

2024
Senate Utilities
Committee Rules

The purpose of these rules is to facilitate the understanding for members of the committee and the public in reviewing the flow of legislation through this committee. The chairperson reserves the right at any time to change the committee rules and unless stated to the contrary herein, Robert's Rules of Order will apply.

PROTOCOL OF MEETING AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Items listed on the agenda shall be brought before the committee as announced by the chairperson. However, the chairperson may make any changes, bring the discussion and vote on any bills previously heard at any time. Any listed item on the agenda may be removed at any time by the chairperson.
2. The Chairperson reserves the right to limit testimony that is cumulative in nature and may limit testimony, when necessary, to a specific number of minutes.
3. No conferee shall be interrupted during the presentation of their testimony, except with the permission of the chairperson.
4. Questioning of a conferee shall be limited to the subject matter on the agenda for the day, except as may otherwise be allowed by the chairperson.
5. No bill shall be taken up for a committee vote unless announced by the chairperson.
6. Original motions shall be in order when a bill is pending for consideration. A substitute motion is in order, but no additional substitute motions shall be in order until disposal of the prior substitute motion. A motion requires a second to be in order.
7. Amendments to motions are not in order except upon consent of the member making the motion and her or his second.
8. An amendment to a bill must be "germane" to the area of law that is being proposed or changed. Since committees serve the purpose of examining the issues for which there may be multiple solutions or approaches, "germaneness" will be interpreted as broadly as possible. Only the chairperson shall determine if an amendment is "germane."

9. Granting excused absences is reserved to the chairperson.
10. Any bill requested for introduction must have an RS number.
11. The chairperson reserves the right to take such action as may be necessary to prevent disruptive behavior.
12. There shall be no recorded committee votes on committee action. However, any committee member may request her or his individual vote be recorded.
13. A motion to report a bill out of committee shall not be in order until amendments, which have been prepared by the Office of Revisor of Statutes and reported to the chairperson in advance of the meeting, have been considered.
14. A motion to reconsider a previous motion shall only be made by a member voting on the prevailing side of the original motion. A simple majority vote shall be required to reconsider a previous motion.
15. The chairperson shall set the committee agenda, including the scheduling and order of business.
16. A motion to “table a bill” shall be in order at any time a bill is taken up by the chairperson for discussion. The motion to “table a bill” is non-debatable and requires a simple majority vote. The chairperson may refuse to accept a motion to table a bill, take from the table or move a bill out of committee.
17. A motion to “take from the table” shall be in order only when such an item is on the agenda or is taken up by the chairperson. The affirmative vote of a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority shall be required for adoption of a motion to take from the table.
18. All committee members are encouraged to be in the committee room during the committee meetings. Members may only vote and participate in working on a bill if present in the committee room. Members may participate via WebEx for hearings, but must be in the statehouse, to be recorded as “present.” The chairperson reserves the right to revise or suspend this rule if the chairperson determines it is necessary or prudent to do so.
19. A motion to report a bill “without recommendation” shall not be in order.
20. All powers, duties and responsibilities not addressed above are reserved by the chairperson.