

LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

The aim of this timeline is to get a deeper understanding of the legislative process within New Jersey from the viewpoint of NJOTA

[Scan QR Code for References](#)



© Copyright 2023 New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association. All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced. Permission is granted solely for educational purposes and must include the original copyright notice.

Authored by: Angela Sista, NJOTA's Advocacy Chair; Kean University OTDS

Reviewed by: Felicia Chew, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, FNAP, NJOTA President & Mariann Moran CHT, OTR, NJOTA State Liason

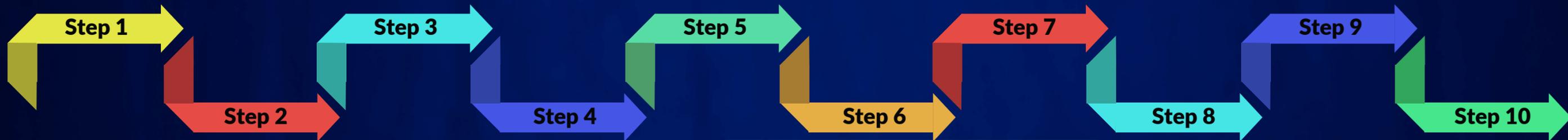
Step 1
The first step of this process is to recognize gaps within the current statutes and issues brought up by constituents that are impacting OT consumers. Draft a needs assessment to survey the population and provide justification and further evidence for that need.

Step 3
Once, the organization has developed its resources (i.e. history of statute issues within NJ, evidence to provide justification for changes, etc) The lobbyist or the organization will reach out to potential sponsor staff for a meeting

Step 5
The bill's sponsor, during a session, will give the bill to the Senate Secretary or Assembly Clerk. This individual reads the bill's title, which is known as the first reading, At this stage the bill becomes available to the public online. (Disabilities Rights New Jersey, 2021)

Step 7
The next step is the bill is reported to the floor. During the second reading, the title of the bill will be read aloud. The bill is eligible for amendments during this step. (Office of Legislative Services, 2020)

Step 9
At this step, the bill is sent to be reviewed by the Governor. The Governor may sign it, conditionally veto it (returning it to the Houses for changes), or an absolute veto. If vetoed, a bill can become law if a 2/3 vote overrides the veto. (Office of Legislative Services, n.d.)



Step 2
Reach out to the organization's lobbyists. This step allows the organization to get a deeper idea of the political environment and the best time to push toward finding a sponsor. The lobbyist also guides the organization and aids in making a connection with potential sponsors based on their expertise.

Step 4
Once a sponsor is secured, that legislator will request, via the Office of Legislative Services, a non-partisan agency to begin to draft and provide assistance in getting the bill written into proper technical form. During this time a sponsor may look for co-sponsors for increased support. (Office of Legislative Services, 2020)

Step 6
Next, there may be a committee reference where the bill is referred to a committee for review. However, the bill could also be sent directly into a second reading. After the first reading, the bill can be commented on throughout the entire legislative process. If the bill is referred, the committee will consider the bill at an open public meeting. The committee decides if the bill is reported as is, with amendments, or by a substitute bill. This process may go back and forth. (Office of Legislative Services, n.d.)

Step 8
The Speaker or President will schedule a third reading. During the third reading, the bill is posted for a vote, and members can debate the bill. The bill passed when it received a majority vote of the members (41 votes in the Assembly and 21 votes in the Senate). The bill will be delivered to the second House; It runs through the same process of amendments as the first bill. If amendments are made, it will bounce back through the first house until the bill passes in both Houses in identical form. (Office of Legislative Services, n.d.)

Step 10
After, the Govern signs the bill it becomes law on a specified date. If unspecified on the next July 4th. If the bill is signed into law, the next step is the OT Advisory Council must update the Regulations to reflect the new statutes (Office of Legislative Services, n.d.)