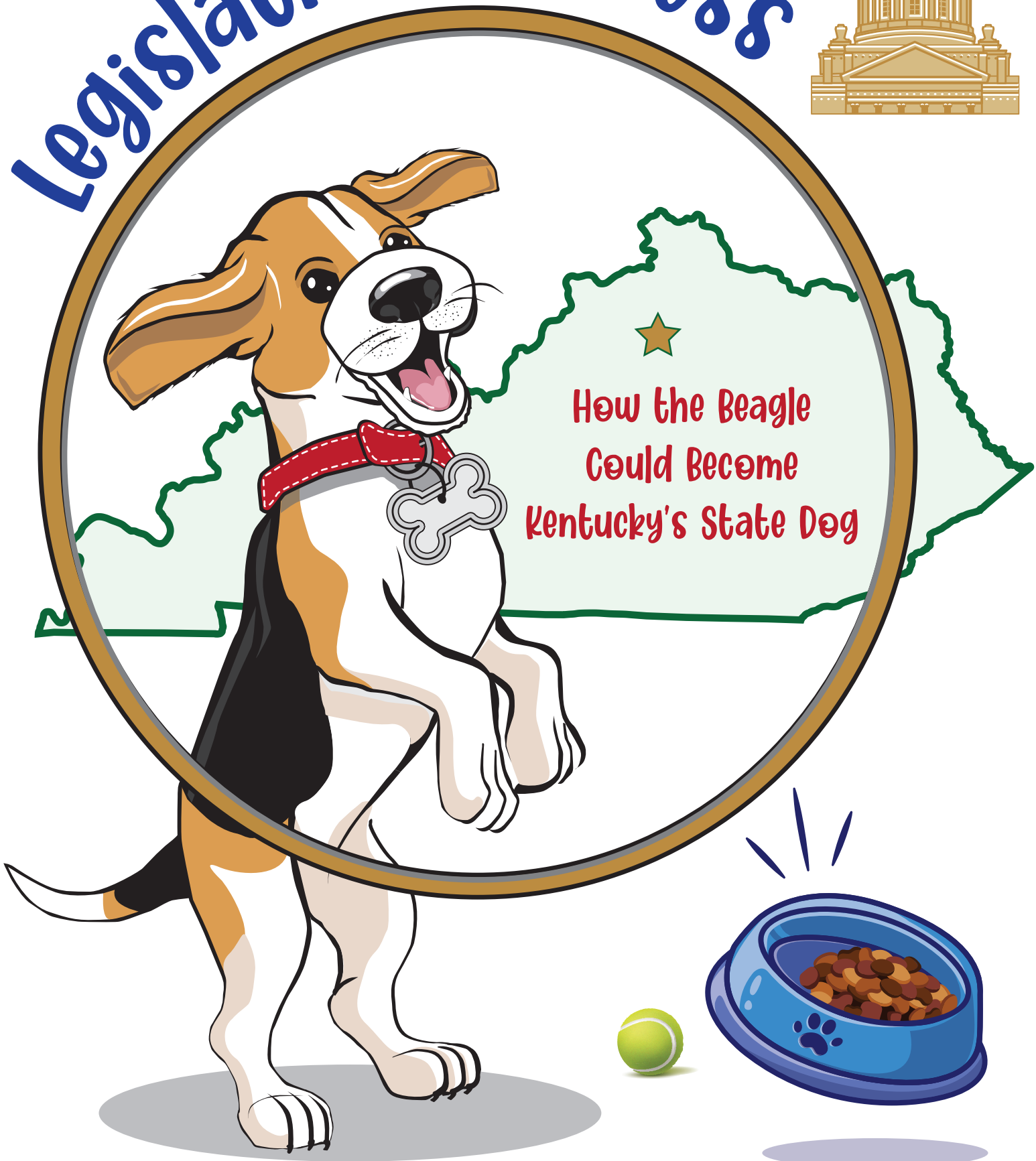


# The Legislative Process



How the Beagle  
Could Become  
Kentucky's State Dog

**My Name Is** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Senator Is** \_\_\_\_\_

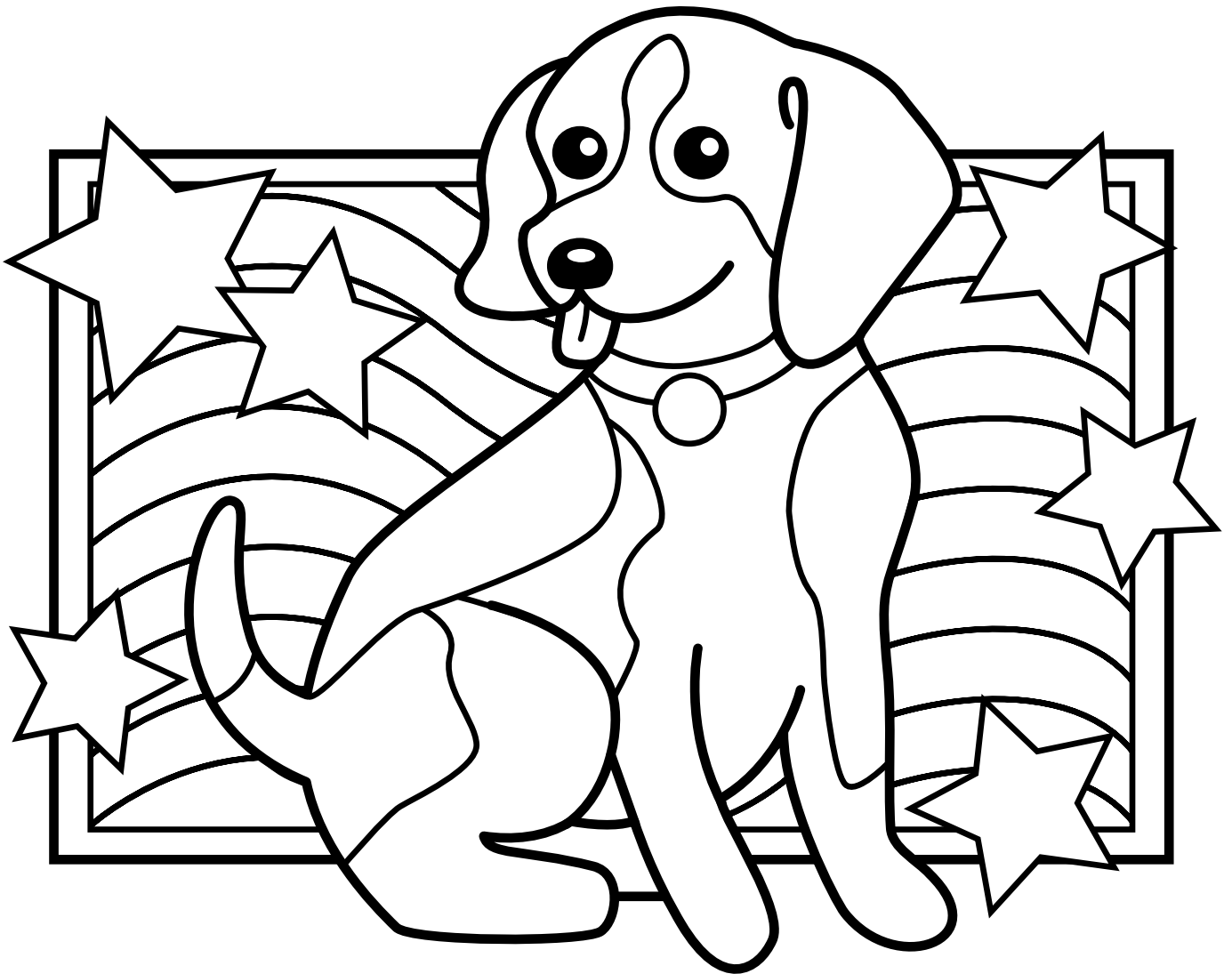
**My Representative Is** \_\_\_\_\_

Produced by the  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission

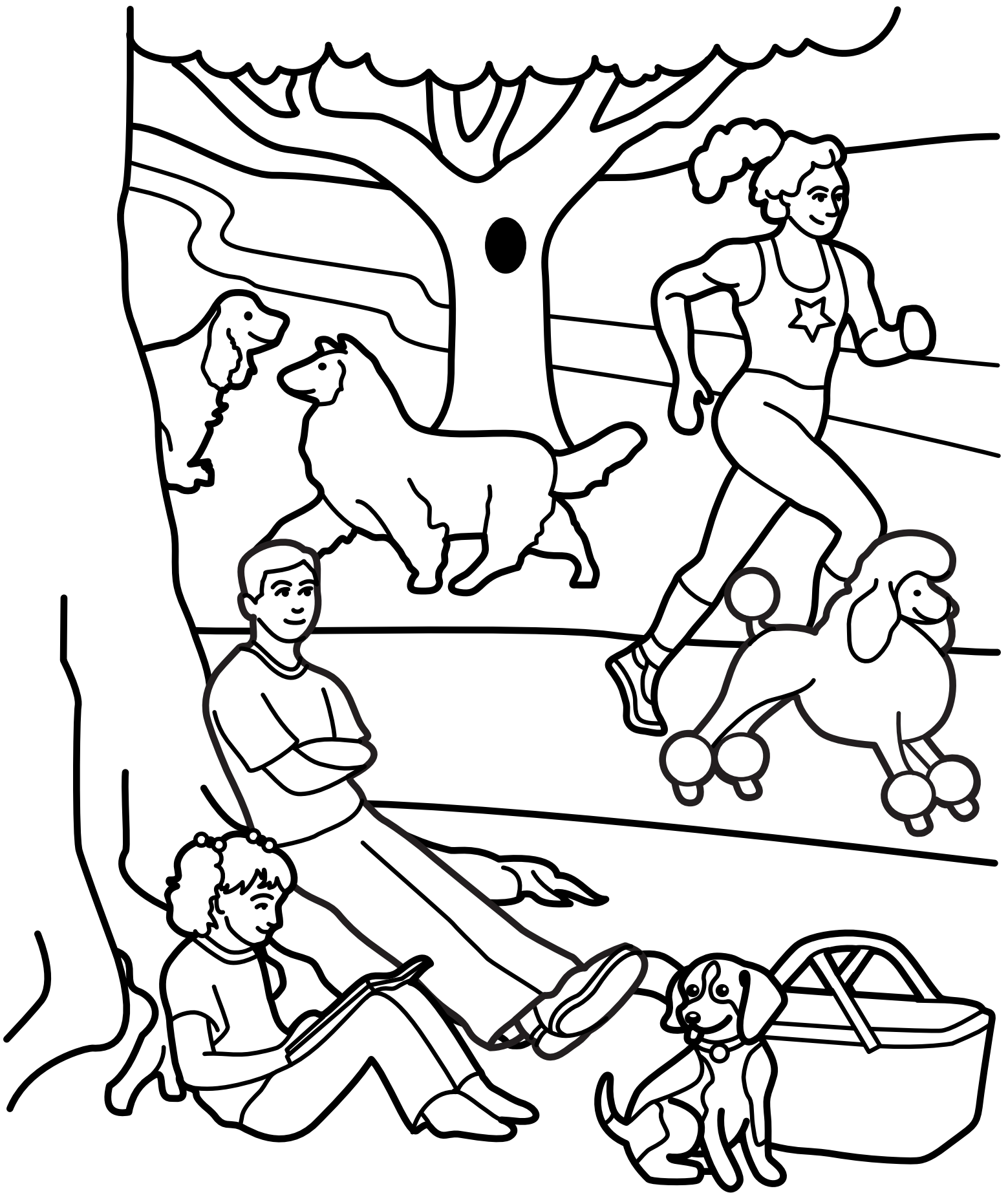
Cover Illustration by  
Dana Kelley  
Illustrated by  
Jennifer Noran  
Legislative Research Commission

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# The Legislative Process



How the Beagle Could Become  
Kentucky's State Dog



Julia and Michael were at Mammoth Cave National Park with their parents and noticed that a lot of families brought their pet dogs.



Julia and Michael realized that dogs are special to a lot of people.  
They thought dogs should be honored in Kentucky.



Michael's class at school had been learning about Kentucky's state flower, the goldenrod, and the state bird, the cardinal. Michael and Julia told their parents that Kentucky should have a state dog; and it should be the cute and playful beagle.

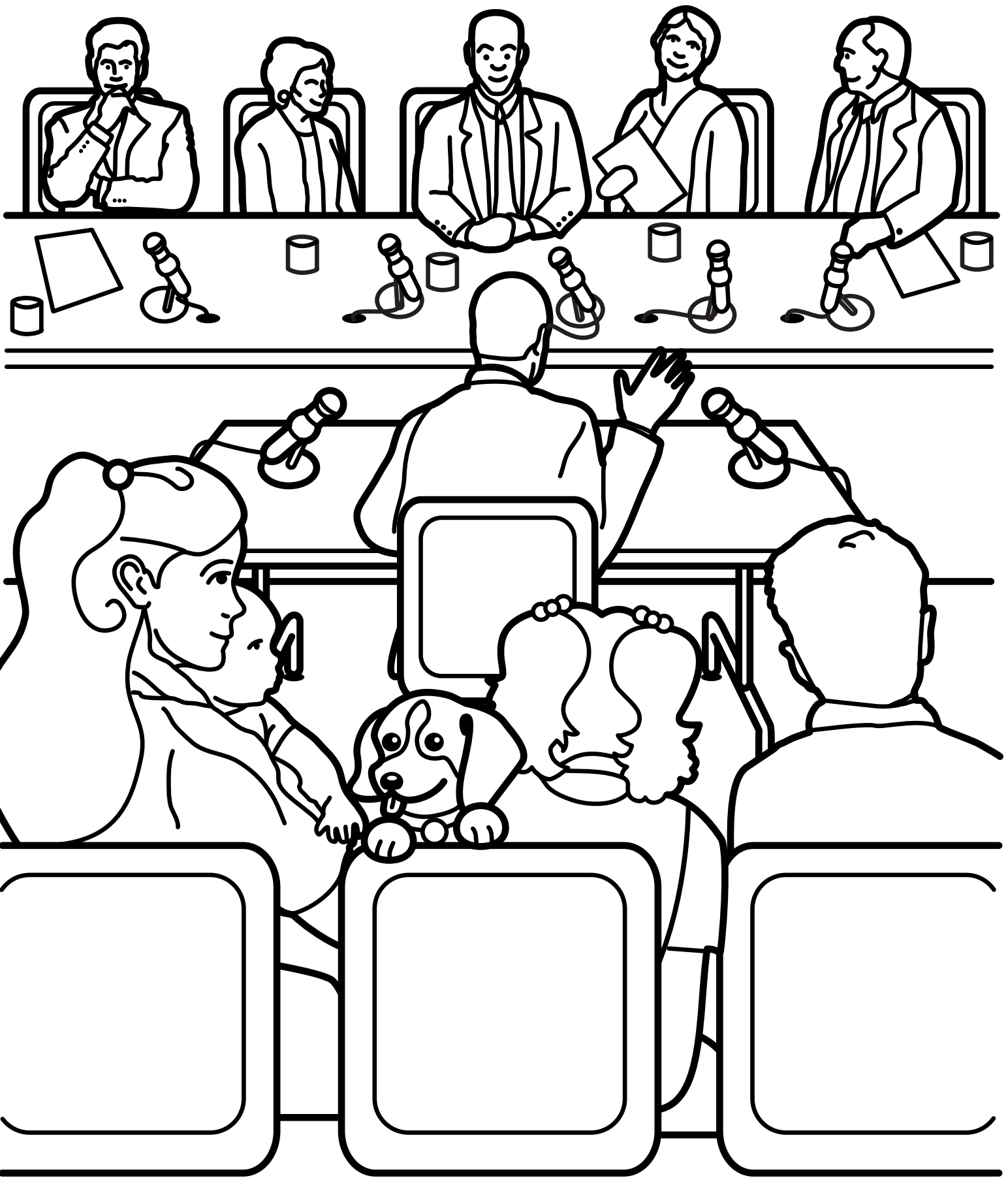


Their dad explained that the idea would need to go to the General Assembly as a bill. He suggested that the children write to the Senator from their area, Senator Boone, and ask for his help.

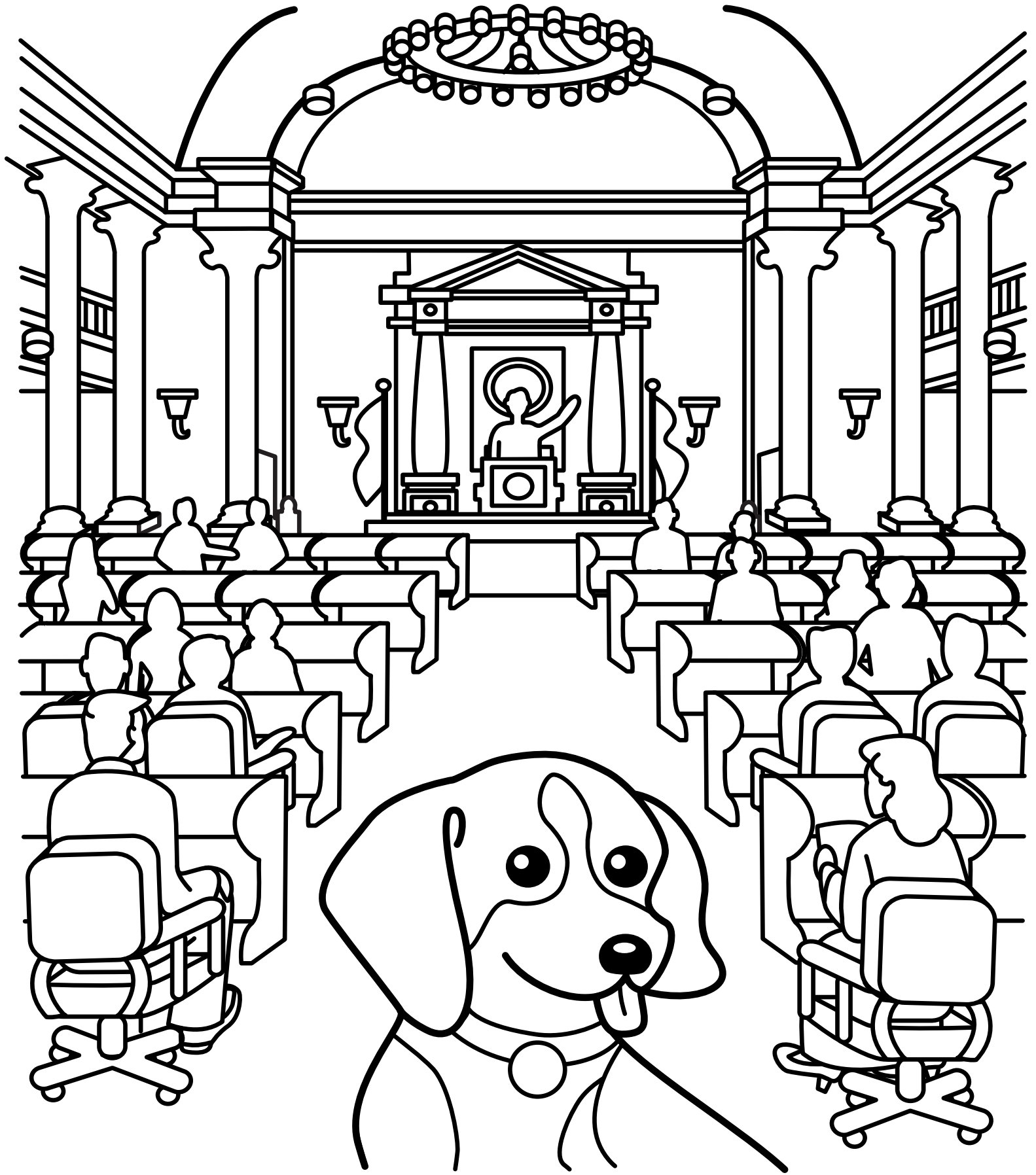


They wrote to Senator Boone, and he agreed to help the children with the idea.  
He wrote a bill to have a law making the beagle the state dog.



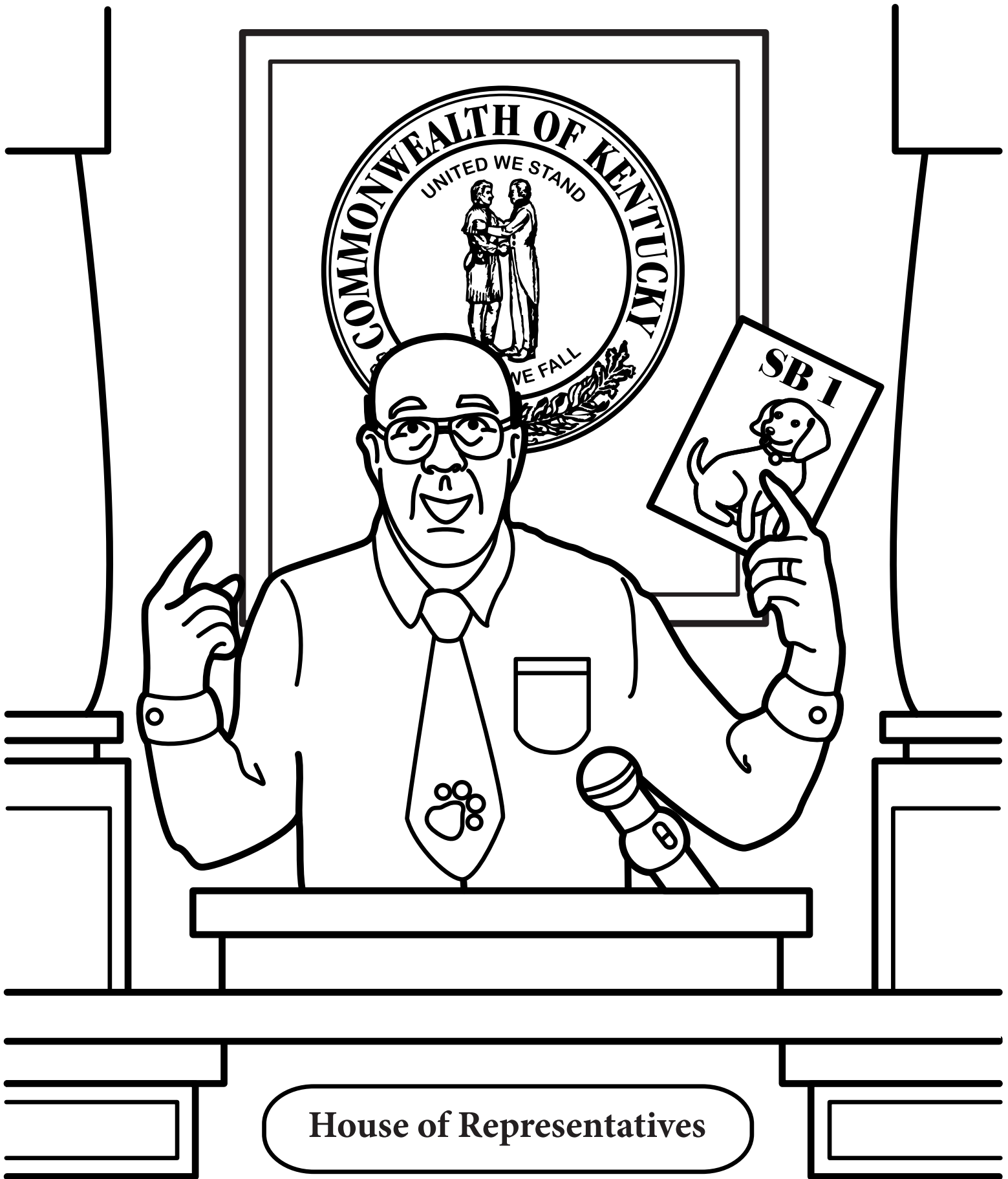


Senator Boone took the bill to Senate, where a committee studied the idea and thought it was a good thing to do.



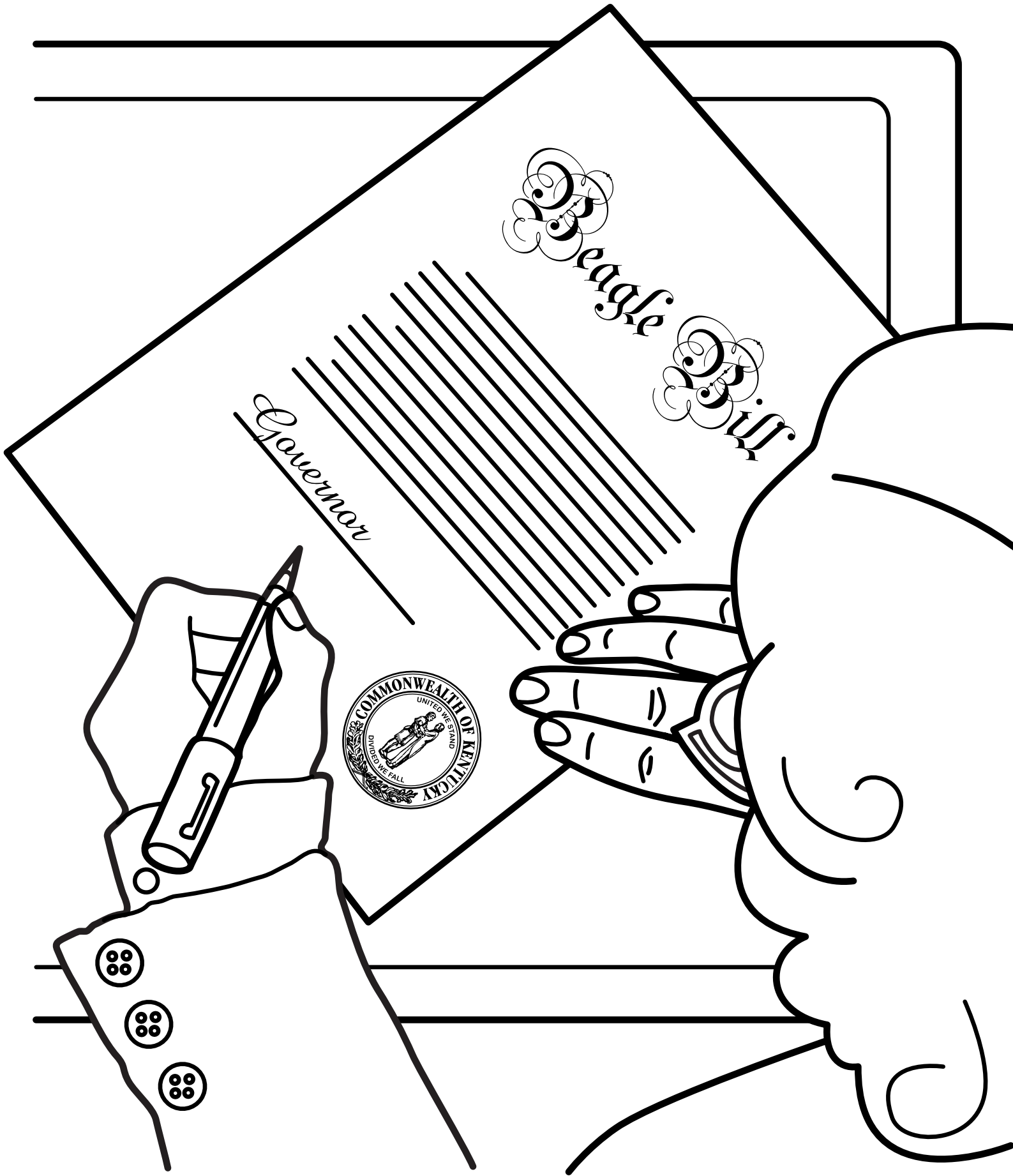
Then, all 38 Senators agreed with the committee and voted to make the beagle the state dog!

The bill then went to the House of Representatives so it could study the idea too.



**House of Representatives**

All 100 Representatives liked the idea and voted to make the beagle the state dog! Next, the bill went to the Governor to study the idea.



The Governor liked the idea of making the beagle the state dog and signed the bill.

**It's a law!**  
**The Beagle: Kentucky's state dog.**



**Julia and Michael had an idea and worked to make it happen!**



The beagle's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

# Road To Passage...



1

Bill is introduced in the Senate or House of Representatives. Revenue and tax bills must begin in the House.

2

Committee on Committees sends bill to a committee for study.

3

Bill is acted upon in committee or ignored and left to die.



4

Bill is given its first reading and placed on the calendar.

7

If approved, bill is sent to the other chamber, where it goes through the same process.

6

Rules Committee places on Orders of the Day, or sends bill back to committee for more study.

5

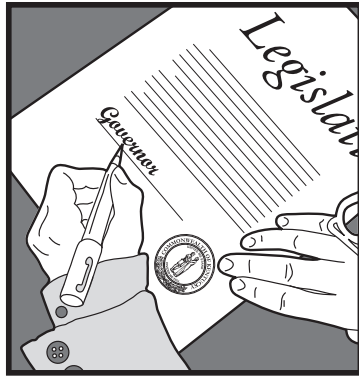
Bill is given its second reading and sent to the Rules Committee.

8

If the two chambers pass different versions of the same bill, they may appoint a conference committee to work out the differences and send a final bill back to each chamber.

9

If passed by both chambers, bill goes to the governor.



10

Bill is signed by the governor into law, becomes law without signature, or is vetoed.

11

If bill is vetoed, it goes back to each chamber. If approved by a constitutional majority in each chamber, the veto is overridden and the bill becomes law.



## Glossary

**Amendment** - A change to an existing bill. Amendments can be as simple as changing a few words or as complex as re-writing the entire bill.

**Bill** - A written proposal to create or change a law. Most bills can become a law only if two-fifths of the members elected to each chamber vote for it.

**Budget** - A bill that determines the state's taxes and spending. Budget bills generally begin in the House.

**Committee on Committees** - A group of legislative leaders that assigns each bill to the appropriate committee for study.

**Calendar** - A list of bills that have had one reading and are ready for a second reading (to become a law, bills must have three readings).

**Constitutional Majority** - Half of all the members of a chamber, plus one. A constitutional majority is needed to pass certain types of bills as well as to override a governor's veto.

**Floor** - Where each chamber meets. The term is also used to refer to each chamber as a whole, such as, "sending a bill to the House floor."

**Simple Majority** - Half of all the votes cast, plus one.

**Orders of the Day** - A list of bills and resolutions that are ready in each chamber to be debated and/or adopted that day.

**Rules Committee** - A group of legislative leaders and other members that prepares the Orders of the Day.

**Statute** - Another word for a law.

**Veto** - The governor's rejection of a bill passed by the General Assembly. If each chamber then approves the bill again by a constitutional majority vote, the veto is overridden and the bill becomes law.



# Get Involved

**Look** around at the problems you see in Kentucky.

**Listen** to different solutions and ideas.

**Learn** as much as you can about the problems and the different solutions.

**Just because you are not old enough to vote doesn't mean you can't have a voice in Kentucky government.**

## **Talk to someone who can vote.**

Share your feelings and ideas with your parents, neighbors, friends, relatives, and community leaders.

## **Join forces!**

Work with other people or groups that have the same ideas that you have and tell them to contact their legislators.

## **Write your legislator.**

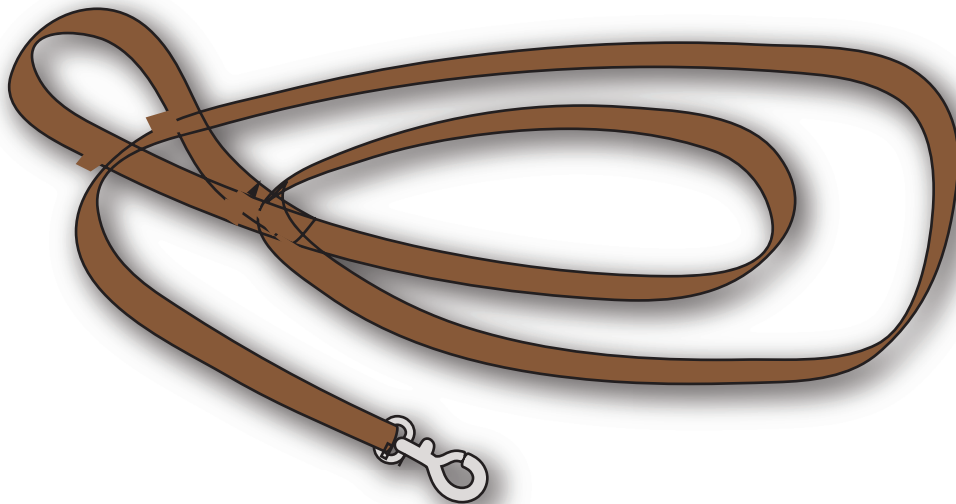
You may contact your state legislator about a current law, a law that is being considered, or an idea you have for a law. One of the best ways to share your ideas or concerns is to write your legislators a letter.

Find your legislators' addresses on our website:

[legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov)







700 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601  
[legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov)