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Top Ten Tips For Drafting Legislation

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TOP TEN TIPS FOR DRAFTING LEGISLATION

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TOP TEN TIPS



- o 1. Get organized.
- o 2. Read the Code Construction Act.
- o 3. Be clear, concise, and consistent.
- 4. Avoid substantive and artificial definitions.
- 5. Keep in mind other laws that may apply.
- o 6. Think about enforceability.
- o 7. Consider whether transitions are needed.
- 8. Include an appropriate effective date.
- o 9. Include an accurate caption.
- 10. Prepare good amendments.

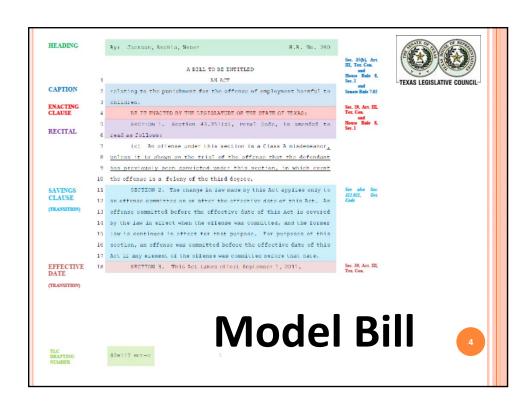
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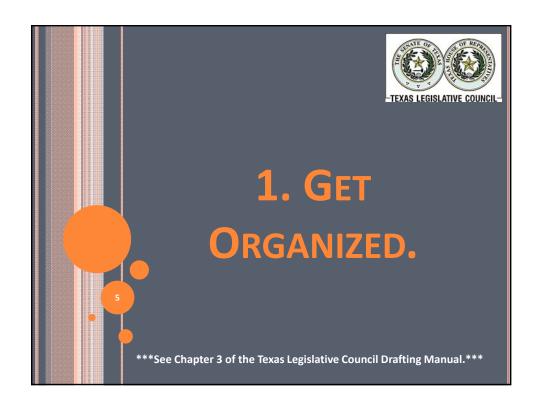


WHAT IS GOOD LEGISLATION?

- Good legislation is constitutional.
- It complies with drafting conventions.
- It meets the policy needs of legislators and constituents.

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1. GET ORGANIZED. (EXTERNAL) TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COU



- First, there is external organization.
 - What is the existing law?
 - Do you need to amend the existing law? Or, is adding a new section, subchapter, or chapter necessary?
 Note: You may need to do both.
 - It can be useful to browse the table of contents of a code to figure out where to "put" a new provision.
 - Look for statutes on the same or a similar topic.
 - Consider where others would logically expect to find the new provision.

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