



LESSON PLAN

CREATE A PROVINCIAL BILL

Recommended for Grades 7-10
Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

How a Bill becomes a Law, visit:

www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/teach-learn-play/games/how-a-bill-becomes-law

LEARNING GOALS

This lesson plan is designed to engage students in the legislative process by developing an idea into a bill to propose to the class. Students will be tasked with thinking critically about a provincial issue that affects their lives and to provide arguments in support of their idea for the new bill.

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION

(10 minutes)

What is a bill? A bill is an idea that may eventually become a law. All provincial bills start as ideas and are introduced by MPPs in the Legislative Assembly.

What is a law? A legal rule that is enforced and followed.

Which existing laws do you believe address important issues? Students are asked to consider important issues that could potentially be addressed by legislation.

CREATING A BILL ACTIVITY

Working individually or in groups of 3, students will use the Creating a Bill activity sheet to go through the process of developing legislation. Students will start by choosing an issue important to them and developing ideas of how to address it.

For example, students may wish to introduce a bill about education that makes uniforms mandatory in all Ontario schools to prevent clothing-based bullying.

PEER REVIEW (OPTIONAL)

This mirrors the committee phase of the legislative process, where bills are reviewed, and amendments are made. Students, in groups, can review each other's proposed legislation and can suggest changes to help improve the final product.

CLASS PRESENTATION

(5 minutes per presentation)

Once the students have completed their bill templates, they can present to the class. Students can read their bill's explanatory note and preamble to the class, highlighting how the proposed bill would positively or negatively affect Ontarians.



ACTIVITY SHEET

CREATING YOUR OWN BILL

What do you think is the most important issue to you as a young Ontarian?

It could be something that affects the province, your local community, your family/friends/self (ex. poverty, mental health, climate change).

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What are some ideas for what a government could do to help with this issue?

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CREATING YOUR OWN BILL

Now it is time to think of how your ideas can become a law. Consider the following:

- What changes will this bill introduce?
- How will the bill work?
- How will it be enforced? Who does it affect?
- Will there be any exceptions to the new rules?

On the Bill template you receive, you will:

- Pick a number for your bill - *it can be any number*
- Write down the name of your bill - *The name should quickly explain the purpose of your bill (ex. An Act to proclaim the month of July as Egyptian Heritage Month)*
- Write down an Explanatory Note - *This is one sentence that briefly explains the goal of the bill*
- Write a Preamble - *3 persuasive paragraphs that explain the idea behind the bill*

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

1st Session, 42nd Legislature, Ontario
ELIZABETH II, 2020

Bill _____ (number)

An Act to

(name of member/student)

Private Member's Bill

1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

3rd Reading _____

Royal Assent _____

Printed by the Legislative Assembly
of Ontario



EXPLANATORY NOTE

In one sentence, explain the goal of the bill. **This Bill will:**

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PREAMBLE

Three persuasive paragraphs that explain the idea behind the bill:

- Outline 1) the problem, 2) the solution and 3) what your bill will do.
- You can include some of your research in this section
- Ask yourself: Why do Ontarians need this law? Why is it important? How will things change in Ontario as a result of the bill?

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**THE
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