



YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT 2025 Legislative Banned List & Guidelines

In our efforts to make the program model the real Legislature as closely as possible, we consider a bill that is either signed by the Governor or vetoed with a subsequent override of the veto to have been "enacted into law" for the following YMCA Youth and Government year. Therefore, just as if the real Legislature would not consider a bill that would enact an already existing law, we do not want to consider any bills that would enact laws that we "enacted" in the previous year. This is an extension of the rule that a YMCA Youth and Government bill cannot enact a law that already exists.

Banned topics are those topics as it relates to the bills that were passed at the 2025 State Conference. Those bills are now "banned." The goal is for students to avoid submitting bills that are similar in topic or just modified in some way.

For example, the bill below:

HB#036 An Act prohibiting Texas public schools from banning any religious symbols and...

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Gender Identity/ sexual orientation
- THC
- DEI
- Mandates on Medical Procedures
- 2nd Amendment Rights
- School Vouchers
- Menstrual Products

No bills will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics. Topics are banned when we had several years of students writing on the same topic.

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL ALSO INCLUDE:

- Sexual Assault
- Explicit Content/Material

No bills will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics. Topics are banned when we had several years of students writing on the same topic.



BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR (Includes Hyde House, House and Senate)

Refer to the previous bill book for the full bill

Bill #	Bill	Author	Club/ District
SB43	An act for Postpartum Health Coverage Expansion and declaring an emergency. Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.	Gonzales, Mike	Fox Tech High School
HB026	An act to legalize psilocybin therapy in practicing mental health facilities and/or clinics in the state of Texas and declaring an emergency. Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.	Mcaulay, Austin,	Vista Ridge High School
HH064	An act lowering English Language Proficiency Standards for program exit for emergent bilingual (EB) students under the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), and declaring an emergency. Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas	Share, Alex	James W. Martin High School
HH035	An act creating an additional stipend of \$600 per month for parents who adopt children that are 10 years or older from Texas Family Protective Services in the state of Texas and declaring an emergency. Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.	Cain, Elizabeth	Duncanville High School
HH052	An act where schools require females to take a self-defense class such as karate, etc. and declaring an emergency. Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.	Luna, Jasmine	Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences

BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR (Includes Duran House, JYG House and JYG Senate)

Refer to the previous bill book for the full bill

Proposal #	Proposal	Author	Club/ District
SB56	An act of allowing women to have an abortion if they have been under any sort of rape or incest in the first trimesters and declaring an emergency.	Ranganatha, Sharanya	Coppell Middle West
HB36	An act of increasing the minimum sentence for sexual assault and declaring an emergency	Ngolandzem Holenn, Ciara	Creekview Middle
SB47	An act prohibiting the use of Snapchat by people under the age of sixteen (16) and declaring an emergency.	Sherwood, Rainn	Granbury Middle



GUIDELINES FOR BILL WRITERS

For All Bill Writers:

1. All bill topics must abide by our values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
2. We are honored to use the Capitol facilities in Austin, TX. Bill topics should honor this privilege by being well researched, relevant and respectful.
3. Students need to generate a new bill each year.
4. All bills need to have ONE author per bill. Exceptions must be cleared by District Director, State Director and/or State Legislative Section Leaders.
5. Club advisors must clear bill topic prior to student writing the bill.
6. Bill topic **MUST** not be on the Bill Banned List.
7. Students must use the bill template provided. You can download it at www.ymcatexasyg.org.
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Director and State Director.
9. Review Legislative Basics at www.ymcatexasyg.org
10. Research! Practice

FARABEE SENATE AND HOUSE: House delegates have more than one year experience in Legislative. At State 150 seats in House are available.

Delegates in Farabee Senate are experienced upper classmen. 62 seats available in Farabee Senate See Banned Topics on PAGE 1 for House and Senate Delegates.

PLEASE NOTE: delegations/clubs must not have similar topics from the same club.

HYDE: Delegates in Hyde are first year high school students in Legislative (9TH GRADERS OR FIRST YEAR 10TH GRADERS).

It is strongly encouraged that students moving up from Hyde House to House/Senate DO NOT submit their same Hyde bill again. 60 seats available in Hyde.

NOTE: HYDE SENATE will be added if additional seats are needed in Hyde. Experienced 9th graders (such as students who were in JYG will be selected to be in Hyde Senate).

Please Note: 9th grade students that participated in Junior YG for 2 years can move to House instead of Hyde House if there are seats available in the House.

JUNIORYG:

Delegates in Junior YG are in a recognized middle school/junior high school.

The following are the sections available:

- **Duran House:** Students that have little to no experience in Legislative. Students must write a Bill to participate in this chamber. Duran Senate: first year delegates that advisors feel have enough experience to debate with other similar students. Students must write a Bill to participate in this chamber.
- **House:** Students with some experience in legislative or debating (7th and 8th graders). If an advisor feels a 6th grader will be fine in House, they must get approval from District Director before registering them in the in House.
- **Farabee Senate:** Experienced 8th graders, these are student who have participated in the program at least one year. Returning Junior YG delegates need to generate a new bill topic from what they submitted their previous year.
- **Optimum Size:**
- **Duran Senate** - to be determined once House and Senate have been filled Duran- to be determined once Duran House has been filled **House** 150 seats Farabee Senate 62 seats



- **Ambassador House** is for students who have started the program late. No Bill will be submitted. Approval to be considered for this chamber must be cleared by the District Director.

Reminder_Banned Topics-Gender Identity, Gun Control, Election Integrity

NO BILLS will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics!

TIPS

So you want to write a bill? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea is not necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Texas does not mean that it is a good bill topic for Youth and Government delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Youth and Government bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably is not so good because no one will want to argue about it!

Really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We have broken it all down for you. Here is what we think makes a good bill:

- Debatability-- people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you cannot think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different one!
- Importance to Texas-- the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers, internet or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- Feasibility--your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- Researchability--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.

HELPFUL LINKS

- <http://www.texas Transparency.org/moneygoes/>
- <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/>
- <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>
- <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Committees/MeetingsSenate.aspx>
- <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>
- <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>
- <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/TexasLawTimeLine.cfm>
- <http://www.sll.state.tx.us/>
- <http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/>
- <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/arclegis.html>
- <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us>