed to hear specific group of bills

- House General subcommittees –
  - One subcommittee for each standing committee to hear complex, controversial or bills with large fiscal notes.
TN General Assembly

- Reconciling bill differences

- Governor
  - Sign
  - Veto
  - Pass without signature
Constitutional Majority

- Constitutional majority needed
  - Pass a bill
  - Override veto by Governor
    - 50 votes in the House
    - 17 votes in the Senate
Terms

- P1C – Passed 1st Consideration
- P2C – Passed 2nd Consideration
- Placed on committee calendar
- Rolled two weeks
- Reset on calendar
- Taken off notice (House)
- Assigned to General subcommittee (Senate)
Captions

- Senate Bill 2798  By Woodson
- House Bill 3268 By Maddox

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, relative to administration of anti-seizure medications in school settings in emergency situations.
AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title 12; Title 16; Title 30; Title 36; Title 39; Title 40; Title 45; Title 47; Title 48; Title 55; Title 56; Title 57; Title 61; Title 62; Title 67; Title 68; Title 69; Title 70 and Title 71, relative to taxation.

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to intellectual disability.
Tyranny of the Fiscal Note

- Every bill has a fiscal note
- Fiscal Review committee develops the fiscal note
- Information obtained from department impacted by bill
- New fiscal note attached with each amendment
Bill information

Federal website

https://www.congress.gov

General Assembly website

http://www.capitol.tn.gov/

TN Legislative Updates

http://www.thearctn.org/Public-Policy.php
Effective Advocacy

- Be prepared
- Know legislator’s action on issue
- Be polite
- Be persistent
Successful strategies

- Visits with legislator or state official
- Phone calls
- Letters or faxes
  - Send faxes, not letters, to Congress
- Emails
What NOT to do

- Don’t yell at legislator
- Don’t be abusive
- Don’t corner a person
Who Are You?

- Constituent
- Educator
- Lobbyist
Representing a 501 (c)(3) non-profit agency

- Be clear about who you represent
- Cannot endorse a candidate
- Can educate on an issue
Presenting Testimony

- Be prepared
- Respect time allowed
- Tell your personal story
- Do not overexaggerate