



Boston University School of Law

Legislative Services

The Program

Boston University Legislative Services, a clinical program at Boston University School of Law, offers free drafting and research services to legislators, agencies and public interest groups. Student drafters, working under the supervision of a faculty advisor and experienced student editors, work with clients to produce legislation, regulations and ordinances. The client receives a bound copy of the final draft, which contains a fact sheet, section-by-section summary, background memorandum and the proposed bill. The background memorandum analyzes the problem posed by the client, proposes a solution, outlines the legal foundation for this solution and discusses alternative solutions.

The Drafting Process

The Client. The drafting process originates with the client and requires a close working relationship between the client and the student drafter. Clients often help greatly in defining the problems and choosing among alternative solutions.

The Student Drafter. At the beginning of each semester student drafters select projects. After attending a comprehensive seminar on the mechanics of drafting, they begin researching and writing a first draft. Each student presents the first draft before a critique group composed of other student drafters, student editors and the faculty advisor. The critique group helps the drafter achieve clarity of language and purpose. After having the first draft rigorously critiqued, the student prepares an "editor's draft." This refined draft reflects the combined contributions of the critique group members. Three editors, including the student's editor, then critique the editor's draft. In consultation with his or her editor the student prepares the final draft. This process produces a bill that meets the highest standards of legislative drafting.

The Editors. An editorial board composed of senior students supervises the program's operation and the development of each bill. Students become editors on the basis of their performance in drafting their own bills. Throughout the drafting process, an editor works closely with the student drafter.

Projects

Legislative Services chooses projects for their educational value. Projects span many subject areas and serve diverse political and social objectives. Recent topics have included:

Tuition Tax Credit

Client: University President

Regulation of Condominium Conversions

Client: State Representative

Shield Law for Reporters

Client: State Senator

Superfund for Hazardous Waste Liability

Client: Public Interest Group

Out of Hospital Birth Centers

Client: Public Interest Group

Redistribution of Property Taxes

Paid by Nuclear Power Plants

Client: State Representative

Deadlines. The Boston University Legislative Services program spans only one semester. Each project must therefore have sufficient definition to enable the student to complete it within that time frame. If necessary, a project editor will help the client to define the proposed project. Boston University Legislative Services requests receipt of topics by August for a December completion date, and by December for May completion.

Information

If you desire further information or wish to submit a drafting project, write to:

Boston University Legislative Services

Boston University School of Law

765 Commonwealth Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02215

(617) 353-3172

Because Boston University has tax-exempt status, Boston University Legislative Services members cannot attempt to influence or advocate legislation, nor will they accept compensation. Boston University Legislative Services cannot solicit support for legislation from legislators or constituents, nor will it draft press releases. All analysis, study and research is nonpartisan and available for inspection by the public.

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING PROJECT PROPOSAL

Instructions: Please fill out this form as fully as possible for each project you wish to submit. Feel free to copy it for multiple proposals. Any major non-legal research must already be completed or be in progress.

1. Is this bill intended for filing in the 198~~7~~ legislative session? _____

2. Client: _____
(Name) (Position)

(Address) (Telephone)

3. Contact person (if different):

(Name) (Position)

(Address) (Telephone)

4. Description of Project:

5. Does your project require non-legal (i.e., social science) research? _____
If so, has this been done? _____ Is it in progress? _____ Have
you resource persons available to do this research? _____
6. Is this a new bill, a revision of an existing bill, or an adaptation of
other state legislation? _____
7. Is the work schedule outlined on the cover letter acceptable to you? _____
8. Do you anticipate a need for the student drafter's services after your
bill is filed (e.g., for revision, committee work, testifying)? _____
9. PLEASE READ WITH CARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

BULS may have only an educational, non-partisan involvement in the drafting project in order that Boston University may maintain its tax-exempt status. Therefore, BULS cannot and will not attempt to influence or advocate legislation. More specifically:

- (1) projects will be chosen for educational merit and not on any ideological or political basis;
- (2) analysis, study and research will be nonpartisan and will be available for inspection by the public;
- (3) background papers and other supporting materials will necessarily be objective expositions of research results and choices made;
- (4) drafters who testify will do so as individuals and not as representatives of BULS;
- (5) drafters will not publicly offer an opinion or recommendation with regard to particular legislation except upon written request from the governmental body; and
- (6) BULS will not accept compensation for its services.

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765 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



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CAMBRIDGE MA.

November 25, 1986

City Council Office
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Prospective Client:

For many years Boston University Legislative Services has served clients by providing assistance in formulating and drafting legislation. We are now soliciting projects for the forthcoming semester. Participants in the Legislative Services program draft statutes, ordinances, and regulations for clients representing a broad spectrum of community interests. Without charge, clients receive the services of law students who analyze problems and draft legislative solutions to them. A rigorous editing process, involving faculty advisors and student editors, ensures the high quality of the finished product. The enclosed brochure contains a detailed description of the drafting process.

Should you decide to submit a project proposal, please return the enclosed application by January 6. If you submit more than one proposal, please do so on separate copies of the application. Upon receipt of your proposal, the Editorial Board will review the project and determine whether or not it satisfies the requirements of the program. If any problems arise with your project, an editor will contact you to discuss the matter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any person or group who might also benefit from Boston University Legislative Services. If you desire, we can provide you with a sample of a completed project. If you have any questions, please call us at (617) 353-3172, or write us at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvette Bigelow".

Yvette Bigelow
Project Editor

1.

S-22

Comm. from Yvette Bigelow, Project Dir., Boston
University Legislative Services Re: their
service in which students provide assistance
in formulating & drafting legislation without
charge & enclosing an application for same.

In City Council,

January 12, 1987

Placed on File