



Strategies for Effective Bill Drafting

A bill may be drafted for a number of reasons – know the reasons for your bill before you start

It's much easier to kill a bill
than to pass one

Almost every bill - and any
of significance - will have
some opposition

Avoid unnecessary and
confusing complexity in the
bill's structure and language

Each word matters – be
precise – use as few words
as possible to accomplish
the bill's intent

A bill can have intended and unintended consequences – think about both

Anticipate potential legal
and policy challenges – draft
the bill to insulate it from
these – where possible,
address them explicitly

Draft to cultivate support
and minimize opposition

Support or opposition may
have nothing to do with the
words in the bill

In the end, the bill must
accomplish what you want
and make it through each
step of the process