

# **Intern Policy Proposal Project**

## **2010 Kansas Legislative Internship Program**

Each intern will complete a policy proposal for his/her legislator during the course of the legislative session. This can be on a topic your legislator assigns or a personal/academic interest you have yourself. It is up to the discretion of your legislator on the topic you choose; however, in order to complete your internship requirements, every student must submit a copy to their intern coordinator with the other requirements (evaluation form, etc.). This project may certainly be done in conjunction with any academic requirements you have from your school, and such is recommended.

This proposal should take shape over the course of the session, making adjustments for real events throughout the session. Your goal should be to propose a real issue that could possibly survive past bill introduction, and continue through the process you describe herein. Feel free to think outside the box; that's why you are here. It is certainly acceptable to pick a hot legislative issue, but do not cherry pick a bill already offered as your "proposal". The proposal should be more than a "book report" on current legislation. The goal is to take a concept through the legislative process and describe how that process would work as you learn it.

Each proposal should contain the following elements and answer the specific questions included. A solid proposal will contain all 18 of these elements in outline format with concise and succinct, but well thought out, responses to each element. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted, nor severely limited ones (It is understood every point may not apply to your proposal, please note when this is the case). It is not necessary to turn this into a senior thesis or a ten-page paper. It is expected these issues can be addressed in an outline format around three to four pages in length. Consider this portion of your internship pass/fail based on adequate responses to each bullet point listed below. If you have any questions, please ask them early, **before March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### **I. Initial Analysis - Identify the issue of concern.**

1. Summarize the problem and its legislative nuances.
2. Propose a legislative solution.
3. Research and identify other or past legislative actions on this issue.

### **II. Strategy & Methodology - Recommendation on how to effectively maneuver legislation.**

1. List some possible unintended consequences (policy or other) of your proposal.
2. Identify possible support (public, legislators, business, lobbyist).
3. Explain what efforts can be made to unify said support.
4. Identify possible opposition to the legislation.
5. Explain possible efforts to neutralize opposition (media, public opinion, compromise legislation, etc.)
6. Describe the role lobbyists will play in the passage of this bill.
7. Mention other governmental influences (Governor, Attorney General, etc.) that are at hand.

### **III. Logistics & Process – The technical aspects of successful legislation.**

1. Bill introduction – describe the best way to introduce this bill.
2. The committee process – what committee(s) must the bill pass through.
3. Explain how the bill will get to a floor vote – as an amendment, a part of a conference committee report, a "gut and go", or straight up vote on General Orders.

### **IV. Follow-up**

1. Public support versus legislative support – which if not both did your proposal have and how did it effect the result of your bill?
2. Would your bill have faired differently had this support been different? How so?
3. What other factors effected your proposed legislation that were not included above?
4. Which factor had the greatest effect on your proposed legislation?
5. Did your legislator actually implement any of your ideas or act on this particularly subject? How so and to what extent?