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Legislative *Bill Review* is like the Nursing Process: Assess, Diagnose, Plan, Implement, Evaluate!

HOW TO READ A BILL

The bill reproduced below shows the format used for all bills introduced in the Illinois Legislature. In general, most bills either add to existing law, or delete or change existing law.

The diagram below identifies key elements found in most bills. Current law is indicated by regular type. Deleted phrases have a line drawn through them. New language is underlined.

HOW TO FIND A BILL

On the Illinois General Assembly web site: www.ilga.gov

www.ilga.gov is the official website for accessing legislation that has been introduced for consideration in the Illinois General Assembly. To access the bill in question once on the website, insert the **bill number in the "Search "box at the left column of the web page. Click "Go".** The Bill will appear with its full title, bill number, list of Sponsors. A Bill Summary. At the top of this bill page click 'full text', PDF format for easy printing and any amendments. What is NOT identified, and sometimes is unknown at the time of bill review, is who or which organization is spearheading the proposal. **Amendments to a bill** are located at the top and are numbered to read what has changed in the bill from its original proposed language. Review all proposals including amendments as to how it affects RNs or patients. Always read the full text of a bill, not just the Bill Summary!

ACTIONS

On the bill appears "Actions" a very important way to monitor the path of a legislative proposal (bill) electronically allows the viewer access the bill's progress and its viability (if is still in play or if it was voted down "dies in Committee) of a legislative proposal (bill) in each state Chamber (House of Representatives or Senate). A variety of actions are noted at the end of any legislative proposal. They include the times when a bill is introduced by the legislator in each of its three hearings in the Chamber Committee in either Chamber of the House of Representatives or the state Senate. The Chamber's Legislative Committee the bill will be heard in will be identified, and its Committee members identified. This is useful when seeking a legislator's contact information as to send a Factsheet and phone numbers of each Home District or Springfield office to talk to legislator and their staff. It identifies when Amendments are placed on a legislative proposal (bill). It identifies if a bill is "held" in a Committee. It identifies when additional legislative sponsors are added to the legislative proposal (bill) showing strength for a bill.

HOW TO REVIEW A BILL

Questions discerning support or opposition

- 1. Is the bill completely new or adding new language (amending existing language) in a current law?**
Look for underlined (added language) or stricken language (deleted language).
- 2. Review the definitions within a bill...**
Not all words in bills have ordinary dictionary meanings. Therefore, it is important to read the “**Definitions**” section of a bill before reading the full text. Later, when reading a bill in detail, always refer to the “**Definitions**” section to seek clarification on terms and references that might be vague or ambiguous. Many times, this may mean you will need to reference the law the bill is amending. The law being amended is identified in the synopsis of the legislative proposal and can be accessed on the home page under ‘compiled statutes’ at the top of the page. Search the ILCS number being amended (this is the law already in place).
- 3. What is the object and scope of the bill? Ask yourself these questions...**
 - What does the legislation specifically say? Just the words, do not ‘read into it’.
 - Does proposal add/subtract an existing law? Does it change better/worse, or is it a completely new idea?
 - What evidence is cited to support or oppose this particular proposed law?
 - What else should it say? Would adding or eliminating words make the bill better?
 - Who (population, organization) is targeted by the bill?
 - Does the bill affect current RN practice, nursing in general, patients, or specific health policy of interest to any organization or group?
 - Does the language impact (positive or negative) any organization or group?
 - What potential unintended consequences could this proposal make if passed as a law?
 - Who benefits from the bill? Who loses from this bill?
- 4. Legislators will have their own questions of why you ask for their “support” or “opposition” of a bill.**
 - What action do constituents want me to take? (oppose or support)
 - Why do constituents want me to do that?
 - What are the current/potential local impacts?
 - What are constituents’ personal stories or connections to the policy?
- 5. Does it make for good health policy?**
Is the language prescribed in the bill fair and reasonable? As nurses does the bill promote public health and nursing practice? Ethical? Within the national nursing standards of our profession? Code of Ethics is now within the 2017 Nurse Practice Act.
- 6. If the position on the bill is ‘oppose’, is there language that can be negotiated with the bill sponsor that makes the bill ok for RNs?**
- 7. Always remember:**
“Shall” and “May”
This is a distinction and important to note.
The use of ‘shall’ means it must be done. ‘May’ gives permission to the regulatory agency to **choose to do the action or not**. Identifying the difference in a legislative proposal is important as to the strength of what the bill is requiring to be done.

1 individual's clinical status and nursing care needs are
2 consistent.
3 "Task" means work not requiring nursing knowledge,
4 judgment, or decision-making, as defined by the Department by
5 rule.
6 (b) This Section authorizes a registered professional
7 nurse to:
8 (1) delegate nursing interventions and tasks to other
9 registered professional nurses and licensed practical
10 nurses based on the comprehensive nursing assessment that
11 includes, but is not limited to:
12 (A) the stability and condition of the patient;
13 (B) the potential for harm;
14 (C) the complexity of the nursing intervention or
15 task to be delegated;
16 (D) the predictability of outcomes; and
17 (E) the competency of the individual to whom the
18 nursing intervention or task is delegated;

The chamber in which a bill is introduced

HB – House bill
SB – Senate bill

Underlined words are additions in existing law

3/11/2021

19 Illinois General Assembly - Full Text of SB1990
20 (2) delegate tasks to, and other unlicensed personnel
21 based on the comprehensive nursing assessment that
22 includes, but is not limited to:
(A) the stability and condition of the patient;
(B) the potential for harm;
(C) the complexity of the task nursing intervention to be delegated;
(D) the predictability of outcomes; and

This number will be used to identify the bill over the duration of the two-year legislative session. This bill was first introduced in the Senate and will retain this designation SB 1990 in the Senate.

SB1990 - 11 - LRB102 14233 SPS 19585 b

1 (E) competency of the individual to whom the task
2 nursing intervention is delegated;
3 (3) ~~(2)~~ delegate medication administration to other
4 licensed nurses; or
5 ~~(3)~~ in community-based or in-home care settings,
6 delegate the administration of medication (limited to oral
7 or subcutaneous dosage and topical or transdermal
8 application) to unlicensed personnel, if all the
9 conditions for delegation set forth in this Section are
10 met;
11 (4) refuse to delegate, stop, or rescind a previously
12 authorized delegation; or
13 (5) in community-based or in-home care settings,
14 delegate, guide, and evaluate the implementation of
15 nursing interventions as a component of patient care
16 coordination after completion of the comprehensive patient
17 assessment based on analysis of the comprehensive nursing
18 assessment data; care coordination in in-home care and
19 school settings may occur in-person, by telecommunication,
20 or by electronic communication.

Strikethrough indicates language in the current law that the bill would delete