

COMMITTEE RULES
2015
SENATE
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The purpose of these rules is to facilitate the understanding of members of the Committee and the public in reviewing the flow of legislation through this committee. Unless stated to the contrary herein, the 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 bring the discussion, and possible vote any bills previously heard at any time. Any listed item on the agenda may be removed, at any time by the Chairperson.
2. Committee conferees are expected to make every effort to provide 35 copies of written and a digital PDF copy of testimony to the committee assistant at least 24 hours before the beginning of committee meeting. Otherwise it is most appreciated if other arrangements may be made as early as possible.
3. Original motions shall be in order when a bill is pending for consideration. A motion requires a second to be an order. A substitute motion will not be allowed. Amendments to motions are not in order unless approved by the Chairperson.
4. 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".
5. The question of adjournment shall be reserved to the Chairperson and no motion to adjourn shall be entertained.
6. 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 majority vote of members present to pass. A successful motion to "table a bill" shall lay the bill over a minimum of one day. The Chairperson may refuse to accept a motion to table a bill or move a bill out of committee.
7. A motion to "take from the table" shall be in order only when such item is on the agenda or is taken up by the Chairperson. The motion requires a simple majority and is non-debatable , unless debate is approved by the Chairperson.
8. A motion to report a bill "without recommendation" shall not be in order.

9. A motion to reconsider a previous successful motion shall only be made by a member voting on the prevailing side of the original motion. A simple majority vote of members present shall be required to reconsider a previous successful motion.
10. A motion to report a bill out of committee shall not be in order until amendments, which have been prepared by the Reviser of Statutes Office, reported to the Chairperson in advance of the meeting, have been considered.
11. No conferee shall be interrupted, except by the Chairperson, during presentation of their testimony.
12. Questioning of a conferee shall be limited to the subject matter on the agenda for the day unless approved by the Chairperson. If the questioning of a conferee by a committee member goes beyond “reasonableness”, the Chairperson may discontinue the committee member’s questioning of that conferee.
13. There shall be no recorded committee votes on committee action. Any committee member may request their individual vote be recorded on a bill or procedure.
14. The Chairperson shall set the Committee Agenda, including the scheduling and order of business.
15. All requests for committee bills shall only be made by the committee members or state agencies.
16. All seating will be assigned by the Chairperson.
17. Granting of excused absences is reserved by the Chairperson. Prior notification of absences shall be communicated to the committee assistant, Michael Welton (296-7358). Any absence is recorded as such by the committee assistant unless Chairperson makes an exception.
18. Visitors, conferees and media are asked to discuss intentions to electronically record any of the committee proceedings in advance of the meeting with the committee assistant.
19. All powers, duties and responsibilities not addressed above are reserved by the Chairperson.