

# LEGISLATIVE TEXT

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Crafting a bill based on a policy recommendation is a long process, including drafting, negotiation, and legal review. Once you have identified public officials who are interested in taking up this issue, their office can help connect with resources to draft the legislative text. This politician will become the “Sponsor” of your bill. The [2025-2029 Roadmap](#) is a great starting point for ideas of legislation that could be drafted and introduced. More on moving a policy recommendation to a bill in forthcoming toolkits!

## Help Inside the Legislature

The best place to start is contacting elected officials to determine how to move forward. ([See information on many of the states' bill drafting manuals.](#)) Bill drafting can be performed by anyone and most elected officials will either work to craft the bill themselves, receive support from advocacy groups in that issue area, or send components of their legislation to a bill drafting commission that exists in the U.S. Congress and many state legislatures. Bill Drafting Commissions adapt policy (the more detailed the better) to all the sections of existing law that require amendment or removal to enact the policy changes. A simple one-line proposal can require changing dozens of existing statutes. These commissions are state specific, so not all elected officials will have access to them as a resource. On the federal level, the House of Representatives also has legal counsel that offers guidance on [bill drafting](#).

## Help Outside the Legislature

When there is not a bill drafting commission or a Legislative Director with expertise, it is a common best practice to hire or seek volunteers from someone with a law background who can cross-reference existing laws with this proposed legislation and verify it is consistent with the state constitution. Ideally you want a free resource and can find that through pro bono law firms (recommended for more sophisticated work) or legal clinics at law schools.

It's important to note that legislative text will go through many revisions throughout the legislative process. As the bill travels through committees and is debated, text may be added or removed that fundamentally alters the meaning of the bill. We, as advocates, need to follow the legislation after introduction to ensure that even with any changes, the text still addresses providing emergency management plans for prisons and jails, and maintains our core values.

*Example:* Advocates worked to push protections for women who are incarcerated. Here is the resulting policy issue that has been put into [legislative text](#).