Bill drafting exercise

Note to instructor.

Every student submits at least one substantial piece of legislation by a specified date so that the legislature has things to work on. This is a group active learning activity that is designed to get students thinking about the challenges of developing effective legislation.

This assignment assumes that all of the students in a group (we recommend 3-4 students) have read about the same contemporary problem in advance (e.g. assigned as homework).

The problem should be something that students do not need to research, but not something so familiar that the solution is obvious to them (e.g. gun violence).

The New York Times often has articles highlighting societal problems. Here's an example (http://nyti.ms/2e6xJb6)

Young Adolescents as Likely to Die From Suicide as From Traffic Accidents

Bill drafting exercise - part I

Start with the problem that was assigned or chosen by your group. Working individually, answer each of these questions as completely as possible on this worksheet

A. What is the source of the problem?
B. How can government help to address it (propose a specific policy)?
C. How will this policy help to solve the problem?
D. What don't you know that may impact whether your policy is effective?
E. Who might oppose your policy and why?

Bill drafting exercise - part II

As a group, work through the questions and share your responses.