



Translating Good Science to Good Policy with AB 127

Flame Retardant Symposium

April 12, 2013

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Science Fellow

California State Legislature

Science Fellows Program

- Organized through the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)
- Places Ph.D. scientists and engineers in the California State Legislature
- Benefits to both groups:
 - Ph.D.'s learn about the policy process and how best to participate in it
 - Legislature gains the expertise of scientists and engineers who can advise policy

What Science Fellows Do

- 5 in personal offices in the Assembly
5 on staff for Senate committees
- In personal offices:
 - Work on bill language
 - Staff member on committees
- In committee offices:
 - Analyze bills

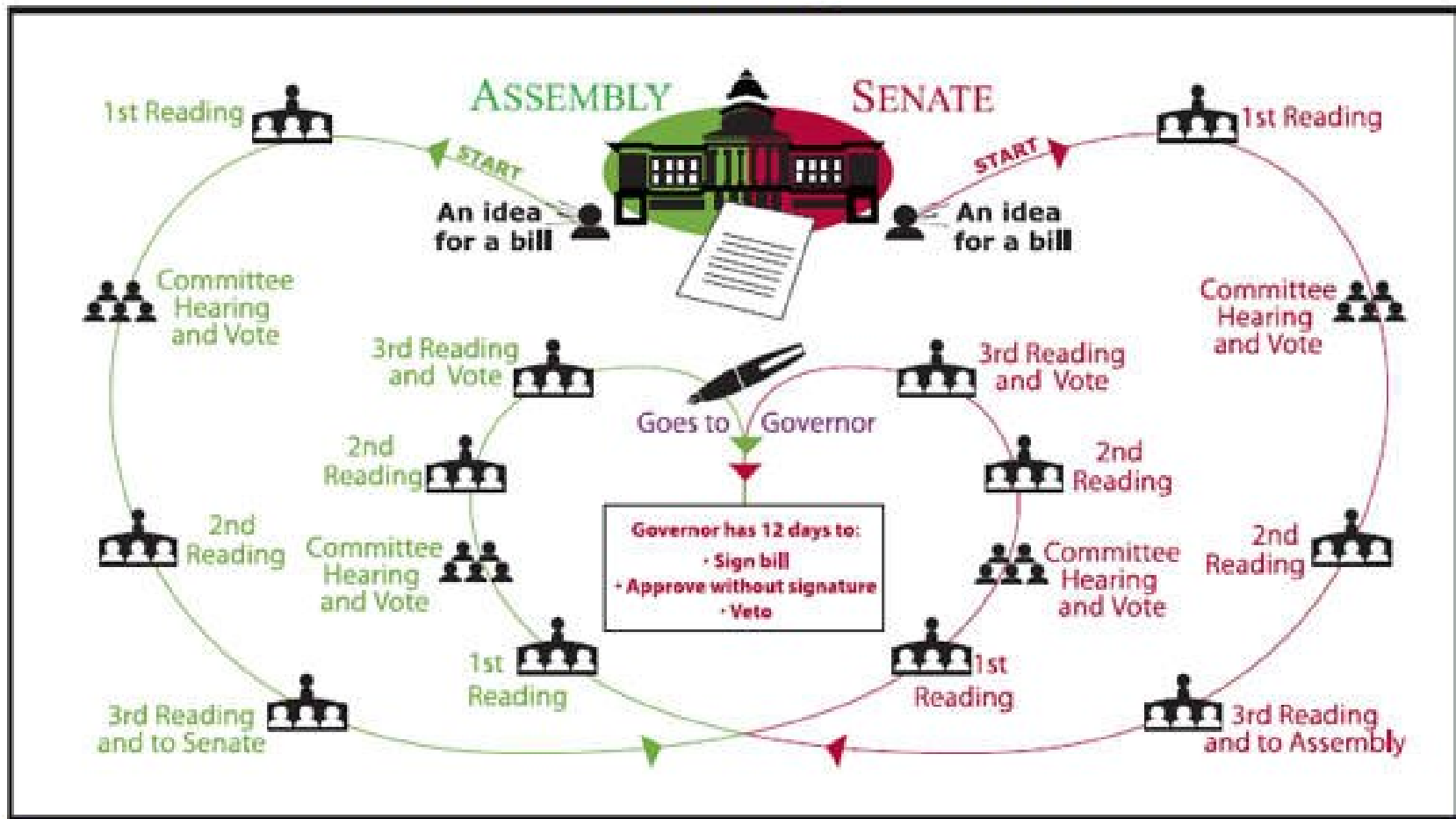
California Science+Technology+Policy Fellowships



2012-13 Year four Fellows - Five placed in Assembly, five in Senate

Left to Right: Leonardo Scherer Alves, Annabelle Kleist, An-Chi Tsou, Neela Babu, Gregory Gambetta, Laura Feinstein, Mark Elsesser, Melanie Zauscher, Kyle Hiner, and Tepring Piquado

The Legislative Process



Players Involved

- Legislators –
 - Write bills that may become law
 - Vote to pass or fail bills
- Governor –
 - Power to sign or veto bills
- Lobbying groups
 - Private companies
 - Non-profit organizations
- Citizens

Plastic Foam Insulation

- Polystyrene, polyisocyanurate, polyurethane
- Developed as building insulation
- Initial code developed in 1970's
- Popular for improving energy efficiency



Building Code Development



Goal:
Insulation, energy efficiency

Goal:
Fire protection for emergency responders

Steiner Tunnel test (1960's):
Flame spread

Problem:
Very flammable

Problem:
Leaching, toxicity, disposal

Thermal barrier (1970's):
15+ min of fire protection

AB 127 – Safer Building Insulation

- Assemblymember Nancy Skinner's bill, she represents Berkeley
- Goal is to reduce the use of flame retardant chemicals in building insulation while maintaining fire safety
- To be heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on:
Monday, April 29th, 2013

How you can help

- Call your legislator

Contact info can be found at: assembly.ca.gov

- Write a letter of support

Send to my office:

Office of Assemblymember Skinner

State Capitol, Room 3160

Sacramento, CA 95814

Emailed to me:

neela.babu@asm.ca.gov

If you are interested in supporting this piece of legislation, please come talk to me afterwards!