

THE 2024 STUDENT HANDBOOK

CONGRESS

TEENPACT LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS





Greetings!

Welcome to TeenPact Congress 2024! You have been prayed over for many weeks, and it's hard to believe we will all be together very soon. Much time and prayer have been poured into preparing for this event and we cannot wait to see what God has in store for us. TeenPact Congress is a highlight of our year (as we hope it will be for you!) and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in action at the Capitol!

This Student Handbook is intended to be a resource as you prepare as well as onsite during the event. We highly encourage you to read it, reread it, and take notes in it. In this Handbook, you'll find a template for how our Legislature at Congress is going to function and the role your position will be fulfilling. Parliamentary Procedures we will be using, standard practices, and track structures are all included for your reference. Trust us - this little guide will be your friend during the week!

Make sure you also review the 2024 TeenPact Congress Bill Book. There you'll find the legislation we'll be debating, working on, and passing throughout the week. It's imperative that you read every bill to have a better understanding of what will be discussed. Work hard to know every angle of every bill and be ready to intelligently answer questions, give persuasive arguments, and report on the facts of the legislation.

We've worked hard to provide you with bills that address some similar issues we face as a nation today. You have the opportunity to become further educated on where you stand on these issues and take the information you gain from researching and debating during the event, to go and make a difference in the name of Christ!

Congress is going to be a fun, fast-paced, empowering, and exciting week and your research and preparation beforehand will make for a fantastic experience!

See you soon!

Brent Vastbinder & Selah Mallory

2024 TeenPact Congress Program Directing Team

2024 Leadership Team

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Emma Freeland
President of the Senate

Evan Wright
Senate Majority Leader

Simon Nelson
Secretary of the Senate

Noah Powers
Speaker of the House

Matthew Gosz
House Majority Leader

Kaelyn Shepherd
Clerk of the House

PRIVATE SECTOR & MEDIA

Elly Treder
Lobbyist Principal

Olivia Korsmo
TPN Editor-in-Chief

Caleb Korsmo
TPN Correspondent

Moriah Pierce
TPN Correspondent

CLASS LEADERSHIP

Brent Vastbinder
TeenPact Congress Program Director

Selah Mallory
TeenPact Congress Assistant Program Director

Bob Chambers
TeenPact Congress Event Director

Sample Schedule

SUNDAY

Arrival/Check-In

Get Acquainted

Welcome/Introductions

Dinner

Party Caucuses and Track Meetings

Evening Session

Dismiss to Cabins

MONDAY

Breakfast

Arrive at Capitol

Opening Joint Session

Committee Meetings

Caucus Meetings

Lunch

House and Senate Session

Committee Meetings

Return to Camp

Free Time

Dinner

Evening Session

Dismiss to Cabins

TUESDAY

Breakfast

Arrive at Capitol

Committee Meetings

House and Senate Session

Lunch

House and Senate Session

Joint Press Conference

Return to camp

Free Time

Dinner

Evening Session

Dismiss to Cabins

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast

Arrive at Capitol

House and Senate Session

Advocacy Hour

Return to Camp

Free Time

Dinner

Evening Session

Dismiss to Cabins

THURSDAY

Breakfast

Arrive at Capitol

House and Senate Session

Lunch

House and Senate Session

House and Senate Joint Session

Sine Die

Awards and Recognitions

Press Conference

Return to Camp

Free Time

Dinner/Banquet

Evening Session

Thank You's/Travel Announcements

Dismiss to Cabins

FRIDAY

Breakfast

Clean up

Airport runs

ROLES AT CONGRESS

One of the most important goals of TeenPact Congress is to provide a hands-on educational experience to help Students gain knowledge and develop skills as well as a Biblical worldview that will foster and promote civic engagement, no matter which role they play in this event. The objective is for Students to become aware of and be active participants in our democratic process, shining as cities on a hill and pointing people towards Jesus in a sector of society where many Christians are absent or silent.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE – APPOINTED

The Speaker of the House serves as the presiding officer and leader of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House is expected to provide leadership during the event and will help draft and edit bills for TeenPact Congress, as well as push the Majority Party's agenda during the legislative session. *The Speaker is a member of the staff team.*

CLERK OF THE HOUSE – APPOINTED

The Clerk of the House serves as the top administrator of the House of Representatives. Serving at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House, the Clerk announces whether or not a quorum is present, announces the calendar, reads bills, controls voting machines, keeps and calls time during debates, and assists the Speaker in maintaining control of the parliamentary procedures in the House. The Clerk also keeps a record of the minutes of the House proceedings. *The Clerk is a member of the staff team.*

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE – APPOINTED

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate serves as the presiding officer and leader of the Senate. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate is also expected to provide leadership during the event and will help draft and edit bills for TeenPact Congress, as well as push the Majority Party's agenda during the legislative session. *The President Pro Tempore is a member of the staff team.*

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE – APPOINTED

The Secretary of the Senate serves as the top administrator of the Senate. Serving at the pleasure of the President of the Senate, the Secretary announces whether or not a quorum is present, announces the calendar, reads bills, controls voting machines, keeps and calls time during debates, and assists the President Pro Tempore in maintaining control of the parliamentary procedures in the Senate. The Secretary also keeps a record of the minutes of the Senate proceedings. *The Secretary is a member of the staff team.*

MAJORITY LEADERSHIP – APPOINTED

Serving at the pleasure of the leadership of both the House and Senate, the Majority Party will select the following positions:

Majority Floor Leaders (Members of the Staff Team)

The Majority Floor Leaders makes the determination of what bills are heard on the floor of the House or Senate. They determine the timing of when each bill is considered. They also run the floor of each body, working directly with the Speaker or President Pro Tempore through parliamentary procedure to ensure floor activity runs smoothly.

Majority Party Whips (Members of the Student Body)

The Majority Party Whips serve at the pleasure of party leadership to help communicate with the members of their parties on agenda items, vote calculations, and the direction the membership wants to go concerning bills heard in committee or on the floor of the House or Senate.

MINORITY LEADERSHIP – APPOINTED

Serving at the pleasure of the minority leadership of both the House and Senate, the Minority Party will select the following positions:

Minority Floor Leaders (Members of the Staff Team)

The Minority Floor Leaders work with the Majority Party Leadership to negotiate what bills are heard on the floor of the House or Senate.

Minority Party Whips (Members of the Student Body)

The Minority Party Whips serve at the pleasure of party leadership to help communicate with the members of their parties on agenda items, vote calculations, and the direction the membership wants to go concerning bills heard in committee or on the floor of the House or Senate.

LEGISLATORS

TeenPact Congress Legislators represent the people of a geographic area (district) who “elect” them. They represent the diverse people, industry, business, agriculture, economics, and environmental interests of their district. They work to balance the needs of their district and state against laws that affect the entire nation. Legislators should rely heavily on lobbyists and their constituents for facts and information to guide their votes. Legislators are also responsible for sponsoring legislation.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS – APPOINTED

Committee Chairs use parliamentary procedure to preside over committee meetings and establish the bill calendar within committees. The Chair for each of the TeenPact Congress Legislature Committees is appointed by the Speaker of the House or President Pro Tempore of the Senate. *Committee Chairs are members of the Student body.*

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR – APPOINTED

Each Committee will also have a Committee Vice Chair. The Vice Chair will assist with the business of committee meetings by performing such duties as taking minutes, calling roll, keeping time and completing reports, etc. Each Vice Chair will be assigned by the Speaker of the House or President of the Senate. *Committee Vice Chairs are members of the Student body.*

TEENPACT NETWORK (TPN) EDITOR IN CHIEF – APPOINTED

The Editor In Chief oversees all aspects of the media including press conferences, The Congressional and The Wire, and TPN news broadcasts. Member of the staff team. The Editor In Chief is responsible for assigning all press corp member tasks and approving final print and broadcast media products. *The TPN Editor In Chief is a member of the staff team.*

TEENPACT NETWORK (TPN) CORRESPONDENTS – APPOINTED

Th The TPN Correspondents works directly with members of the press corp to carry out assignments in both print and broadcast media assigned by the Editor in Chief . The TPN Correspondents also serves as the main outlet for news coming straight from the Office of the President of the TeenPact Nation. *The TPN Correspondents are members of the staff team.*

TEENPACT NETWORK (TPN) PRESS CORP MEMBER

Student media track members will be assigned to the TPN Press Corp. Press Corp members will carry out assignments from

Media Leadership in print, visual, and audio media outlets. As the only news source for the Student body, TPN Press Corp members work daily to provide accurate and quality journalistic products to be consumed by all participants at TeenPact Congress.

LOBBYIST PRINCIPAL

The Lobbyist Principal will work with Students in the Lobbyist track to provide legislators and press corp members with accurate and detailed information in support of or opposition to legislation before the members of the TeenPact Legislature. As the leader of all lobbyists, the Lobbyist Principal will assign tasks to corporate lobbying interest groups comprised of lobbyist Students who will work to educate legislators on the impact of the legislation they are voting on. In addition, the Lobbyist Principal will teach key points of debate and persuasion to grow the skills of communication. *The Lobbyist Principal is a member of the staff team.*

LOBBYIST

At TeenPact Congress, Student lobbyists will work with the Lobbyist Principal to learn keys to effective communication and seek to educate members of TeenPact Congress on the legislation before them. Each lobbyist will be “hired” by a corporate special interest group to help push that group’s agenda in regards to the bills facing TeenPact Congress. Lobbyists will work to persuade legislators and the media in the House and Senate committee and floor processes to their group’s point of view. Lobbyists will host receptions and “get-togethers” for legislators to build relationships and rapport. When available, lobbyists will also serve as pages for the legislature, delivering important communications between the House and Senate regarding legislation.

Political Parties

The TeenPact Congress Legislature has two parties in which you are able to register – the Coalition Party and the Impact Party.

Each party has a leadership team who will work to educate Congress participants about the party platforms and encourage participation to vote with their party. Political party role play is to be done in good spirit and should not become a cause of division or polarization of Congress participants. Therefore, in the spirit of fairness and cooperation, no party materials or party campaigning will be done prior to Students arrival.

The views of these two parties will shape every aspect of how the Majority and Minority membership act and react to legislation, lobbying, and press coverage throughout the week. Please note that the party system is provided to emulate “real life” experiences and to promote active participation. We realize that no one will personally agree with every stance within the party where they register, however, each Student at Congress is encouraged to stretch the understanding of their personal beliefs and seek to challenge themselves in learning other ways of thinking.

The Prosperity Party

Equality and growth are the guiding principles of the Prosperity Party, balancing a future that strives for continual growth, yet remains equal and available for all. We believe in building a society that pursues human rights, diversity, equal opportunity, and tolerance for all beliefs. The Prosperity Party believes the future is ours to pursue, and with that ideal, we should take the necessary steps to ensure a prosperous future for every citizen, not just the upper class.

The Prosperity Party supports developing the current public school system so that all citizens, no matter what economic or social background, have access to high-quality education. We would like to see a future where community colleges are free to all citizens.

Because the Prosperity Party advocates tolerance for all beliefs, we believe that the government has the right to take necessary steps in both the public and private sectors to maintain a safe and non-discriminatory society.

We believe in having a strong national defense that pursues a humanitarian approach to foreign policy. We believe that America should actively participate in the global economy to further pursue our goals and that of our allies abroad. We believe that our defense budget needs consistent oversight and regulation. We also believe in state sovereignty, yet emphasize the importance of a strong central government. Our party believes that while not all issues need to be handled on a national level, there are some issues that are best suited to be resolved by the federal government, while still taking into account the prosperity of the society and the individual.

The Prosperity Party believes that congressional term limits are unnecessary and damage the stability that an experienced lawmaker can provide. Because this country was founded on the principle of a government by the people, we believe in the abolition of the electoral college, as it does not currently equalize the value of each vote.

The Prosperity Party believes in providing for the basic needs of every citizen. As such, we believe in a future where healthcare is free for all. To address the issues of poverty, social instability, and homelessness that our nation faces, we believe in making fully funded government housing available to those in need.

The Prosperity Party believes that a fair taxation system is necessary for the growth of our nation. With this in mind, we propose a tiered tax system that taxes based on each taxpayer's income level bracket. We will work to eradicate the fixed taxation system which bases all taxes at the same rate.

The Prosperity Party believes there is increased beauty, creativity, and advantages found in a diverse America. We support an overhaul of the current immigration system in favor of a thorough screening process, reduced wait times, and a higher acceptance rate for those trying to come to America to begin a new life.

The Determination Party

Tradition and opportunity are the guiding principles of the Determination Party. Returning to our founding principles is at the forefront of all that we strive for. Although we believe in growing our nation, idealistic goals can never be prioritized over the rights of American citizens. The Determination Party believes a brighter future is found by respecting and defending the values this country was founded on. The Impact Party supports equal access to and accountability for education. School administrators, teachers, and school boards must be held accountable for student learning and performance without “teaching to the test” or being overburdened with repeated standardized testing. A quality education for our citizens is the cornerstone of our country’s future. Without an educated electorate and workforce, our nation will not be able to maintain and improve our standard of living.

The Determination Party believes in expanding school choice and bringing education to the state level rather than the federal. On the whole, we believe local government is the best form of government, as it defends state sovereignty and state rights. The federal government is meant to support our national interests, while state and local governments should have primary jurisdiction over our citizens.

The Determination Party supports a low tax system. We believe that this not only supports the working individual, but also encourages a strong work ethic among Americans. To foster a flourishing society, citizens should be able to keep a majority of their hard earned income, and should not be punished when they become successful and wealthy.

The Determination Party opposes lifelong bureaucrats and supports reasonable term limits. We also believe in a representative democracy and, with it, the electoral college. The electoral college supports state sovereignty by equalizing the power of each state in the presidential election.

The Determination Party believes in personal liberty and is against any government handout that enables citizens to contribute less to society. We believe in reasonable measures to support our citizens, however, providing healthcare to citizens free of charge is too costly to be deemed reasonable and does not fall within the jurisdiction of the government.

The Determination Party engages in international affairs with the motto, “peace through strength” and believes our own military needs to be supported as best as possible. While we realize the importance of good foreign policy, we emphasize the needs of our own country above all else.

The Determination Party believes that for America to thrive as a nation, we must safeguard our borders. The current immigration system should be reformed to more thoroughly vet those who are granted access into our country. We believe that there are benefits found in a diverse workforce, but we know that we must prioritize the security of our citizens.

THE LOBBYIST HANDBOOK

CONGRESS

TEENPACT LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS



A limited number of Congress Students will be serving as Lobbyists. Lobbyists are individuals who represent a particular interest group. As a Student at your home state class, you learned there are three types of lobbyists:

- ★ Contract
- ★ Corporate
- ★ Citizen

During TeenPact Congress, Students in the lobbyist track will work as Contract Lobbyists. Lobbyists will work actively to pass legislation favorable to the group or company they represent. They will also work against bills that would be unfavorable to the group or company.

The lobbyist role is to know the pros and cons of each bill for each particular group. Both sides of the issues must be known in order to effectively persuade those in opposition and those legislators who are undecided.

The TeenPact Congress Legislature is a time and place to learn and practice skills. Therefore, a Lobbyist may choose a point of view that is different from their own opinion — just to practice the skills of debate and persuasion.

PREPARATION FOR TEENPACT CONGRESS LEGISLATURE

Read all the bills. Think of arguments for and against each bill. This will give you an idea of the “sense” of the bill and some of the issues involved. Realize that many bills will die early in the process. Therefore, your knowledge of the bills must be broad-based and not narrow. As a lobbyist, your preparation and work can change instantly based on what the legislature does. Always be ready to defend or defeat any measure.

Each lobbyist must choose a lobbyist group (see below). Locate the bills that pertain to the group for whom you lobby. For the bills pertinent to your Lobby Group, gather facts and develop arguments about the implications why (or why not) it should pass to law. You need facts to support your arguments. Bring copies or presentations of your research to show the legislators you know what you’re talking about.

Prepare a two minute speech/presentation for each bill your group is targeting to present at committee meetings on Monday and Tuesday. You may, if you wish, make fliers to hand out to promote your position about a specific bill for committee meetings.

Prepare talking points along with facts to discuss with legislators as you pull them out of their legislative session throughout the week before the bills you’re lobbying for or against are heard on the floor.

Ideas for prepping for TeenPact Congress:

- ★ Look up similar types of legislation
- ★ Ask for opinions from parents and friends
- ★ Seek information from special interest groups concerned with bills under consideration. Clip newspaper articles about issues specific to your issue/bill.
- ★ Use the internet to research bills.
- ★ Listen to the current news media’s reaction to issues that will be debated at Congress.

DURING TEENPACT CONGRESS

When you arrive in Tallahassee, there will be ample opportunities to engage Congress Legislators trying to persuade them towards your position.

You'll participate in Lobby Group Meetings to work with members of your lobby group to plan a strategy to lobby legislators.

As a member of a lobby group, you will make appearances during committee hearings to influence the committee toward the position on bills that are of interest to your lobby group. You will be allowed to make a brief speech or present information for a specific bill. Your job is to try to get the Legislative committee members to vote either in favor or opposition to a specific bill as you and your lobby group would prefer. Be creative. Be unforgettable.

During Senate and House sessions, you will continue to influence legislators by pulling them out of the session and sending them messages about why they should support or defeat a bill being discussed. Communication and persistence is key. The more personable and innovative you are, the more effective you will be at your job.

Lobbyists will host a reception on Wednesday called Advocacy Hour, where members of the House and Senate and Media will be invited and recognized. Legislators like to be recognized for the hard work they do, and giving them some time to relax and be recognized is an extremely effective lobbying technique.

Lobbyists will have the opportunity to take legislators out for coffee/tea for small group discussions away from the busyness of the legislative session. Lobbyists will be given a budget from their "employer" to spend at the Capitol on members they wish to persuade to their side of the issues. These simple times of communication between the lobbyists, their employers, and legislators are extremely effective at TeenPact Congress and in real life in pushing agendas forward.

**Contract
Lobby Groups
at TeenPact
Congress**

Citizens for Liberty (CFL)

The Foundation for Equal Opportunity believes in creating a nation where every citizen has the opportunity to prosper and succeed. We believe the best method to reach this goal is by promoting laws that will ensure citizens are given a fair and equal chance. We strive for the people's right to conditions where they can succeed educationally and economically. We also believe that, in many instances, the states are most capable of ensuring equality for the people. However, the federal government must still play a role to ensure all United States citizens are given equal opportunity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as secured in the United States Constitution.

MEASURES CFL SUPPORTS

The Federal Term Limit Act of 2024 – **SINAC007**

The Citizen Voter ID Act of 2024 – **RGOC003**

The United Nations Security Act of 2024 –
SINAC003

The National ID Card Repeal Act of 2024 –
RGOC005

The Proposition of Repealing the 17th Amend-
ment Act of 2024 – **RGOC012**

The Federal Election Reform Act of 2024–
RGOC002

The Stop School Shootings Act of 2024 –
SINAC001

The Cellular Communication Protection Act of
2024 – **SINAC004**

The Repeal of the 26th Amendment – **SINAC012**

The Patriot Generation Act of 2024 – **SINAC015**

The National Debt Relief Act of 2024 – **BECC004**

The Student Loans Forgiveness Act of 2024 –
BECC011

The Lead Pipe Replacement Act of 2024 -
BECC013

The WE CARE Act of 2024 – **RGOC011**

The Automatic Voter Registration Act -
SINAC020

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 2024 - **BECC014**

The Universal Access to Community College Act
of 2024 - **BECC015**

The Sanctuary Cities Act of 2024 - **SINAC017**

MEASURES FEO OPPOSES

The Rules of Engagement Reform Act of 2024 –
SINAC002

The Ammunition Management for More Obtain-
ability Act of 2024 – **SINAC006**

The Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2024
– **SINAC009**

The Repeal Of The Selective Service Act 2024 –
SINAC013

The Federal Death Penalty Abolition Act of 2024
- **BECC014**

The Right to Repair Act of 2024 - **BECC016**

The Lead Pipe and Replacement and Water Safety
Act of 2024 - **BECC013**

The Wildlife Restoration and Conservation Act of
2024 - **RGOC021**

The Social Media Free Expression Act of 2024 -
RGOC017

Center for a Brighter Future (CBF)

At the Center for a Brighter Future, we believe in securing a diverse and flourishing culture for generations to come. With this generational mindset, we believe America should pursue both foreign and national policies that will provide for future growth instead of short term results. We believe in a diverse society that welcomes people from all nations to immigrate to America. We believe in taking necessary steps to protect the safety of our citizens by implementing common sense gun reform. We also advocate for allocating government funding to support social programs that will help struggling families recover and thrive in America.

MEASURES CBF SUPPORTS

The Rules of Engagement Reform Act of 2024 –
SINAC002

The Ammunition Management for More Obtainability
Act of 2024 – **SINAC006**

The Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2024 –
SINAC009

The High-Capacity Ammunition Magazine Ban of 2024
– **SINAC005**

The Marijuana Reclassification Act of 2024 – **BECC007**

The Universal National Service Act of 2024 – **SINAC010**

The United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of
2024 – **SINAC014**

The Disaster Relief Act of 2024– **RGOC007**

The Unlocking Technology Act of 2024 – **BECC006**

The Budget Transparency Act of 2024 – **RGOC006**

The Accuracy in Reporting Medical Debt Act of 2024 –
RGOC010

The Corporate Politics Transparency Act of 2024 –
RGOC012

The Lead Pipe and Replacement and Water Safety Act of
2024 - **BECC013**

The Wildlife Restoration and Conservation Act of 2024
- **RGOC021**

MEASURES CIR OPPOSES

The Federal Term Limit Act of 2024 –
SINAC007

The Citizen Voter ID Act of 2024 – **RGOC003**

The United Nations Security Act of 2024 –
SINAC003

The Federal Land Freedom Act of 2024 –
RGOC009

The FairTax Act of 2024 – **BECC002**

The Income Tax Reform Act of 2024 – **BECC003**

The AI Transparency and Explainability Act of
2024 - **SINAC021**

The Opioid Prescription Control and Public
Health Enhancement Act of 2024 - **RGOC019**

The Withdrawal from the united Nations Act of
2024 - **SINAC017**

Tribal-Local Enforcement Collaboration Act of
2024 - **RCOG016**

Foundation for Conservatism (FFC)

The Foundation for Conservatism fights for the equality and well-being of all American citizens. We believe this is best accomplished when we promote laws that give every American a fair and equal chance. We believe in a balance in state sovereignty and federal oversight. We fully support immigration and believe in providing opportunities for those seeking to live in America. We strive for a democratic approach to politics and seek to return the power to the people. As such, we support the abolition of the electoral college and are constantly searching for other methods to empower the citizens in this great nation.

MEASURES CPF SUPPORTS

The Federal Land Freedom Act of 2024 – **RGOC009**

The FairTax Act of 2024 – **BECC002**

The Income Tax Reform Act of 2024 – **BECC003**

The Repeal Of The Selective Service Act 2024 –
SINAC013

The Worker’s Rights Act of 2024 – **BECC010**

The Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2024 – **BECC011**

The Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of
2024 – **SINAC008**

The NRA Members’ Gun Safety Act of 2024– **SINAC011**

The Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Compe-
tition Act of 2024 – **BECC001**

The SuperPAC Elimination Act of 2024 – **RGOC001**

The Abolition of the Electoral College – **RGOC008**

The Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2024 –
RGOC014

The AI Transparency and Explainability Act of 2024 -
SINAC021

The Opioid Prescription Control and Public Health En-
hancement Act of 2024 - **RGOC019**

The Withdrawal from the united Nations Act of 2024 -
SINAC017

The Social Media Free Expression Act of 2024 - **RGOC017**

MEASURES CPF OPPOSES

The High-Capacity Ammunition Magazine Ban of 2024
– **SINAC 005**

The Marijuana Reclassification Act of 2024 – **BECC007**

The National ID Card Repeal Act of 2024 – **RGOC005**

The Proposition of Repealing the 17th Amendment Act
of 2024– **RGOC012**

The Federal Election Reform Act of 2024– **RGOC002**

The Abolition Of Government Funded School Systems
Act of 2024 – **BECC009**

The Automatic Voter Registration Act - **SINAC020**

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 2024 - **BECC014**

The Universal Access to Community College Act of 2024
- **BECC015**

TEENPACT NETWORK (TPN) NEWS
PRESS CORP HANDBOOK



A limited number of Congress participants will serve as members of the Media Track. Participants will be assigned to a few key roles within the team. Various opportunities to work in broadcast reporting, print journalism, or videography and photography will be available. Below are the specific roles and responsibilities within the Media Track.

REPORTER - PRINTED NEWS

Students interested in print journalism should indicate this to their track leader before the event. Experience in journalism and writing is preferable. Simple computer skills are also helpful. Students skilled in photography will also have the opportunity to use their skills as photos will be incorporated into “The Congressional” (the morning Congress newspaper) and “The Wire” (the afternoon Congress newspaper). Various roles such as field reporter, column-writer, etc. will be assigned onsite.

THE DUTIES OF A PRINT REPORTER

- ★ To help plan and create exciting and creative materials for “The Congressional” and “The Wire”
- ★ To investigate the TeenPact Congress Legislature happenings as the Editor-in-Chief assigns.
- ★ To find news stories during Congress Legislature and new angles of interest.
- ★ To write, assemble, and publish “The Congressional” and “The Wire”.
- ★ To write articles and take photos for “The Congressional” newspaper that will provide the participants with a visual record of the events at the legislative session.

Students Interested in Photography

Have the capability to offload photos and other video content so data can be shared to develop various elements during the week.

REPORTER - BROADCAST NEWS

Students interested in broadcast journalism should indicate this to their track leader before the event. Students assigned to this role will produce the TeenPact Network News daily broadcast videos that cover the events of TeenPact Congress. Various roles such as news anchor, correspondent, script writer, etc. will be assigned onsite.

THE DUTIES OF A BROADCAST REPORTER

- ★ Help script and produce a Congress news broadcast.
- ★ Hold interviews, film reports, and coordinate visual production. Find exciting news stories to report.
- ★ Work with the Media Track staff team on production value and creative processes.

Note to All TPN Press Corp Members

Bring laptops, iPads, cameras, flash drives, audio and video equipment, and any other equipment necessary to capture the news throughout the week.

LEGISLATIVE HANDBOOK



Legislators uniquely represent the people of a geographic area (district) who elect them. They represent diverse people, industry, business, agriculture, economics, and environmental interests of their district. Most often, U.S. legislators deal with bills of nation wide interest. Balancing the needs of their district and state against laws that affect the entire nation creates constant opportunities and conflict. Thus, legislators in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives feel much pressure and responsibility as the effects of proposed bills are considered. Legislators are frequently frustrated in trying to do what is right for all of their constituents while at the same time looking out for the nation as a whole. They rely heavily on lobbyists for facts and information to guide their votes. Legislators are also responsible for writing and sponsoring legislation.

PREPARATION FOR TEENPACT CONGRESS LEGISLATURE

Read all the proposed TeenPact bills provided in the 2019 Congress Bill Book. Reading through all the bills will give you a sense of the issues we'll be discussing throughout the week. Try to go through and acknowledge both sides to every bill, marking how you think you would stand personally, as well as where your party would stand.

After reading the bills, decide which ones would have a major impact on the people of your state and district. Try to determine the consequences, both positive and negative if it became law.

Gather real/true facts and statistics to support your point of view. Organize these facts and complete a short persuasive speech to present during committee debate.

Write one bill on a serious economic, immigration, national defense, foreign affairs, or education issue facing your personal district and state right now. Write legislation that is unique and is a fresh idea.

Obtain information from local libraries, lawyers, judges and other resource people (sheriffs, teachers, business owners) to assist you in preparing a presentation.

Try to visit with your actual state or U.S. senator or representative and discuss the bills with him or her in order to get the legislative point of view.

Every TeenPact Senator and Representative will be assigned to a committee during the TeenPact Congress Legislature, where initial discussion on proposed legislation will occur. Legislators should become thoroughly familiar with every bill assigned to their committee and should be prepared to discuss, debate, and rank the bills in committee meetings. When bills assigned to a legislator's committee come to the House or Senate floor, committee members should be prepared to lead in the debate of the bills.

DURING TEENPACT CONGRESS

When you arrive at Congress, you will begin to hear discussion of the bills. Other TeenPact Legislators and TeenPact lobbyists will try to persuade you to vote a particular way on a particular bill. Keep an open mind and evaluate carefully what is being said. However, always remember you are a representation of the district you represent.

Talk to other legislators during and between sessions to gain their support and their vote. Be aware that the media is always listening and watching.

Be ready to discuss your position in committee meetings and on the floor of the House or Senate to ensure that others will thoroughly understand your views (give facts about the bills – not “I think”).

legislative committees

TeenPact senators and representatives are assigned to one of three committees for the purpose of studying and preparing bills that are to be presented on the Senate or House floor.

Security, Intelligence, and National Affairs Committee (SINAC)

The SINAC Committee deals with issues pertaining to our Nation's Security, Foreign Affairs, and pressing intelligence needs.

Business, Economy, and Commerce Committee (BECC)

The BEC Committee deals with Economic, Tax related, and Regulatory matters.

Reform and Government Oversight Committee (RGO)

The RGO Committee deals with Social, States' Rights, and Education issues.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/HEARINGS

Three Committee Meetings/Hearings will be held during TeenPact Congress. Every TeenPact representative and senator is assigned to a committee and is expected to be an active participant in the committee to which they are assigned.

Purpose of Committee Meetings/Hearings:

- ★ One purpose of the committee is to identify the sponsor for each bill and, if necessary, assign committee members as sponsor or co-sponsor for bills that do not have a sponsor.
- ★ The bill sponsor and/or co-sponsor present the bills in committee meetings. If the bill reaches the Senate or House floor, the sponsor presents the bill on the floor.
- ★ One purpose of a committee is to eliminate some bills so they do not all have to be considered on the floor by the full legislature.
- ★ Another purpose of the committee hearing is to work out the details of a bill that may require an amendment so that it is more clearly written and/or passable.
- ★ The committee process also gives lobbyists the opportunity to voice their opinions on legislation.
- ★ All committee meetings are open to the members of the press.

Parliamentary Procedure Guide

It is important for Students to study these procedures so that they know how the Legislature of TeenPact Congress will function. These rules and the parliamentary procedure may vary from those you may be familiar with or have used in other situations. TeenPact Congress uses a combination of rules and procedures that have been adapted from “Roberts Rules of Order,” “Mason’s Manual,” and other practices which all closely mirror the procedures used by our Nation’s Congress. These rules and procedures have been streamlined and designed to expedite logistics for this event. These are the approved/official rules and procedures to be used for TeenPact Congress in both the committee and House/Senate proceedings.

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

The presiding officer in each of the chambers is:

- ★ **Senate:** President of the Senate/President Pro Tempore
- ★ **House of Representatives:** Speaker of the House

The Senate President and the Speaker of the House have the power to designate another member of their chamber to preside. The Senate President and Speaker of the House are members of their respective chambers, so they can vote at any time. The presiding officer takes the chair at the prescribed time, calls the members to order, and ascertains the presence of a quorum. The Presiding officer presents the order of business and maintains decorum in the chamber.

DECORUM AND DEBATE

When a legislator wishes to speak, once recognized, he or she will stand and address the “presiding officer” by saying:

- ★ **Senate:** “Thank You, Mr. President” / “Thank You, Madam President”
- ★ **House:** “Thank You, Mr. Speaker” / “Thank You, Madam Speaker”
- ★ **Any Chairman:** “Thank You, Mr. Chairman” / “Thank You, Madam Chairman”

When two or more legislators stand or raise their hand at the same time, the presiding officer will decide who is to speak first and that decision will be final.

The sponsor of a bill shall have the right to make closing remarks in debate on the floor of the chambers. Therefore, a bill sponsor should always be prepared to debate in favor of their legislation.

When a legislator is recognized by the presiding officer and obtains the floor, he or she may not be required to yield the floor unless desired, except at the direction of the presiding officer.

Once the presiding officer has set the time limit for debate the member speaking must “yield his/her time” by saying “I yield my time to a like speaker,” or “I yield my time to (specific member’s name)” in order to continue that round of debate. However, the presiding officer may or may not allow the “yielding of time to a specific member.” If time is not yielded, the presiding officer states “Time was not yielded” and the debate is ended or reverts to the opposing view.

When a legislator is recognized by the presiding officer and obtains the floor, his/her remarks must pertain to the subject under debate, avoiding personal comments about others. Failure to do so will result in the presiding officer calling the legislative member out of order and the member loses his/her right to speak.

VOTING

The presiding officer may take votes by voice vote, show of hands, roll call, and recorded vote by electronic vote. This will be done by asking those who are voting for the proposition to signify by saying "Aye." Then those against the proposition will signify by saying "Nay."

If the presiding officer is in doubt as to the outcome, he/she may proceed by asking for a standing vote of those "For" and "Against." The count then determines the outcome.

A member/legislator who is unsatisfied with a voice vote may call for "division" which allows for a standing or recorded vote. The presiding officer then has the discretion to ask for a standing vote or for the clerk to open the voting machine for a recorded vote.

MOTIONS – MEANINGS AND AFFECTS

Any legislator may make any motion by addressing the presiding officer in the usual manner and then stating the motion. When a motion has been made, the presiding officer shall state it to the membership for consideration, and the membership shall proceed to consider it and then cast their vote for or against the motion. The presiding officer may permit the "mover" and one opponent of the motion 1 – 3 minutes each to debate those motions, which are, in fact, debatable.

Main or Principal Motion

When a motion is made, the presiding officer shall restate it; if in writing, it shall be read aloud by the clerk. At the discretion of the presiding officer, every motion and/or amendment may be required in writing. Passage of a bill is an example of a main motion.

Subsidiary Questions

When a motion is made, the presiding officer shall restate it; if in writing, it shall be read aloud by the clerk. At the discretion of the presiding officer, every motion and/or amendment may be required in writing. Passage of an amendment is an example of a subsidiary question.

★ **Amendment** (*Vote required – Majority*)

Any main motion may be amended. An amendment must also conform to the subject matter of the main motion. Only one amendment to an amendment can be offered. The majority of all motions may be made orally, but amendment motions must be made in writing and must amend the proper section of any legislative matter to be effective. An amendment may be offered to any proposition by any member at the time the proposition is before the membership for consideration.

★ **To Convene the Committee of the Whole** (*Vote required – 2/3*)

This, in effect, allows the entire chamber to enter into informal discussion without formality other than recognition by the chair.

★ **End debate** (*Vote Required – Majority*)

This is an important motion. If demanded by a vote of a majority of the members present, its effect shall be to cut off all debate and bring the House to a direct vote, first upon the pending amendments, if there are any in their order, and then on the main question.

★ **To Lay on Table** (*Vote Required – Majority*)

Its effect is to postpone action on a motion but it permits the re-introduction of the motion at a time during that or the next session. It is usually proposed when the author is unable to supply the necessary information requested by his opponent. It is not debatable; the sponsor has 2 minutes to present reasons for its adoption.

Incidental Motions

★ **Suspension of the Rules** (*Vote required – 2/3*)

This is a motion to suspend the operation of the rules of order that the particular body has adopted in order to permit consideration of some pressing matter out of its usual place.

★ **Withdrawing a Motion** (*No vote required*)

When a motion is before the chamber, the mover may withdraw it by rising and moving its withdrawal. No one but the maker of the original motion can move to withdraw.

★ **Points of Order** (*No vote required*)

A legislator, rising to a Point of Order, need not be recognized. The point of order must pertain to the rules and nothing else.

To adjourn or recess (*Vote Required – Majority*)

This is a highly privileged motion and must be for a certain time. A motion to adjourn takes precedence over a motion to recess. (Due to the schedule, adjourning is performed only at the time prescribed in the schedule or with the staff's approval.)

Postpone indefinitely (*Vote Required – 2/3*)

This motion is self-explanatory. The effect will be to kill the bill or proposition by a 2/3 vote.

Reconsider a vote (*Vote Required – 2/3*)

This motion is made when a vote has been taken on a proposition and a member desires, for some reason, to reconsider the vote by which the bill, amendment or proposition was passed or defeated. If the motion carries, it brings the matter back before the membership for further consideration. Any member who voted on the prevailing side may make it, and the motion can be adopted. No question can be reconsidered more than one time.

Call the previous question (*Vote Required – 2/3*)

This is an important motion. Any member can call for the previous question by addressing the presiding officer in the usual manner. The usual reason for calling for the previous question is to cut off debate or an amendment harmful to a proposition. The adoption of such a motion ends debate and kills any amendment on the desk which has not been brought to the floor. It brings the main questions to a vote, along with any amendments that have already been passed. Sponsors will be allowed a final summation.

Call the question on the amendment (*Vote Required – Majority*)

This motion ends debate and moves for an immediate vote on the amendment. Sponsors of the amendment get no final summation. Whether the amendment passes or fails, the presiding officer goes on to the next amendment on the clerk's desk.

To take up a bill out of its regular order & place it at some point on the calendar (*Vote Required – 2/3*)

The motion is made that the rules be waived and that the bill be placed at a designated place on the calendar.

To place a bill on the calendar despite an unfavorable committee report (*Vote Required – 2/3*)

The sponsor of this motion will be given two (2) minutes to present his reasons for adoption. Not debatable. Vote will immediately follow the sponsor's statements.

To Strike Enacting Clause (*Vote Required – Majority*)

Must be proposed in a written amendment, which must be received by the clerk before the bill patron's summation begins. *Icim quam, adi que ma cus endis doloreic to mi, si re, tempos dolor sam hic tem a delit, qui bea consedit prem quias mos pe dolenimus porum, odicatem. Iminvent quatece aquiatis el moditatibus audissunt ratur? Qui a ipsanda ntust, inctemquam, alit ligenissed eum in pro odictatur?*

AMENDMENTS

At any point before debate has started, an amendment can be proposed by the sponsor or any other member. If any member proposes an amendment during floor proceedings, a suspension of the rules must first prevail (2/3 majority). The same parliamentary procedure is used here as in the main bill shown above (questions, answers, debate). Debate, rounds, question timing, etc. is at the complete purview of the President/Speaker.

Drafting Amendments

After a bill has been introduced, any action taken thereon is taken with respect to the bill and amendments made to that bill. In writing amendments to a bill, the objective is to make clear the change to be made in the bill.

The following examples of form and punctuation are suggested for simple amendments:

- ★ On Page 2 of the bill, line 17, after “of,” insert “the.”
- ★ On Page 3 of the bill, line 1, after “Statute 57.967,” insert a period. Delete the rest of the line and line 2.
- ★ On Page 1, after line 15, insert:“(4) In all counties over 300,000 population...”

Normally, it is not necessary to indicate both the word before and the word after the material to be inserted. Sometimes it is necessary to do so in order to make it clear where the new materials fit into the printed bill.

For example, if the word “of” appeared twice on page 2, line 17, of the bill, the following form would be used: On page 2 of the bill, line 17, after “of” and before “state,” insert “the.”

In amending a one-page bill, it is not necessary to give the page number in the amendment. After the phrase “of the bill” has been used once in the bill, it does not need to be repeated.

When replacing existing material with new material, delete existing material first and then insert new material.

In referring to a punctuation mark, spell out the word rather than use the symbol.

For example: On page 4 of the bill, line 3, delete semicolon.

Restore material that the bill proposes to delete from existing law in following manner:

On Page 1 of the bill, line 18, restore “3” and delete “2.”

Always use clear and simple wording in amendments. The following words and phrases are preferred: When more than one change is made in the same line, use the following form:

On page 1 of the bill, line 3, after “FS” insert “78.982” and in the same line after “penalties,” insert “appropriate money.”

When all of a bill is to be deleted, except the title and enacting clause, make sure that the title still applies to new matter, and use the following form:

On page 1 of the bill, delete lines 8 through 19.

Select pages 2 through 4 and insert: “Section 1. S 428.070 is amended to read: “418.070. (1)...”

LANGUAGE FOR ADDITIONAL MOTIONS

To recess at a certain time

“Madam President/Madam Speaker, I move that the Senate/ House adjourn upon the final consideration of Bill No. _____.”

Point of Order – Questioning ruling of the chair or procedure

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I rise to a Point of Order.”

To stop debate and bring a vote on the motion *(2/3 votes required)*

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move the Previous Question of the adoption of the amendment (or passage of a bill).”

To fail to pass a bill by postponing it indefinitely

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that House Bill No. _____ *(with pending amendments)* be indefinitely postponed.”

To fail to pass a bill outright

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that we strike the enacting clause,” *(must be in amendment form)* OR “I move that we table the bill indefinitely,” *(may be vocalized)*.

To give the rest of your time to someone who supports your side

“I yield my time to a favorable (or unfavorable) speaker,” OR “I yield my time to _____ *(name a specific speaker)*.”

As the bill sponsor, you can give up the right to summarize the bill

“I waive my right to summation.”

To take a bill from the table of committee, after an unfavorable report *(2/3 votes required)*

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. be taken from the table and placed on the calendar — the unfavorable report of the committee to the contrary notwithstanding.”

To take a bill out of its regular order and place it at some point on the calendar other than at the top *(2/3 votes required)*

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and that Bill No. _____ be placed at position # _____ on the calendar.”

To take the bill out of its regular position and place it at the top of the calendar *(unanimous required)*

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and that Bill No. _____ be placed at the top position on the calendar.”

To ask a question about parliamentary procedure

(Hypothetical question) “Mr. President/Madam Speaker...”

After recognition: “Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.”

Then if the speaker allows, you may ask the question.

Point of clarification

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, Point of Clarification, please.”

To reconsider

(As in a motion made by a representative on the prevailing side of a vote to revote on the bill.) “Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that the Senate/House do now reconsider the vote by which Bill No. passed (or failed to pass).”

To adjourn

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that the Senate/House do now adjourn (or adjourn at ____ p.m.).”

LANGUAGE & PROCEDURES USED FOR BILL PASSAGE

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“We will now revert to the order of passage of bills. Mr. /Madame Floor Leader you are recognized.”

FLOOR LEADER

“Thank you, Mr. /Madame Speaker/President. Please recognize Representative/Senator _____ for the presentation of _____.

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“Representative/Senator _____, you are recognized.”

SPONSOR OF BILL COMING UP NEXT ON CALENDAR:

“Thank you, Mr. /Madam President/Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and bill _____ be placed on general order.”

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“It has been moved that _____ be placed on general order noting changes made in committee. Is there an objection to the motion? Hearing none, the Secretary/Clerk will now read Bill No. _____ noting changes made in the committee.”

SECRETARY/CLERK

Reads the bill by title only, noting changes made in committee.

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“The sponsor has three (3) minutes to present the bill.”

SPONSOR

Goes to the front of the chamber and presents the bill.

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“We are now in order for questions. Will the gentleman/gentlelady yield to questions?”

SPONSOR

“Yes, I yield.” (*Sponsor may yield to all questions or one at a time*)

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“The Sponsor has yielded; you may ask your question.”

LEGISLATOR

Asks question and Sponsor answers

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“Seeing no further questions, the gentleman/gentlelady requests unanimous consent that the bill be advanced from general order, without objection that will be the order. (*Bang gavel*) The Clerk/Secretary will read the bill for a third time”

CLERK/SECRETARY

Reads bill by title only.

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“We are now open for debate on the floor. We will have ____ rounds of con/pro debate for ____ minutes each.” *(Start with Con, then move to Pro)*

(Legislator rises)

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“For what reason does the representative/senator rise?”

LEGISLATOR

“I rise to speak con (or pro when the time comes) on this bill.”

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“You are recognized to proceed with debate.”

(Debate is continued by legislators from their assigned seats on an alternating basis. If a legislator does not use the full 3 minutes he/she may yield his/her time to a “like speaker” or to a specific representative/ senator. If time is not yielded, time is called and the debate reverts to the opposing side. Representatives/ senators must gain permission from the presiding officer before debating. Debate may continue by a decision of the chair or by a motion to extend debate.)

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER (TO SPONSOR)

“Representative/Senator _____, you have three (3) minutes of closing debate in favor of _____.”

Sponsor: Returns to the front of the chamber and presents his closing arguments.

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER (ONCE DEBATE IS COMPLETE)

“Members, you’ve heard the debate. The question now before the House/Senate is shall _____ pass? This vote is on the final passage of Bill _____. The Secretary/Clerk will unlock the machine and the members will now vote. The Secretary/Clerk will close the machine and announce the vote”

SECRETARY/CLERK

“Mr./Madam President/Speaker there are ____ yeas and ____ nays”

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“Having received (or “not received”) a majority vote of those elected to and constituting this body I declare the measure to have prevailed (or “failed”).

PRESIDENT/SPEAKER

“The chair recognizes the Floor Leader...”

RESOURCES



Glossary

Amendment

A proposal to change the original form of a bill. A change may be proposed by committee or individual legislator.

Appeal

A legislator may challenge any ruling of the presiding officer by appealing to the entire body to override this decision.

Appropriations Bill

A bill authorizing the spending of public money.

Bicameral

Consisting of two houses; as in House and Senate. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral). Our Nation's Congressional body is bicameral.

Bill

A proposed law.

Federal Branches of Government

Executive: President

Legislative: Senate and House of Representatives

Judicial Branch: Supreme Court System

Calendar

A list of the bills awaiting action. They are placed in the order in which they will be considered for action on the Chamber floor.

Chair

Used to describe the presiding officer of a committee.

Chamber

Also known as the "Floor," it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meet. (*Ex: Senate Chambers, House Chambers*).

Clerk of the House of Representatives

The person designated by the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Committee

A group of Senators or Representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider an issue or question and to submit a report on its recommendations for action by the body that originated it.

Committee of the Whole

When the chamber votes to convene into the committee of the whole it allows the entire chamber to enter informal discussion of an issue, without formality other than recognition by the chair, (2/3 vote required). It is advantageous when many unanswered questions about a bill come into debate.

Committee Report

The statement a committee gives when a bill is sent to the Senate or House floor. Committee may: report the bill favorably with amendments, report a substitute bill with the same idea, or report it unfavorably.

Conference Bill

A bill that has been passed by both the Senate and the House and will be presented to the Governor for consideration.

Conference Committee

A joint committee composed of the presiding officers of the House and Senate and other appointed members. The committee reviews bills passed by both houses and decides which bills will become "conference bills." In the event that the Governor vetoes a bill, the committee may work together to develop a plan to override the veto.

Convene

To meet in a formal legislative session.

Debate

To argue the merits of a bill, for and against.

Decorum

Appropriate behavior and conduct.

Effective Date

The date upon which a bill becomes law.

Enacting Clause

The constitution requires that each law be prefaced by the phrase "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of TeenPact Congress..." An amendment to strike out the enacting clause kills a proposed law.

Law

The final product of the legislative process. It is the end result of the introduction of a bill, its passage by both houses, its approval by the President (or the overriding of his veto by the legislature).

Laying on the Table

"Laying something on the table" usually means disposing of the matter for the legislative session. A motion to "lay on the table", if adopted, has the effect of killing the motion. A motion may be taken from the table with a 2/3 vote.

Majority Party

The political party having more than a majority of seats in a house.

Minority Party

The political party having fewer than a majority of seats in a house.

Point of Order

It means (when stated) that some member is challenging either what is happening or what he thinks is about to happen.

President of the Senate

The presiding officer of the Senate.

Previous Question

A motion for the "Previous Question" requests an end to debate on a certain subject (amendment or bill), so a vote can be taken.

Repeal

The removal of a provision from the law.

Rules

The rules of each house determine how it will conduct its daily business.

Rules Committee

A committee of Legislature Leadership members who sets the calendar for the legislative session.

Secretary of the Senate

The person appointed to assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws.

Sergeant at Arms

The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house's property.

Session

The period during which the legislature meets.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

The presiding officer of the House of Representatives.

Sponsor

A bill's sponsor is the legislator introducing it.

This action on the floor of the chamber results from a member making a request (a motion). A motion is a proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to the business being discussed.

"The Floor"

Refers to the full body of the Senate or House who will take action on a proposed bill.

Title

The constitution requires each bill to be prefaced by a concise statement of its content.

Veto

The right vested in one branch of a government to cancel or postpone the decisions, proposed legislation, etc., of another branch.

Vote

A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.

Waive The Rules

The constitution and the rules of the legislature provide a series of actions on the passage of bills. But if 2/3 of the members present are agreeable to foregoing such procedural steps as reading the bill on three (3) separate days, then the motion to waive the rules is in order.

Waive

To forfeit, or to give up.

Yield

To give (as in to yield to a like speaker).

TEENPACT CONGRESS BILL TEMPLATE

Bill Number _____	Committee _____	Sponsor _____
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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

SECTION 1: _____

SECTION 2: _____

SECTION 3: _____

SECTION 4: _____

SECTION 5: _____

SECTION 6: _____
