



**MASS.**  
**YOUTH**  
**& GOV**



# Lobbyist Guide

2020 - 2021

# Who are the Lobbyist?

Lobbyist are professional advocates that work to influence political decisions on behalf of individuals and organizations. This advocacy could lead to the proposal of new legislation, or the amendment of existing laws and regulations. The lobbyist corps requires a successful try out for a position in the branch each year. A head lobbyist will be appointed to support the efforts of the entire lobbyist branch. Each lobbyist will be assigned a caucus in which they will lead and become the subject matter expert. The lobbyist is expected to research each bill in the caucus and speak on behalf of the caucuses' decision, either support or oppose. Delegates within the lobbyist branch are encouraged to work together to either write a mission for the branch as whole based on their views or as individuals so they can best speak on bills that support or deter from their efforts as outlined within their mission. Lobbyists will be allowed to speak on the House and Senate floor if a legislative delegate yields time for them to speak.

# Position Paper

A Position paper is an argument of a bill topic that is based on researchable evidence. The position paper should be between 300-500 words and must include the following;

## I. Paragraph 1 (Introduction)

- A. Introduce the topic
- B. Provide background on the topic
- C. Assert the thesis (your view of the issue)

## II. Paragraph 2 (Refute the counterclaim)

- A. Summarize the counterclaims
- B. Provide supporting information for counterclaims
- C. Refute the counterclaims
- D. Give evidence for argument

## III. Paragraph 3 (Your claims)

- A. Assert point #1 of your claims
  - Provide support
- B. Assert point #2 of your claims
  - Provide support

## IV. Paragraph 4 (Conclusion)

- A. Restate your argument
- B. Provide a plan of action (if necessary)

Summary: (Summarize in one sentence your position on this bill here.)

Remember that you must educate yourself on the opposite viewpoint of this topic, use passive language in your paper, and quote sources.

# Lobbyist Roll

## **CAUCUS MEETINGS**

- Each lobbyist will pick or be assigned which caucus they would like to lead
- The caucus will determine their mission statement
- The lobbyist will lead the caucus in determining which slate of bills they will be supporting and opposing
- The lobbyist will do this by researching and understanding each bill within the caucuses' topic area. The lobbyist will become a subject matter expert in their caucus topic
- The lobbyist will then work with their Head Lobbyist and their caucus determine what bills they will write their position papers/testimony on and speak on during conference

## **STATE CONFERENCE**

- Lobbyists will use the finalized Bill Book and previous caucus research to review the 5 bills they will be responsible for during committee hearings
- Head lobbyists will keep a list of all the bills lobbyists will be offering verbal testimony on during conference
- Each of the lobbyists will then select 3 topics from their caucuses to create half page long position papers
- Each position paper will contain facts, sources, statistics, and quotes that could be used in an argument about the topic (see template and sample position paper)
- Lobbyists can also use this time (and previous meetings) to connect with bill sponsors and solidify support
- Lobbyists will be able to speak on the "house floor" during the conference