

Types of Legislation in the Association*Last updated: July 10th, 2009*

Legislation is the central means for changing the Association's structure or budget, confirming or impeaching Executive Officers, and making general policy statements on any issues of concern to the students the Association represents.

There are two broad categories of legislation, each of which has three specific flavors depending on the purpose.

1. Bills

Legislation in the form of a "bill" makes a physical change to a document relating to how the Association operates. Passing a bill is called "enacting" the proposed changes. Bills come in three flavors:

- a. Finance Bills* - Anything establishing the recurring and non-recurring budgets of the Association, or making any changes to previously adopted budgets, is in the form of a Finance Bill. Bills of this type typically include some explanatory text and an attached spreadsheet outlining the budget, or lists specific line items and the dollar amount of changes proposed. Finance Bills require a simple majority vote of the General Assembly for adoption, and may be vetoed by the President.
- b. Government Bills* - Anything changing the Association Constitution or Statutes is in the form of a Government Bill. Bills of this type typically include explanatory text and the explicit text of any changes to be made; existing sections that would be removed are shown in ~~strike through~~ for clarity, while any new sections are shown underlined. Government Bills changing the Constitution require a 3/4 vote of the General Assembly for adoption, while changes to the Statutes require a 2/3 vote. Government Bills may also be vetoed by the President.
- c. Assembly Bills* - Anything modifying the internal rules of how the General Assembly conducts its business are in the form of Assembly Bills. Bills of this type are identical to Government Bills, except they only require a simple majority vote of the General Assembly and cannot be vetoed by the President.

2. Resolutions

Legislation in the form of a "resolution" make a change to policy positions of the Association, authorizes Executive Branch officers to serve, or punishes an official for dereliction of duty. Passing a resolution is called "resolving" to do or say something. There are three flavors of Resolutions.

- a. Assembly Resolutions* - Anything confirming the appointment of an Executive Officer or punishing any Association Official is in the form of an Assembly Resolution. Resolutions

of this type include simple text in the event of confirmations, or detailed allegations in the event of a punitive resolution. Confirmations require a simple majority vote of the General Assembly for adoption, while punitive resolutions require a 2/3 vote for adoption (and a 3/4 vote in a subsequent trial in the event of impeachment). Assembly Resolutions cannot be vetoed by the President.

- b. Local Resolutions* - Anything expressing the desires of one specific institution for purposes confined only to that institution are in the form of Local Resolutions. Resolutions of this type include explanatory text of varying length, and can only be for statements or objectives limited to the sponsoring institution. Local Resolutions **must** be sponsored by **all four** delegates from an institution. Local Resolutions are automatically adopted by consent unless objected to by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly, and cannot be vetoed by the President.
- c. Resolutions* - Anything expressing a policy position of the Association, and does not qualify to be an Association Resolution or a Local Resolution, is in the form of a “regular” Resolution. Resolutions of this type include explanatory text of varying length and can cover any subject within the jurisdiction or interest of the Association and the students it represents. Resolutions must be adopted by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly, and may be vetoed by the President.