SAMPLE BILL: H.R. 100

Short Title

This Act may be cited as the **National Science Education Act**

Findings and Purposes

It is estimated that more than half of the economic growth of the United States today results directly from research and development in science and technology. The effectiveness of the United States in maintaining economic growth will be largely determined by the intellectual capital of the United States.

New methods of teaching science, mathematics, and technology are required, as well as improved training of teachers. Students should learn science primarily by doing science. Teachers need to be knowledgable of their content area, and of techniques that can be used to connect that information to their students in the classroom.

Proposed Legislation

Section 1. Master Teacher Grant Program

The Director of the National Science Foundation shall make grants to public or private K-12 schools for the purpose of hiring a master teacher. To be eligible to receive a grant, , the school must submit a description of the relationship of the master teacher to other staff, the qualifications of a master teacher, and the master teacher's job responsibilities as they relate to the development of innovative science curricula.

Grants shall be made from National Science Foundation funds available for education. There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this section $50,000,000 for fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

Section 2. Evaluation of Teaching Technologies.

The Director of the National Science Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences to review existing studies of the effectiveness of technology in the classroom. The study shall include information about the type of technology used, why such technology works, and the teacher training that is conducted in conjunction with the technology.

The evaluation shall be completed not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the purpose of conducting the evaluation, $600,000.

Section 3. (example of a 'savings' clause)

Nothing in this Act authorizes any department or employee of the United States to exercise control or direction over any educational institution or school system.

Section 4. (example of a 'severability' clause)

If any part of this Act is found to be in conflict with federal or state law, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict. The remainder of this act is not affected.

Section 5. (example of a 'sunset' clause)

This program terminates on September 30, 2007.

Authorization of Appropriations

$50,600,000

Title should be broad and comprehensive but limited to a single subject

Findings convey the importance and general intentions of the bill

Each provision gets its own section to facilitate amending.

Each section provides answers for all of the specifics required for implementation. For example:

- What is proposed?
- Who will administer it?
- How will they administer it?
- Are there penalities for non-compliance?
- Who enforces these penalties?
- How much will it cost?
- When does the program take effect?

Language that applies to the entire bill is included in additional sections.

The sum of the appropriations authorized in each of the sections of the bill.

Note: This is an example of 'new' legislation. Legislation that proposes to alter an existing program or policy indicates exactly what changes are being proposed to the original law, as is true for amendments. See the sample amendment.

AMENDMENTS

Any legislator can propose amendments until the bill is brought up for a final vote. However, a vote on the amendment is not guaranteed. Whether an amendment is voted on depends on the floor procedures proposed by the Rules Committee and adopted by the chamber.

An amendment can change existing language in the bill (delete and insert), add new language (insert), or even replace the entire content of the bill (strike after the enacting clause and insert).

Amendments must be germane or they are subject to a point of order. The question put to the Speaker is whether the proposed changes deviate substantially from the intended scope of the bill or the section in question. Any member can then seek recognition to appeal the Speaker's ruling to the chamber.

Samples of amendments to sample bill H.R. 100: The National Science Education Act

Delete and Insert

Section 1. Master Teacher Grant Program

Grants shall be made from National Science Foundation funds available for education. There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this section $50,000,000 for fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

Delete $50,000,000 and insert $100,000,000

Insert

Section 1. Master Teacher Grant Program

After "development of innovative scientific curricula," insert "The Director shall assess the effectiveness of activities carried out under this section."

Insert NEW SECTION

Insert

Section x. Science and Technology Conference.

Not later than 180 days after enactment, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall convene a 3-5 day conference on K-12 science education. At the conclusion of the conference, the Director shall transmit to the Congress a report on the outcomes and conclusions of the conference, and ensure that a similar report is broadly distributed.

There are authorized to be appropriated for the National Science Foundation to carry out this section, $300,000 for fiscal year 2004.