

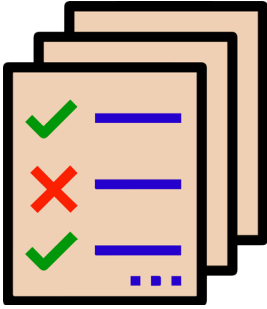


Easy Read Edition

Sharing Your Story For A Political Purpose

Part 4: Public Comment

Words to Know in Part 4



Regulations

Decisions that give the details about how a law will work.



Public Comments

Ideas that people send to the government about what regulations should get made.



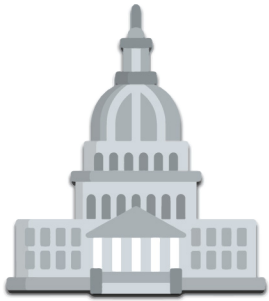
Public Comment Periods

The time that people can make public comments.

Public comment periods



After a law is passed, there is still work to do!



The government needs to figure out how the law will get put into action.



There are still chances to share your story.



For example, California passes a new law.

It gives a set amount of money to pay for health care.

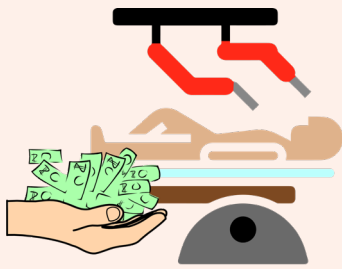


California needs to figure out what kind of health care that money will pay for.



It might go to building a new hospital.





It might go to buying new surgery machines.

Or, it might go to paying for doctors.



They might decide to split up the money between different things.



Then, they would need to figure out how much money each thing gets.



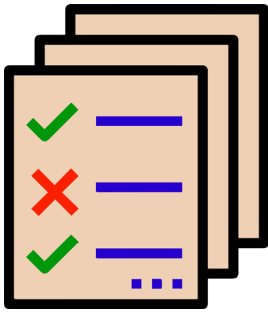
They would also need to figure out when they want the money spent by.



They might want to spend it all in 1 year. Or, they might want it to last 2 years.



These kinds of decisions are called regulations.



Regulations give the details about how a law will work.



People can say what they think about ideas for regulations.



They can share what they think by writing something called a public comment.



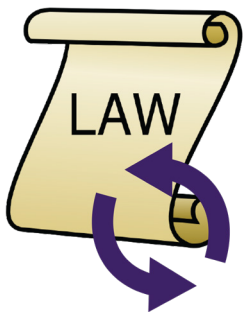
Public comments are ideas that people send to the government.



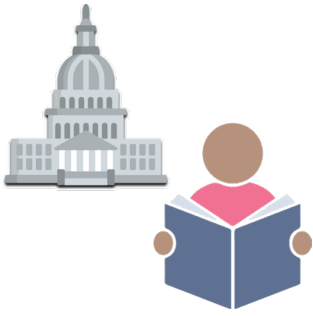
They talk about what regulations should get made.



It is the law that people get to make public comments about every new regulation.



People also get to make comments when an old regulation gets changed.



People in the government have to read the public comments.



Then, they decide on the regulations for the law.



Figuring out how the law will work is very important.



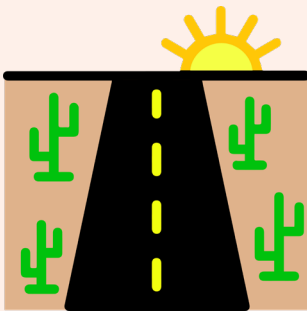
It can be even more important than getting the law passed.



Think about the last example about health care in California.



What if California decided to use all the money to build a new hospital?



They could choose to build it in a place that nobody lives.



Then, it wouldn't be helping people.



Passing the law would have been a waste of time.



That is why it's very important to make public comments when you can.



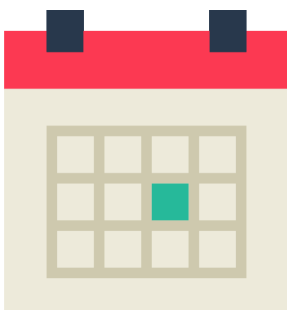
People only have a short time to make public comments.



This is called a public comment period.



Public comment periods are the time that people can make public comments.



Public comment periods are usually between 1 and 3 months long.



How regulations get handled depends on where the law got made.



For laws that affect the whole U.S., regulations get listed online.



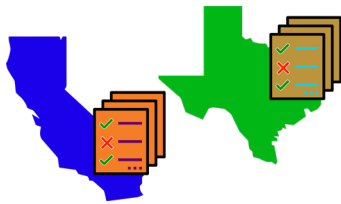
You can make public comments by writing them online.



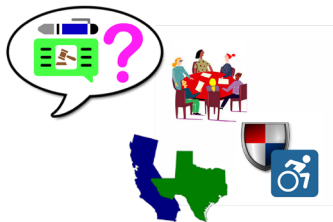
Every state also has regulations for their state laws.



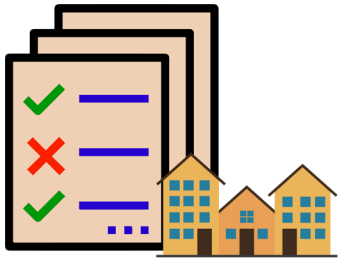
These regulations usually get listed online, too.



But each state handles regulations a little bit differently.



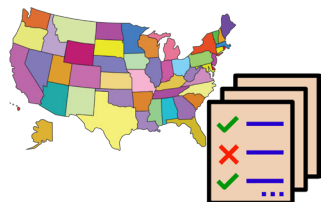
Ask advocacy groups in your state how to send in a public comment.



Some cities and towns have regulations for their laws.



Ask advocacy groups in your city or town to find out.



Here is how to send in public comments for regulations that affect the whole U.S.:



Go to the website <https://www.regulations.gov/>



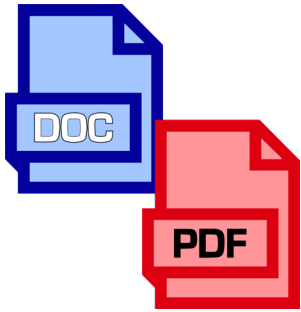
Look up the regulation you want to comment on.



Click on the regulation, then click "Comment Now!"



Then, you can write your comment in the text box on the webpage.



Or, you can send your comment as a Word document or PDF.



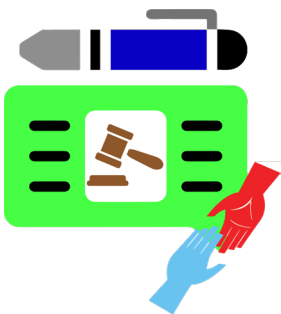
Sometimes regulations get written in ways that are hard to understand.



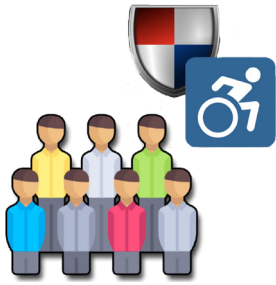
Try talking to advocacy groups that care about the law.



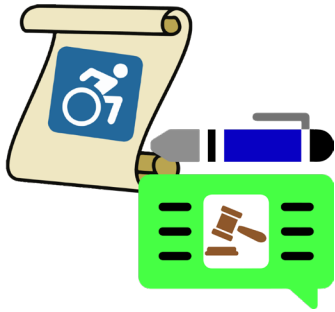
They can help you understand the regulation.



They can also help you write your public comment.



Your state DD Council and P&A Agency can also be helpful.



They let people know about public comment periods for disability laws.



Other advocacy groups also let people know about public comment periods.



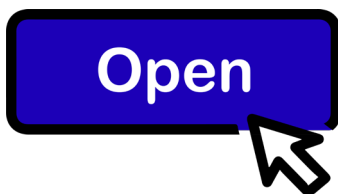
You can also search <https://www.regulations.gov/> on your own.



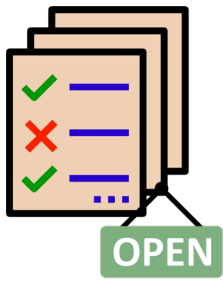
You can find regulations about laws you care about.



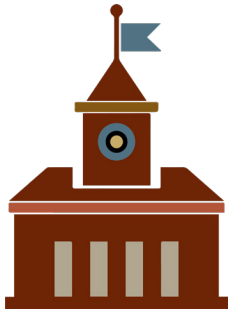
You can search for different regulations with key words.



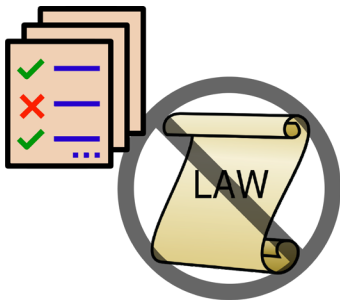
Be sure to click “Open” on the “Filter Results By Comment Period” sidebar.



That way, you will only see regulations that will still let you send comments.



Public comments look a lot like what you might say at a Town Hall.



You would just focus on a regulation instead of a law.



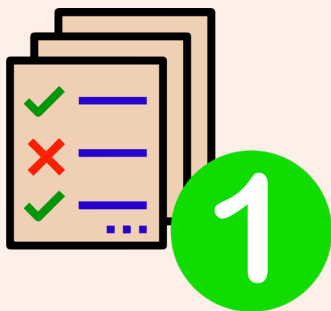
For example, let's say that the Beekeeping Act became a law.



One regulation would say where in California the bee colony would go.



Someone in the government came up with an idea for the regulation.



The regulation is called Regulation 1.



Regulation 1 would build the bee colony in Averageville, California.



Sally doesn't like this idea. Averageville is really close to Normaltown.

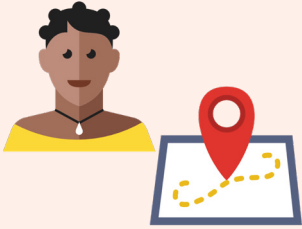


She wants the government to put the bee colony somewhere else.



She makes a public comment to let them know.

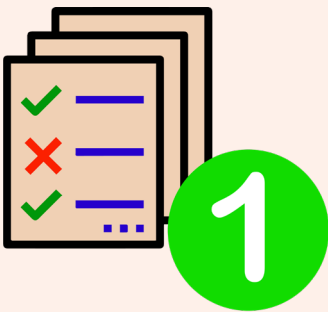
Here is the public comment that Sally made about Regulation 1:



My name is Sally Jones, and I'm from Normaltown, California.



I am a member of the Stop the Bees Community Group.



I would like to comment on Regulation 1 of the Beekeeping Act.



I don't think Averageville is the best place to put the bee colony.



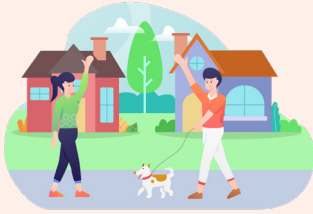
Averageville is only 10 minutes from Normaltown.



Normaltown has been attacked by bees more than most other places.



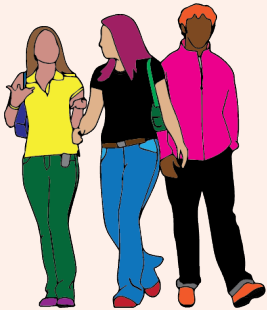
I wouldn't feel safe knowing we are still so close to the bees.



I know many of my neighbors agree with me.



There are also many other towns near Averageville.



Averageville has a few people living there, too.



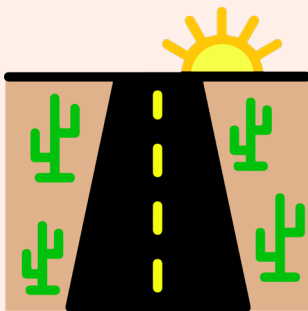
What if something goes wrong with the bee colony?



The bees would be close enough to attack people again.



I think that the bee colony should go in Boringshire, California instead.



Since Boringshire is so boring, nobody lives there.



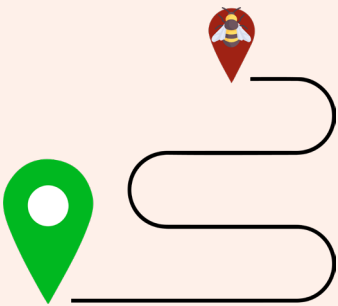
There also aren't any towns nearby.



Putting the colony in Boringshire would help all Californians feel safer.



It would also be safer even if something went wrong in the bee colony.



The bees would have to travel pretty far to attack people.



Please put the California bee colony in Boringshire instead of Averageville.



Thank you for your time.