

SW 7600 Social Welfare Policy – Spring 2026

Legislative Brief

How to pick your bill

The legislative policy brief aims to track the development of a social welfare policy introduced in the 2025 Georgia Legislative Assembly. The process involves selecting a bill that is being introduced during the legislative session. You should choose a bill that directly impacts the social welfare of individual communities or groups. **You may not select appropriation or budget bills or resolutions on any topic. More information is below, including the complete outline. There is a list of advocacy organizations and political resources in the resources section on iCollege.**

Some Advice on Bill Selection

You select your bill, and then you “follow” that bill throughout the legislative session. This means you stay informed about what is happening with the bill, the bill’s sponsors, and any activity related to the legislation. You will work with this bill for the entire semester, so choose something of professional interest to you.

The Georgia Legislature meets in a two-year session, and this is the first year. **Any bill to be considered in this session must be introduced this year.** If a bill does not cross over (from one chamber to the other) or does not pass, sponsors can bring the bill up for reconsideration in the second year of the session.

There are many ways to select your bill. You can go to the Georgia General Assembly website at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/> and search for bills by sponsor or topic. While this may seem appealing, it is not the method I recommend.

You may research an advocacy group that supports the social problem you wish to learn more about. Then, you can see the legislation the group supports and their planned advocacy activities. This is a great way to get an introduction to the legislative process without having to start from scratch yourself.

You can also utilize those newspaper subscriptions you must get this semester. What bills are discussed in the Atlanta-Journal-Constitution? What do the political staff at the AJC think about the likelihood of specific bills advancing? What legislative efforts are getting attention in the news? Is there also national attention or connection to a particular state-level bill? These are all critical indicators of legislation that will be active during the session and will allow you to meet your assignment’s requirements.

I also suggest you start watching or listening to Lawmakers, the program regarding the Georgia Legislative Session on PBS. This program has gone through many iterations – as has PBS – but it does offer you information on the topics being discussed by lawmakers, as well as the bills that are being considered.

Basic Approach to the Assignment

Significant features of the brief will involve interviewing several key persons invested in developing and implementing the legislative bill. Generally, regardless of the immediate focus of the bill, every legislative response will have some impact on a community. As such, each submitted brief **must** consider the effects of the selected legislation on the community at large. You may obtain this information from speaking with the legislators, the legislators' aids, agency representatives, and community representatives (e.g., recipients of service provisions, administrators of agencies providing services, and advocacy groups). Each student must seek the opinions of those with various viewpoints on the issue covered in the selected legislation and discuss in the assignment which groups and individuals are supportive and which groups are non-supportive of the bill, and the bases for their positions.

Here are some sample questions you can use with sponsors or other supporters. You will need to review the appropriateness of these sample questions for each instance and add your own questions.

Why did you choose to take on a leadership role for this bill?

What inspired you to take on this issue?

Why is this bill important?

What impact can it make?

Who is for and against this bill- what are their arguments?

What is the history of this bill in the GA legislature?

Where has this bill been attempted or passed in the past, what was the experience?

Who else do you suggest I talk to about this bill, and where can I go to learn more about it?

Students may work in small groups (2-3 students only) to track a particular bill, but each student in the group must independently submit their complete brief, as described below.

You must cite a minimum of EIGHT SCHOLARLY REFERENCES in your brief (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, books, monographs, etc.) to support the context of the social problem being addressed in the legislative bill. PLEASE NOTE-Wikipedia, ASK.com, and other similar sources are NOT scholarly resources, and they should not be used as a scholarly reference for your research. APA (American Psychological Association) style must be used for text citations and reference pages. Please review the assignment rubric to assess the full performance on the assignment.