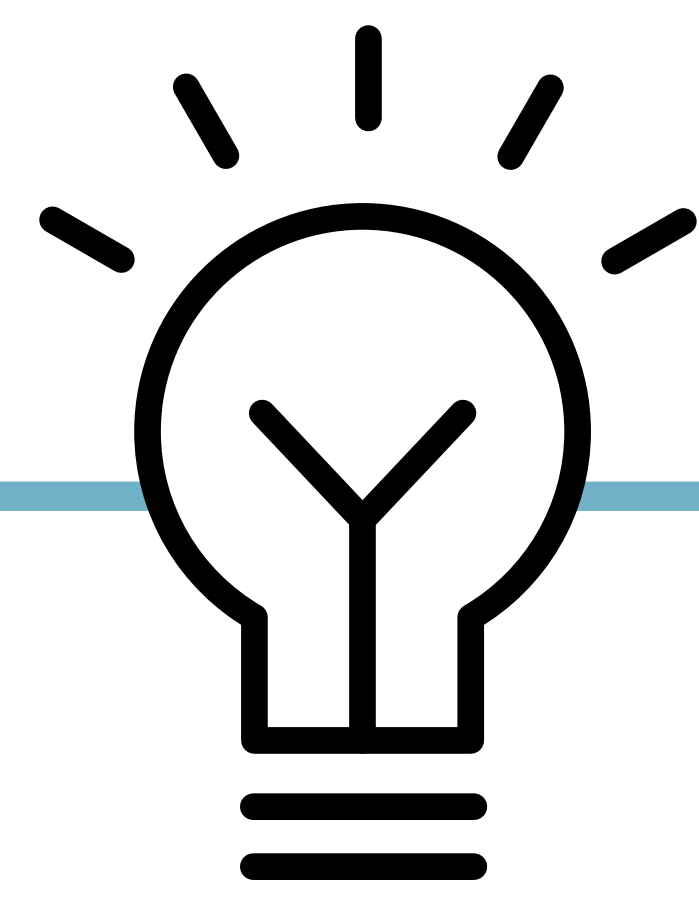


AIA's Role within the Congressional Legislative Process



1 Idea stage

AIA's Government Advocacy Committee (GAC) and members identify a problem through research and/or practical experience as architects or when other member groups pose a new idea.

AIA brings the problem and potential solution to members of Congress.

AIA helps to draft legislative language, often in coordination with AIA subject-matter experts among our Knowledge Communities.

2

Bill introduction

A U.S. House or Senate member must introduce the bill in order to begin growing additional Congressional support.

AIA looks for champions on the issue to introduce the legislative language, and find additional MOCs to support the idea/gain bipartisan support.

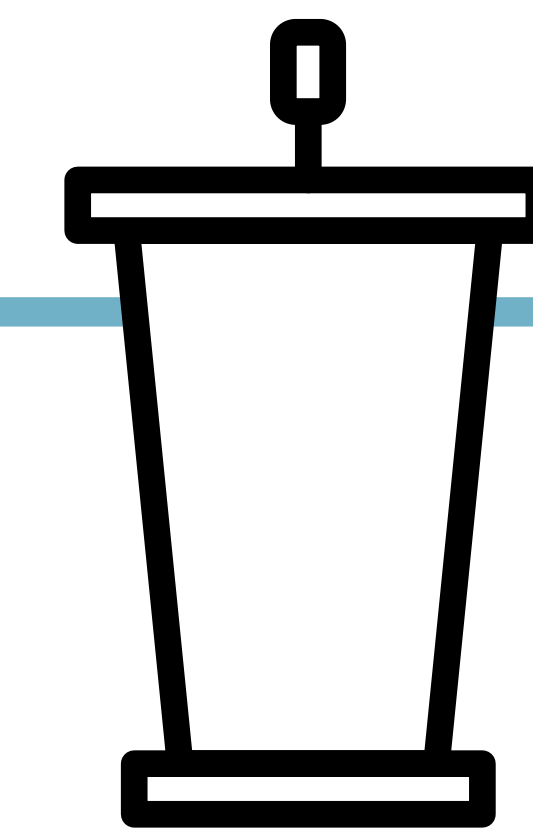


3 Companion bill

Depending on which Chamber (House or Senate) starts the process, the other Chamber also needs to take action on the bill so that it can ultimately pass both chambers.

AIA works to find sponsors to introduce a "companion" bill in the other Chamber, which means it is an identical bill in both Chambers.

Companion bills are ideal, but sometimes not feasible. There are also often "related" bills that focus on the same issue with slightly different language.



4

Committee process: hearings

The Congressional committee(s) with jurisdiction over the issue holds hearings on the legislative language.

AIA submits formal comments to the Committee for the record.

AIA members testify before the committee with spoken and written formal testimony.

5

Committee process: markup

The Congressional committee(s) needs to vote to advance the bill in another type of committee meeting called a "markup."

AIA works to increase support for the bill among committee members in advance of markup so it has the votes to pass Committee.



6

Pass 1st chamber

AIA members urge additional MOCs to support passage.



7

Pass 2nd chamber

AIA members urge the second chamber to also pass the bill.

If there is a companion bill, that makes the process easier since it might have already moved through the committee process and gained additional supporters.

If there is no companion bill, there are still a few ways that bill can be called up for consideration by the second Chamber.

If there is a related bill, the second Chamber may vote on the first Chamber's bill or may choose to vote on the related bill.

8

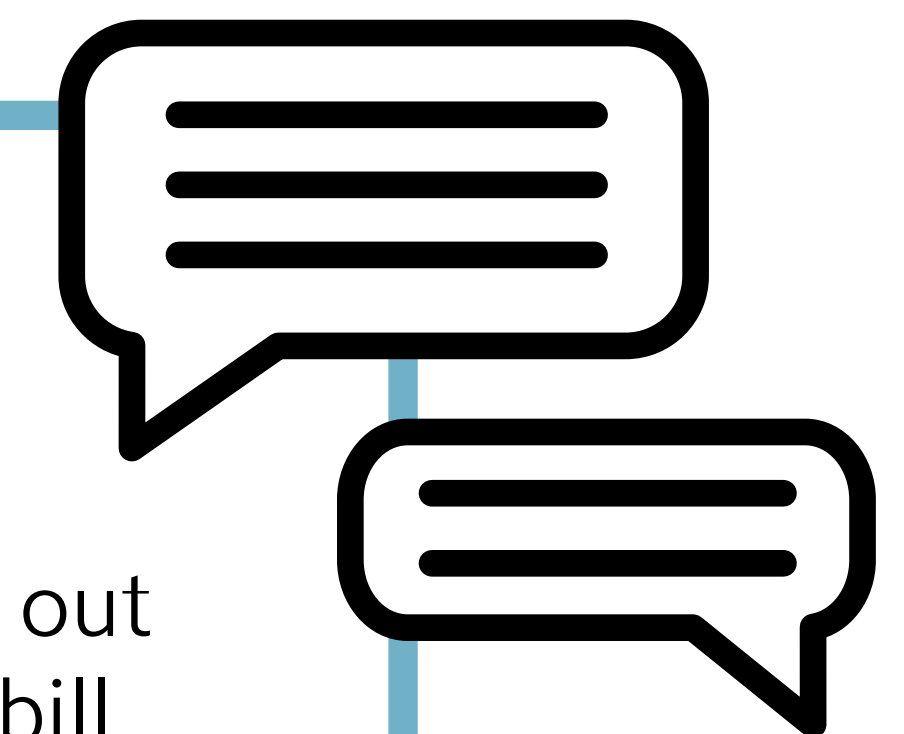
Conference

If the two Chambers pass related bills, all the differences in the related bills need to be hammered out in "conference" until there is only one version of the bill.

AIA members will advocate on the version of the bill (or parts of each version) that we prefer to be included in the final bill.

That new version will have to repeat steps 6 and 7 and pass both Chambers.

AIA members will advocate for passage of that final bill.



9

Presidential signature

The President can sign the bill, veto the bill, or pocket veto the bill.

If there is the threat of a veto or pocket veto, AIA members would advocate directly to the White House.

If vetoed, it goes back to the chambers who could override with 2/3 majority, which AIA would urge Congress to do.

Once signed by the president or the veto is overridden, it becomes law.

