

## When evaluating legislative bills, we should ask:

1. Does the bill solve the problem?
2. Has Congress read the bill?
3. Who wrote the bill?
4. Is Congress going to post the bill for 72 hours for the American public to read?
5. What is the bill going to cost?
6. Can American taxpayers afford to pay the bill now instead of sending the bill to our children?
7. Is it Constitutional?
8. What provisions exist for new government mandates, higher taxes, increased spending and other government-dictates?
9. Who and how does this bill help?
10. Who and how does this bill hurt?
11. Any recent public polling on how Americans feel about this bill?
12. What are the long-term consequences?
13. What are the unintended consequences (the butterfly effect)?
14. What is the link between lobbyists and campaign donors and the people who benefit from this bill?
15. Where is the bill susceptible to corruption?
16. Does this bill make the law more or less complex? How does it affect existing laws (will they be repealed) or are we just adding more complexity to the whole system? How does it interconnect with other bills?
17. Can a reasonably prudent person in a reasonable amount of time read and understand this bill? (e.g., the truth that was a lie ... Senator Macskill said that the Senate healthcare bill said nothing about abortion and it would not be covered. The rest of the story is that by statute if the bill does not specially exempt it, it is included).



18. In the United States a small portion of people speak Spanish, but Spanish translations are common. If these laws are going to be written in legalese, also include a translation in common English so that the average person can understand. Less than one percent of us are lawyers. If you want us to follow the laws, write them so we can understand them.
19. What new government bureaucracies are formed from this bill?
20. Is this an efficient way to get this done? Or will it add more to an already complicated system?
21. Who is responsible for providing enforcement? Who is going to fund the enforcement and for how much?
22. Does everything in this bill relate to the subject at hand? (e.g., the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—AKA Stimulus bill—had elements of universal health care buried in it such as the formation of a new bureaucracy called the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology)

Our ideas for a web-based tool in analyzing the merit of legislative bills:

[http://www.545project.com/HGV\\_billmarkup/index.html](http://www.545project.com/HGV_billmarkup/index.html).