

How To Pass a Bill Without Being a Politician

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Find a mentor to help you navigate the political landscape. AADE can help, just ask.
- Be nice. Be genuinely kind, receptive, and helpful to foster positive relationships with legislators or legislative assistants.
- Use your networks. Ask your friends, family, employer, and coworkers to call or send emails on a particular issue. This will help amplify your voice.
- Position yourself as a knowledgeable resource.
- Find the key stakeholders and talk to them. What are their problems or concerns, and what kind of change or legislation do they want to see? You'll be able to provide this knowledge to legislators so they don't have to do it themselves.
- People are more likely to support things they already have an interest in. Research legislators and find out who might have a vested interest in a bill. Then, reach out and build a relationship with them, particularly if you're in their district and can support them in the future.
- Don't wait for legislators to create a bill you want. Get the conversation started yourself. Reach out to a representative from your district and talk to them.
- Take the first step and just try. Do some research and start asking questions on what's out there and what you can do to support something you believe in.
- Start small. You can do a lot in 15 minutes. Send an email and start being your own advocate.