

Capitol Creeping: Advanced Advocacy Tips

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Learning Objectives

- ☀ Review TNSAM's Advocacy Efforts
- ☀ Master strategies for securing a legislative sponsor
- ☀ Develop skills to draft effective bills and enhance their likelihood of passing
- ☀ Understand the purpose and creation of a one-pager
- ☀ Gain insights on meeting and engaging with legislators effectively
- ☀ Learn the logistics and best practices of delivering witness testimony
- ☀ Identify the essential steps required to successfully pass a bill

TN State Limits on Buprenorphine Dosage/Prescriptive Authority

- Tennessee law forbids physician assistants, nurse practitioners from prescribing more than 16 mg of buprenorphine/day or from prescribing monoproduct buprenorphine under any circumstances¹
- TN law forbids physician assistants, nurse practitioners from prescribing benzodiazepines to MAT patients under any circumstances²
- TennCare only permits insurance coverage of up to 16 mg of buprenorphine/day³

TNSAM Sponsored Legislation

- ☀ MOUD Initiation by Telehealth (HB1049/SB1208): would codify that an in-person examination would not be required to initiate MOUD.⁴
 - Beneficial for patients without reliable transportation, mobility issues, or who live in rural areas.
- ☀ Correctional Facility Prescribing (HB1239/SB421): would allow mid-level providers to prescribe buprenorphine in TN correctional facilities.⁵
 - Forced opioid withdrawal is associated with elevated post-release overdose risk among individuals with OUD⁶ and Incarcerated individuals are 129 times more likely to die of an overdose within two weeks of their release.⁷
- ☀ Alcohol Good Samaritan (HB995/SB940): expands immunity when assisting a person experiencing overdose from alcohol.⁸

TNSAM Feedback to TDMHSAS and Medicaid MCOs

☀ Letter to TDMHSAS on New OBOT/OTP Rules⁹

- Requested reconsideration of dosing standards for buprenorphine in the age of high potency synthetic opioids and dosing caps for methadone in OTPs
- Urged removal of the requirement that recipients under 18 yo must have 2 documented unsuccessful attempts at short-term withdrawal management prior to initiating treatment

☀ Collaborating with TN Medicaid Payors for Optimal Alignment

- TN MCOs individually do not consistently follow the same standards
- Ex: Some would require a connected counseling visit to be same day vs others would require within 7 days of the provider encounter to be “connected” to the provider encounter. All MCOs are now moving to within 7 days.

Foundations of Effective Advocacy

- **Learn the Ropes**
 - Team up with a Lobbyist
 - Connect with your state AMA chapter
 - Supporting or Opposing a Bill
- **Networking**
 - Start to connect with your state legislators prior to session starting.
 - Connect or Join other state non-profits or medical associations involved in advocacy
- **Deadlines**
 - State Filing Deadlines for Bills
 - When Legislature is in session
 - Learn to Use Your State's Capitol Website



Securing a Sponsor

- **When To Find A Sponsor**
 - Sooner the better
 - Ideally prior to December
 - Need House and Senate Sponsor
- **Who To Target as a Sponsor**
 - Party in power
 - Health Committee members
 - Leader/Chairman of Committee
 - Majority Party Leaders
- **How To Find a Sponsor**
 - State AMA chapter events
 - Dr of the Day



Crafting Your Bill

- What Type of Bill
 - Regular Bill
 - Caption Bill
- Are There Bill Limits in Your State
 - TN House Members have 10 bill limit
 - TN Senators have no limit
 - Health Committee members
- How to Draft Your Bill
 - Draft it yourself
 - Seek help from your sponsor's LA
 - Get Legal to edit



Develop Your “One Pager”

- Purpose of One-Pager
 - Short Summary of What the Bill Does
 - Encapsulates Talking Points
 - Persuades Members to Support
- Information to Include
 - House and Senate Bill Numbers
 - Sponsors' Names
 - Bill Summary and Impact
 - Supporting Organizations
 - Your Name and Contact Information



Bill Success Strategies

- **Identify Potential Opposition**
 - Competitors
 - State Agencies
 - Non-profits
- **Get Organizations to Sign-On**
 - State AMA Chapter
 - State Hospital Association
 - Addiction or MH Non-Profits
 - State Dept of Mental Health
- **How to Draft Your Bill**
 - Draft it yourself
 - Seek help from your sponsor's LA
 - Get Legal to edit



Mastering Legislative Meetings

- Get to Know Legislative Assistants (LA)
- Schedule Appointment In-Person with Legislative Assistant
- When to Schedule Meetings
- Leave Your One-Pager
- What to Talk About
 - Gauge Support Prior to Meeting
 - Research their Prior Bills
 - Mention Bill Number
 - Ask about their questions or concerns
 - Make the Ask
 - Thank them for their time



Brock Martin
Chair

Suite #: 123
Appointment Time: 9am Monday
Concerns:
Prior Bills:
Strategy of What To Talk About:
Supports/Opposes:

Committee Members



Ron M. Gant



Tim Hicks



Timothy Hill



Tom Leatherwood



Sam McKenzie



Bo Mitchell



Bryan Terry



Ryan Williams

Engaging Legislators Without An Appointment

- “Loitering”
 - Hang Out in their Office
 - Good LA Relationship Helps
 - Be Patient
- “Stalking”
 - Hallway
 - Food Court
 - Be Brief

*The terms “Loitering” and “Stalking” are used in jest in reference to advocacy engagement strategies and do not endorse any illegal activities.



Witness Testimony Tips

- **Required Forms**
 - Get on the list to testify
 - Email the LA of the Chairman
- **Time Limit**
 - Find out how many minutes you have for your statement – DO NOT GO OVER
 - Usually 2-3 minutes
 - No time limit for member questions
- **What to Say**
 - Thank Chairman and Committee
 - Encourage Support
 - Answer Questions



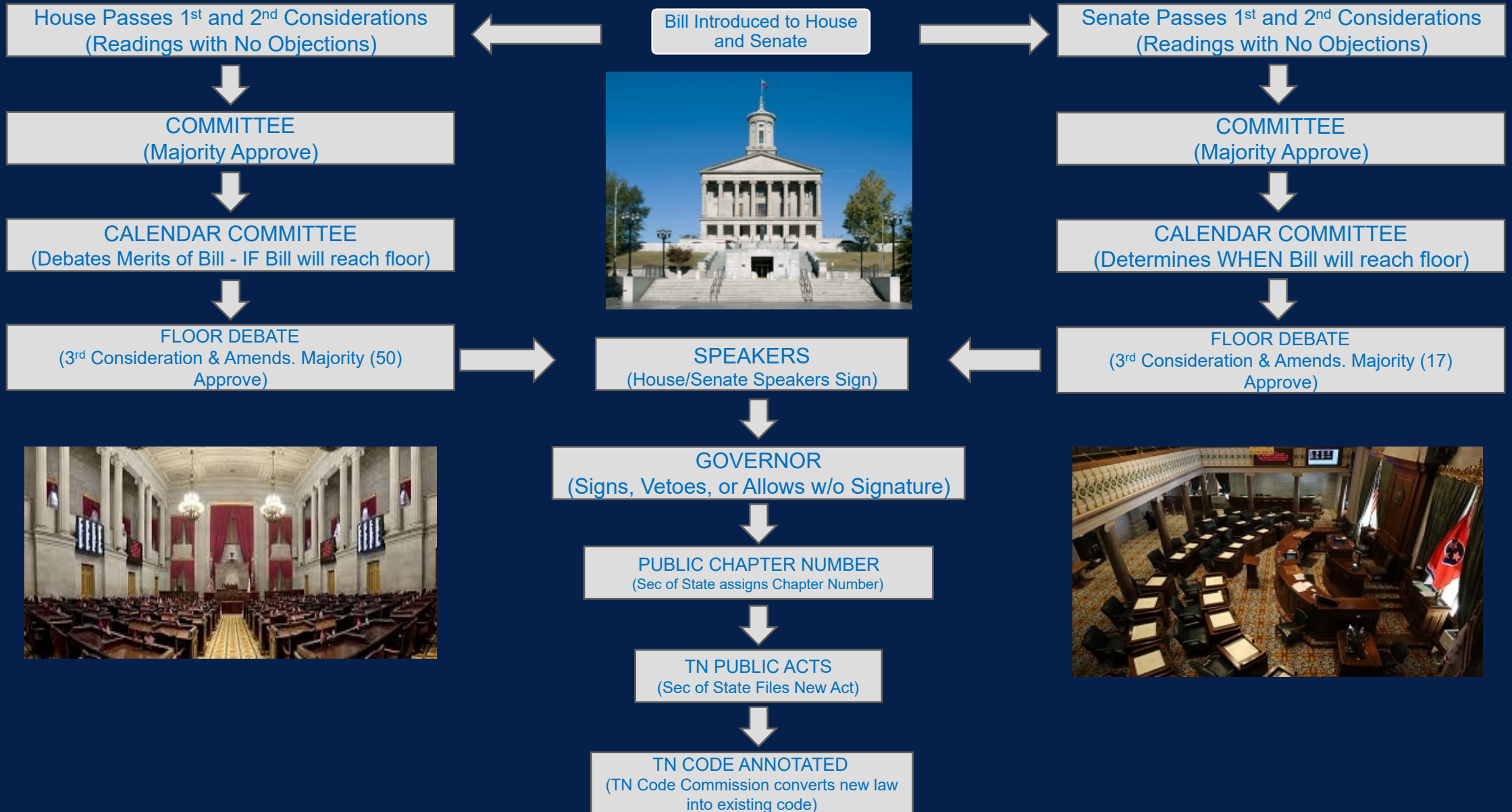
COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

REGULAR CALENDAR

Steps To Pass A Bill

HOUSE

SENATE



Final Takeaways

- **It's a Time Consuming Process**

- Will require multiple days off from work each week your bill is up for a vote
- Legislature is very busy while in session and can be exhausting

- **Have Realistic Expectations**

- Most bills die in committee
- Your first bill is unlikely to pass
- Don't get discouraged.
- Learn from the experience

- **Gratitude for Sponsors**

- Thank them
- Send hand-written thank-you notes



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