



## Drafting Legislation

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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**Reference Number:** MTAS-991

Legislation should be drafted as far in advance of the legislative session as possible. This should be done not only to easily meet deadlines, but to make sure the legislation is correct and acceptable to other groups. Support, or even lack of opposition, from such groups can be crucial to legislation passage. One way to gain support or reduce opposition is to let interested groups or organizations review the proposed legislation beforehand and suggest any needed changes. These reviews can take much time.

The larger cities in the state have their own staff attorneys who draft legislation for them. The league or MTAS often drafts bills for smaller cities and public acts affecting all cities. Also, city attorneys may draft legislation for smaller cities. No matter who does the work, inform TML.

Telling the league of your city's need for a public act might relieve you of everything but asking your legislators to vote for the bill. The league can have the bill drafted and introduced, and will even shepherd it through the legislature. The league might tell you that no legislation is needed, or that a private act, as opposed to a public act, is required.

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*DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.*

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