

“I’m Not Just A Bill,” Takeaways from Writing and Getting Louisiana Senate Bill 439 Adopted into Law

Courtney Nguyen, MD

Background

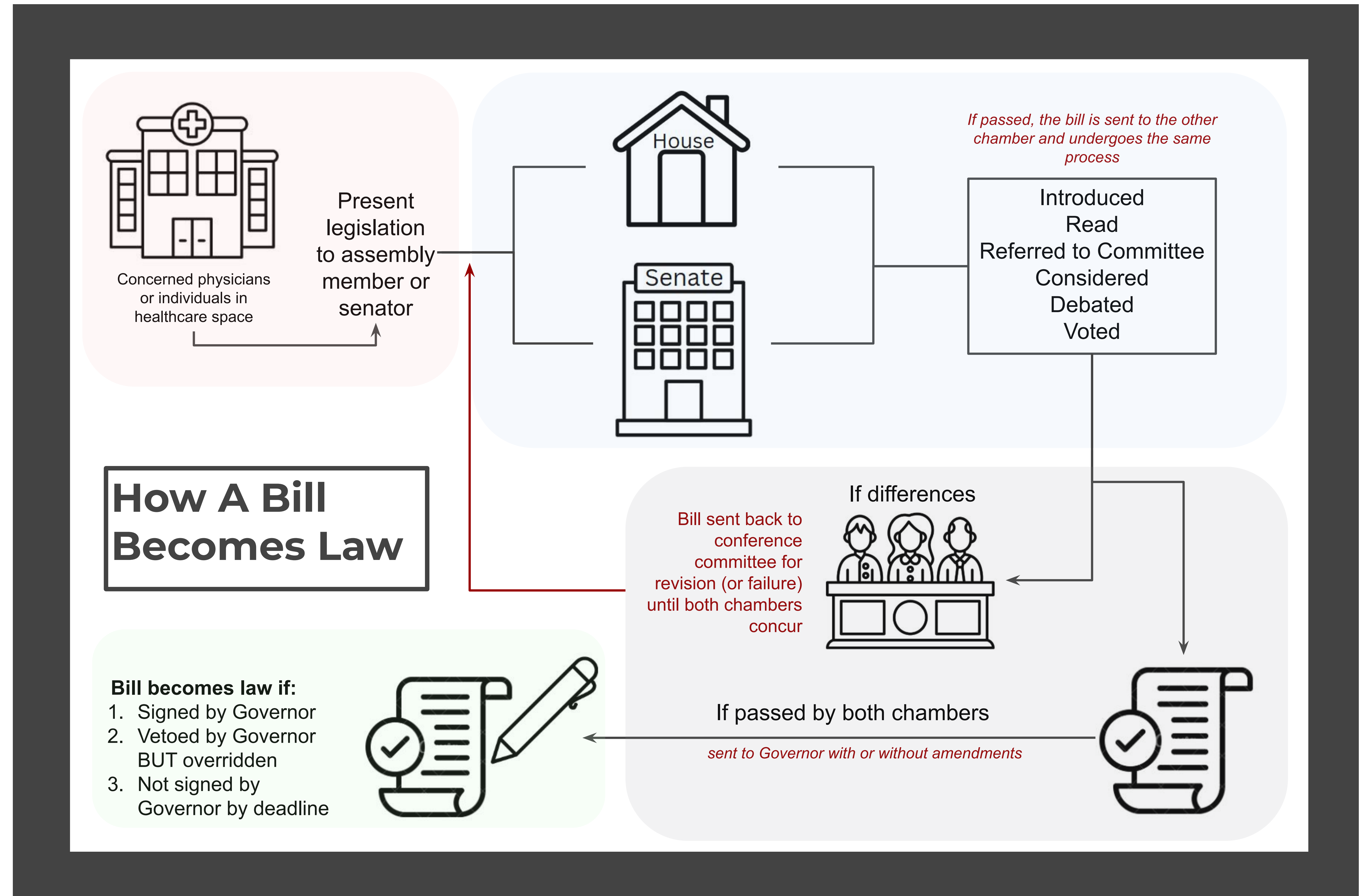
- The field of Urology faces an impending physician shortage in the next decade, with worsening of care in rural and underserved areas.
- Graduate Medical Education studies reveal residents tend to stay in the area in which they are trained, thus illuminating the importance of recruiting doctors to specific areas.
- Recent legislation in Louisiana focuses shifting physicians into rural areas through graduate medical workforce
- S.B. 439 - by Senator Barrow Peacock, provides a bridge year for unmatched American graduate medical students to work in Louisiana hospitals and outpatient clinics in primary care under supervision

Objectives

- Considering the successful passage of Louisiana Senate Bill 439, Urology should continue to advocate for similar laws.

Legislation writing may be an alternative avenue of advocacy for physicians. This poster seeks to:

- Illuminate the legislative process of passing a bill
- Discuss framing policy to various stakeholders
- Highlight medical student and early career physician involvement in legislation writing



Framing Policy

- How a topic is framed is how it will be presented to lobbyists, and how they in turn advocate it to politicians
- Know your context & audience - some issues can be hard to pursue based on political climates
- Easier to present something that has been successful elsewhere rather than present an entirely new concept

Advocacy Starts Early

- Join a local/ state/ national physician lobbying group (i.e. San Joaquin County Medical Society, Louisiana State Medical Society, American Medical Association)
- Great for networking with peers and like-minded individuals
- Knowledge sharing

Healthcare is Political

- Very few urologists are involved in politics at any level
- We need to work to engage everyone in the discourse of healthcare advocacy
- Physicians need to be at the bargaining table to create structured change and ensure patients are advocated for