

Step 1: Source of Ideas

- TMA House of Delegates
- Component medical societies
- Individual members
- AMA "model" legislation
- Legislation from other states
- Medical specialty societies
- TMA and medical society staff



Step 2: Gathering Input

- In the early fall, the committee hosts a general meeting to gather ideas. For 2010, this meeting will be a statewide video conference.
- This interaction, along with emails, phone calls, and conversations, provides our TMA's Legislative Committee with its "laundry list" of ideas to be considered one by one.

Step 3: Review and Recommendations

- The TMA Legislative Committee will hold a second meeting to review all submitted ideas for legislation.
- The ideas are prioritized against TMA's strategic plan, the realities of the present legislative environment, chances of success, and necessary fiscal and human capital to complete.
- A preliminary legislative package is then submitted to the TMA Board of Trustees.

Step 4: Board Approval

- The TMA Board may review and approve the legislative package for the coming year at its October meeting; or it may ask the committee to reconsider certain parts, then take a final vote in January.

Do what's best . . .

The House of Delegates is the "legislative and business body of the Association"

The TMA Board of Trustees

- "shall determine the policy and details of management of the Association between sessions of the House of Delegates" ; and
- "shall seek in good faith to fulfill the responsibilities and directives given by the House of Delegates"

While the Board should make a good faith effort to fulfill the directives of the House, the Board is not absolutely bound by the House's directives.

Weighing its responsibility to do what is best for the Association, the Board can choose to heed the Legislative Committee's recommendation regarding legislation directed by a House resolution, if, for instance other issues are higher priority or chances for success are minimal.

Step 5: Informing Our Members

- Our Final Agenda is delivered to members by email, posted on our website, included in *Tennessee Medicine* and in our regular Government Affairs communications piece *Legistat*.
- For those members participating in this process, TMA will provide written explanations of the actions taken by the Committee/Board.

**TAKE IT
TO THE
HILL**

