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Our Hot Tips booklet prepares you to be an effective and informed advocate in Olympia or at home using your phone or computer. Call us today!

Achieve with us.



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See our web site for links to:



Olympia Reporter



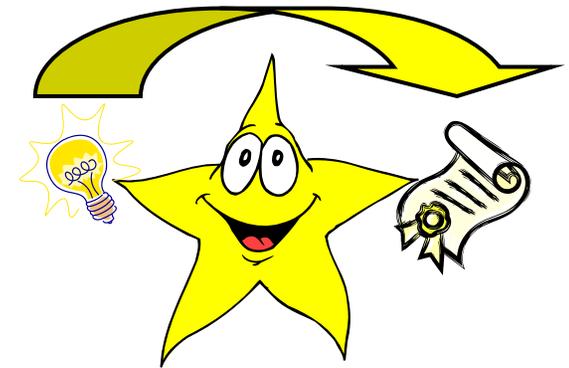
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December 2014



*Signing Star* simplifies  
How a Bill Becomes a Law

*Your idea  
can be a  
State Law*



**The Arc**  
Washington State

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

# From Your Idea to State Law

How a bill that helps people with developmental disabilities becomes a law.



Meet **Signing Star**, he will help you learn how to take an idea you have for change and get it signed into law.



The first step is to find something you believe needs to be a law to protect people with developmental disabilities, to provide a state-funded service or program for them or to update current laws that may be out-of-date.



Next you need to talk to your legislators. We can help you ask them to sponsor your idea. They have staff who will write a “bill” based on your idea, put it in the “hopper”, where it gets a bill number, and it then begins its way through the legislative process.



Now its time to get everyone you know involved. The bill goes to the sponsor’s “chamber” and goes through a series of committees. Ask people to testify at committee hearings, call, email or write to their legislators, share their story of why the bill is needed, and ask legislators to pass the bill.



The bill is assigned to a committee focused on the bill’s issue. If it needs money to work, it also goes to a fiscal committee. If it makes it through those committees it goes to Rules, where it waits for a legislator to “pull” it to the floor for a vote by all legislators in that chamber. If it passes the floor, it starts the process all over again in the other chamber.



If it passes both chambers it goes on to the Governor where it can be signed into law, be vetoed completely or be signed into law except specific parts which are vetoed.



Now you have made a difference. Be sure to attend the bill signing and have your picture taken with the Governor, legislators who sponsored your bill and other advocates who helped it become a law.



Don’t be discouraged if your bill “died”. This often happens the first time through the process. You brought an issue to the attention of legislators that they likely were not aware of and need to learn more about. Help them learn.

**Change is made by those who show up!**

## 2015 Advocacy Day Schedule

Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	(First Day of Session)
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Legislative Briefing
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Budget
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Promoting Independence
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Medicaid Services
Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Supported Living Rally (with Community Residential Services Association)
Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	Education
Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	Civil Rights
Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Supporting Families
Mar 25 <sup>th</sup>	Employment Rally (with Community Employment Alliance)
Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	Autism Awareness Rally (with WA Autism Alliance & Advocacy)
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	(Last Day of Session)

For more information contact:  
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Phone: (888) 754-8798 ext. 107  
Email: [Diana@arcwa.org](mailto:Diana@arcwa.org)  
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