

Bill Structure: 2016 Updates

This year's structure for bill writing is a bit different from conferences past: **we've added a funds summary and modified the financial statement (now known as the Author's Note) to make our legislation's finances more transparent and heighten the clarity of our debate at conference.** See below:

A Bill, in Brief:

- I. **Title:** Gives a general idea of what the bill addresses.
 - Format: "An act relating to..."
 - Example: "AN ACT relating to the growing need of psychiatrists in the State of New Jersey."
- II. **Enactment Clause:** Specifies the bill's action.
 - Format: "Be it enacted by the Youth Model Legislature of the State of New Jersey that ..."
 - Example: "Be it enacted by the Youth Model Legislature of the State of New Jersey that the Prescribing Psychologist Program (PPP) is established, in which all licensed clinical psychologists in New Jersey who wish to prescribe medication to patients must successfully complete advanced education, training in psychopharmacology, and supervised clinical training."
- III. **Body:** Describes what will be accomplished through the bill in detail.
 - Format: Bulleted sections. Be sure to define ambiguous terms.
 - Example: "Section 1A: Defines..."
- IV. **Effective Date:** Specifies a date/ time period for the implementation of the bill.
 - Format: "This bill shall take effect on..."
 - Example: "This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2017 for organizational purposes and to give the DMHAS adequate time to establish the PPP."
- V. **Statement of Intent:** Describes what is hoped to be accomplished through the bill.
 - Format: "The purpose of this bill is..."
 - Example: "The purpose of this bill is to provide a sufficient number of licensed medical workers to treat mental illness in the State of New Jersey, as many residents of the state who suffer from mental health do not have access to proper mental health care."
- VI. **FUNDS SUMMARY:** Allocates funding and revenue to specific state departments.
 - Format: Funds necessary for the implementation of this law will come from the _____ (department/agency). *If necessary:* Funds generated as a result of this law will go to _____ (department/agency). The implementation of this law will fall under the jurisdiction of _____ (department/agency).
 - Example: "Funds necessary for the implementation of this law will come from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The implementation of this law will fall under the jurisdiction of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services."
- VII. **AUTHOR'S NOTE: (Previously, the Financial Statement):** Adds any relevant funding information is not already supplied in the Funds Summary.
 - Do not include:
 1. Any monetary values.
 2. "This bill will cost the State for the rewriting and redistribution of the law books"
 - Example: "Additionally, the salary of members of the PPPAC is the discretion of the DMHAS, and the cost of creating the PPPAC will be met by the budget of the DMHAS."

Commonly Asked Questions:

1. Why the new Funds Summary and Author's Note?

Using the Funds Summary and Author's Note, officers will be able to give delegates better feedback regarding the immediate fiscal impact of their bills. The fiscal impact of a certain bill can regard its immediate financial revenue and/ or its cost for the State of New Jersey.

2. What is the "immediate fiscal impact" for legislation?

The "immediate fiscal impact" includes any financial costs or revenues within one fiscal year.

3. How will the bill's cost be quantified?

This year, legislative officers will be using a scale of values to enumerate the costs/ revenues of each bill. Essentially, each bill will receive 2 numbers for rating. One will be in regard to the bill's revenue for the state (\$), and the other will be in regard to the bill's cost (#).

Revenue (\$) / Expense (#) Scale:

- > 0 - \$0-\$99,999
- > 1 - \$100,000-\$499,999
- > 2 - \$500,000 - \$999,999
- > 3 - \$1,000,000 - \$9,999,999
- > 4 - \$10,000,000-\$49,999,999
- > 5 - \$50,000,000 - \$99,999,999
- > 6 - \$100,000,000 - \$499,999,999
- > 7 - \$500,000,000 - \$999,999,999
- > * - \$1,000,000,000 - Above (always include rough estimate of cost)

For example: A rating of 0\$, 3# means that the bill costs the state between \$1 and \$10 million and generates little or no revenue for the state government.

4. How will the officers determine each bill's rating for the two categories (\$ and #)?

Your officers will be primarily using online financial resources (e.g. the NJ Treasury records) to give an accurate rating for each bill written. Another method of estimating cost and revenue is researching the fiscal impacts of similar legislation in states comparable to New Jersey.

5. What is the purpose of the rating system? The main purpose of the new rating system is to provide, objective, third-party financial evaluations and encourage debate about the allocation, rather than the funding, of state-held resources.

Sample Bill:

Bill Number: 1

Senate Sponsor: Jim Jones

Assembly Sponsor: James Kim

Part 1: Title - *Gives a general idea of what the bill addresses*

AN ACT relating to the growing need of psychiatrists in the State of New Jersey.

Part 2: Enactment Clause - *Specifies the bill's course of action*

Be it enacted by the Youth Model Legislature of the State of New Jersey establishes the Prescribing Psychologist Program (PPP), in which all licensed clinical psychologists in New Jersey who wish to prescribe medication to patients must successfully complete advanced education, training in psychopharmacology, and supervised clinical training.

Part 3: Body - *Describes what will be accomplished through the bill in detail*

Section I: Defines

1. "Clinical psychology" as the branch of psychology concerned with the assessment and treatment of mental health and disability.
2. "Psychopharmacology" as the scientific study of the effects drugs have on mood, sensation, thinking, and behavior.
3. "Prescribing Psychologist" as a licensed, doctoral level psychologist who has undergone specialized training, has passed an examination of proficiency in General Psychology approved by the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and has received a current license granting prescriptive authority.
4. "Intellectual disability" as a below-average cognitive disability that has an onset before age eighteen and causes those who suffer an intelligent quotient between 70-75 or below and significant limitations in adaptive behaviors.
5. "Developmental disability" as a condition due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas.
6. "Schedule I-III controlled substance" as it is defined in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).
7. "Narcotic" as any substance that blunts the senses, such as opium, morphine, belladonna, which can cause stupor, coma, or convulsions if taken incorrectly.

Section II: In order to be licensed as a Prescribing Psychologist, one must apply to the DMHAS for a Prescribing Psychologist License, pay any necessary application fees, and provide evidence to the DMHAS that the applicant

1. Holds a current license to practice clinical psychology in the State of New Jersey
2. Has successfully completed the following minimum educational and training requirements either during the doctoral program required for a Prescribing Psychologist License or in an accredited undergraduate or master level program:
3. Can provide proof that he or she has a Consulting Psychiatrist licensed to practice in New Jersey who serves as a resource for medical advice and as a doctor for patients the Prescribing Psychologist is unable to treat.

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Section III: A Prescribing Psychologist may only prescribe medication in accordance with the provisions of this act if the psychologist

1. Continues to hold a current license to practice psychology in New Jersey
2. Satisfies the continuing education requirements for Prescribing Psychologists, including 10 hours of continuing education annually in pharmacology from accredited providers

Section IV: Prescribing Psychologists may only prescribe medication for the treatment of mental illness to all patients with the exception of

1. Patients who are less than 17 years of age or over 65 years of age
2. Patients who are pregnant
3. Patients diagnosed with serious medical conditions, such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, or seizures
4. Patients with developmental and intellectual disabilities

Section V: Prescribing Psychologists may prescribe their patients any suitable prescription medication with the exception of

1. Any drug classified as a benzodiazepine Schedule I-III controlled substance
2. Any drug classified as a narcotic

Section VI: The PPP shall be regulated by creating the Prescribing Psychologist Program Advisory Committee (PPPAC) under the DMHAS. The PPPAC shall consist of ten volunteer members. A minimum of two members on the PPPAC must be licensed psychiatrists. Members of the PPPAC shall be appointed by the Assistant Commissioner of the DMHAS, who will serve as the committee chair. It is anticipated that current members of the DMHAS will primarily compose the PPPAC. Members of the PPPAC are responsible for overseeing the PPP, reviewing all credentials of clinical psychologists who wish to apply to the program, and supervising Consulting Psychiatrists.

Part 4: - *Specifies a date/ time period for when the bill is taken into effect*

Effective Date: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2017 for organizational purposes and to give the DMHAS adequate time to establish the PPP.

Part 5: - *Describes what is hoped to be accomplished with the bill*

Statement of Intent: The purpose of this bill is to provide a sufficient number of licensed medical workers to treat mental illness in the State of New Jersey, as many residents of the state who suffer from mental health do not have access to proper mental health care.

Part 6: - *Allocates funding and revenue to specific state departments.*

Funds necessary for the implementation of this law will come from the DMHAS. The implementation of this law will fall under the jurisdiction of the DMHAS.

Part 7: - *Adds any relevant information is not already supplied in the Funds Summary with regards to the funding of the legislation. *Note: does not include monetary values or clerking costs.*

Author's Note: Additionally, the salary of members of the PPPAC is the discretion of the DMHAS. Finally, the cost of creating the PPPAC will be met by the budget of the DMHAS.