

LIFECYCLE OF A BILL

Drafting Stage

A government bill is drafted by the staff of the Department of Justice. The draft bill is then presented by the minister to his colleagues in cabinet and caucus for their approval.

A private member's bill (from the opposition) is drafted by the member with the assistance of the staff of the Legislative Assembly.

Notice

Notice of a bill's intended introduction must appear on the Notice Paper one day prior to its introduction.

Introduction and First Reading

The bill is read a first time and introduced in the House.

Second Reading

Second reading is considered the most important stage in the passage of a bill. At this stage, the principle and object of the bill are debated and either accepted or rejected.

Committee Stage

After a bill has passed second reading, it is referred to a Standing or Special Committee (comprised of members selected from both sides of the House) or to a Committee of the Whole House (comprised of all members.) At this stage, members of the public may present oral and written submissions concerning proposed bills.

Report Stage

At this stage, the House considers a bill that has been considered by a committee, and reported - with or without amendments. Members may propose further amendments to specific bill clauses.

Concurrence and Third Reading

The motion at this stage is "that the bill be now read a third time."

When a bill has been read a third time, the further question is then put by the Speaker: "This bill having had three separate readings, is it the pleasure of the House that it does now pass?"

This is carried, and the bill is then ready for Royal Assent.

Royal Assent

To become law, a bill that passes all stages in the House must receive Royal Assent from the Lieutenant Governor.

Proclamation

A bill comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent, unless a date is specified in the bill.

PRESENTING TO A BILL COMMITTEE

Once the bill receives first reading, members of the public have the opportunity to speak against the bill or offer support, as well as propose amendments before it becomes law.

Presentations can be written (a letter or an e-mail) or can be oral (you can speak at a public hearing). It is important to note that both types of presentations are considered equal by the committee, however in-person presentations have the added benefit of being attended by media which can help amplify your voice and create greater public awareness on the issue.

Oppose or Support a Bill

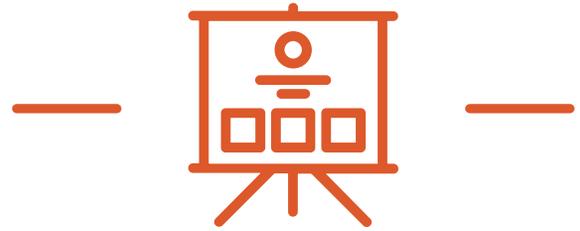
Members of the public can provide a written submission or make an in-person presentation to the committee responsible for a specific bill. This is your opportunity to say what you like, dislike, or would change about the bill.

Making an oral presentation

You must register to make an oral presentation by calling the **Office of the Clerk (204) 945-3636**. You will be asked for the following registration information:

- the presenter's name, address, contact information;
- whether the presenter is a private citizen or is speaking on behalf of an organization; and
- the name and number of the bill.

Each presenter is allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to make an oral presentation, and an additional five minutes to respond to questions from members of the committee.



Notice of Meeting

There is no way of knowing how far in advance a committee meeting will be scheduled. If presenters are registered to speak to a bill, two calendar days' notice must be given during sittings of the Legislature of the first meeting considering the bill.

Intersessionally, ten days' notice is required for the first meeting, and five days' notice for subsequent meetings.

Once the Government House Leader has called a meeting, presenters are contacted by the Office of the Clerk and informed of the meeting's date, time and location.

Written Submissions

If you prefer to send a written submission on the bill, you can do so anytime following the first reading to:

Clerk of Committees
Room 251 – 450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB
R3C 0V8

You may also fax your submission to **(204) 945-0038**, or send it by email to: **committees@leg.gov.mb.ca**.

Written submissions must be received before the committee considering the bill concludes its deliberations so that it may be provided to committee members.

What happens next?

Once a committee considers a bill, the chairperson reports all findings to the House. The report stage, concurrence and third reading, and Royal Assent follow this.

SPEAK OUT ON BILL 45

What is Bill 45

Bill 45 –The Public Schools Amendment and MTS Amendment changes the way that teachers bargain. It moves teachers from the current system of local bargaining to a single-tier model of provincial bargaining.

Concerns over Bill 45

Bill 45 incorporates the division's ability to pay into the arbitration process. This impedes the neutrality of an arbitration board. More troubling, this clause is reminiscent of legislation enacted in the 1990s (Bill 72), which undermined teacher collective bargaining.

This bill also stipulates that arbitrators must also consider the economic situation in Manitoba when making a ruling and will be required to specifically state how these considerations were applied.

It is important to note that under this bill the arbitrator has no obligation to explain the rationale for any other aspect of the award. This bill would force the arbitrator to disclose financial implications but not any other implications on the working conditions of teachers or students.

Providing a one-sided explanation is unfair. If the arbitrator is required to justify some aspects of the award, then the arbitrator should be required to justify all aspects of the award.



Key messages

The following points can be used in written submissions and in-person presentations to illustrate the concerns over Bill 45.

1. As a teacher, my main objection is the ability to pay provision in the bill. I am concerned that this definition does not address real ability to pay; rather it defines ability in terms of what a school board and the province are willing to spend.
2. A critical piece of a fair system of bargaining is an open, unbiased, independent arbitration process. Since arbitration is the only dispute resolution process available to teachers, it is imperative that this process remains virtuous.
3. As long as the definition of ability to pay is not changed, these provisions effectively remove teachers' right to bargain collectively and replace this right with the employers' ability to impose salaries and working conditions under the guise of bargaining.
4. The ability to pay provision will further erode teacher salaries and working conditions to the point where attracting new teachers will become extremely difficult.
5. Teachers have not received any wage improvements in almost four years due to Bill 28 freezing the wages of all public servants.
6. COVID-19 has added significant challenges to the education system and its effects will be felt for many years to come. This provision will negatively impact the public system at a critical juncture.
7. The continuing downward pressure on salaries and working conditions will make teaching an undesirable profession, compromising retention and recruitment efforts.
8. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, teacher workloads have increased significantly and burnout is on the rise. Nearly 50 per cent of educators responded to a MTS poll that they have seriously considered retiring.
9. The public education system is already under stress when it comes to the availability of qualified, certified teachers. Teachers leaving the profession or retiring early would lead to a dramatic teacher shortage.
10. Education is an investment that pays for itself in the long-run. Refusal to pay teachers competitive wages compromises the value and quality of public education and the future of our province.

TIPS FOR WRITING A SUBMISSION OR MAKING A IN-PERSON PRESENTATION

There is no set format for a submission to a bill committee, but whether you are doing an in-person presentation or a written submission here are a few tips to follow:

- 1. Introduce yourself.**

A simple phrase such as “My name is John Gomez and I have spent the last 20 years teaching at Gillis School,” creates a mental image, which brings you and your point alive.
- 2. Clearly state your concern.**

For example, “I am concerned that the ability to pay clause in Bill 45 will negatively impact our public education system because it will erode teacher salaries and working conditions.”



- 3. Be specific.**

It improves the effectiveness of your presentation/submission. Focus on what the issue is specifically about, and what you think about the details proposed.
- 4. Get the facts right.**

You do not have to have all of the facts, but the ones you put in your submission/use in presentation must be correct.
- 5. Use plain language.**

Avoid jargon.
- 6. Make a recommendation.**

Tell the committee what you think it should do, or what you think should change.

SAMPLE WRITTEN SUBMISSION FORMAT

Include a cover letter, even if you are sending an email. If sending your submission by email, ensure it is saved as a PDF.

Date

Page 1

Submission on the XXX Bill To the (name of Committee) Committee

Personal details

This submission is from (name of individual/local and address). I can be contacted at (List your daytime contact telephone number and email address or the name, address, contact telephone number; and email address of the contact person for your local if different from above).

SUBMISSION

Date

Page 2

Submission

Introduce yourself. If submitting on behalf of your local, give brief details about your local e.g. membership, demographic information and the people consulted in the preparation of the submission.

Followed by, I support/oppose the intent of this bill because (state reasons).

I wish to make the following comments (general views).

Clause 1 I support/oppose this clause because (state reasons).

Clause 2 although I agree with the general intent of this clause, I consider that (note changes you would like made and suggest new wording).

Recommendations (List any further recommendations or conclusions you wish the committee to consider. You may wish to restate recommendations mentioned earlier.),

Sincerely,
John Gomez