

Legislative Role Play

Name: _____

Role: _____

Description of Roles for Committee Work

Chair of Health & Welfare Committee

- Ensures that all committee members participate in discussion of the bill and vote
- Ensures all members of the public who wish to testify get the chance
- Determines who speaks and when

Sponsor of the Bill, Legislator _____ of Rutland

- Explains the main points of the bill to the committee
- Gives reasons for sponsoring the bill

Health & Welfare Committee Member

- Learns about the issue the bill addresses by listening to testimony and by asking the witness questions
- discusses the bill with committee members
- decides whether to vote "AYE" or "NAY"

Reporter of the Bill

- A legislator on the committee
- Reports the bill to the House or Senate and answers questions during debate
- Takes notes during committee discussion

Witnesses are citizens, lobbyists, people who wish to testify for or against the proposed bill. A witness will be asked to speak in committee and will need to do research to support his/her testimony. The following are witness Roles:

Lobbyist for Convenience Stores

- **Against** the bill
- Speaks in committee- explains why the bill should be rejected
- Backs up argument with researched facts and figures

School Guidance Counselor

- **For** the bill
- Speaks in committee-explains why the bill should be passed
- Backs up argument with researched facts and figures

President, Vermont Lung Association

- **For** the bill
- Speaks in committee-explains why the bill should be passed
- Backs up argument with researched facts and figures

President, American Civil Liberties Association

- **Against** the bill
- Speaks in committee-explains why the bill should be rejected
- Backs up argument by citing the importance of individual rights

Vermont Health Commissioner

- **For** the bill-represents the Governor's stand on the bill
- Speaks in committee-explains why the bill should be passed
- Backs up argument with researched facts and figures

Description of Roles for Chamber Debate

House or Senate Members

- Asks the reporter of the bill questions
- Debates bill, proposes amendments, votes

Note: if you were a witness in committee, you become a legislator for Chamber debate

Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate

- Runs the proceedings in the Senate; calls on senators to speak
- Decides whether arguments offered during the debate are germane
- Calls for the vote

Speaker of the House

- Runs the proceedings in the House; calls on Representatives to speak
- Decides whether amendments offered during the debate are germane
- Calls for the vote

Governor

- Decides whether to sign, to veto the bill, or to not sign the bill
- Makes a statement

Media Reporter

- Takes notes and interviews legislators in the hallway
- reports on both sides of the issues (remains "objective" in reporting)