



# FLORIDA MODEL LEGISLATURE

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The Legislative Process



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The Committee Proceedings

# PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEE SESSIONS

- Committees are lead by a Chair and Vice Chair/Co-Chair designated by the House/Senate Leadership prior to the conference. Chair's preside over all committee meetings.
  - Committee Chair will be assisted by a secretary at the chair's discretion.
- Bills can be created within a committee with approval from the presiding chamber officer
- Bills are debated and amended in committees as necessary
- Committee reports are given to the Clerk/Secretary on the action taken in committee who sends the information to the Rules and Calendar Committee which is charged with creating the Special Order Calendar



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# COMMITTEES – COMMITTEE AGENDA

- Ensuring Bill Sponsorship
  - Committee chair ensures all bills on the calendar have a sponsor
- Order of Business
  - Call committee to order
  - Take roll and announce quorum (majority of members present and voting)
  - Explain the ranking of bills on the committee calendar.\*
    - Bills are ranked in order of importance with the most important issue being discussed first and so forth. Ranking is completed prior to opening session by Chamber Leadership.
  - Vote on Consent Calendar



# COMMITTEES – BILL RANKING & ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

- Committee Chair and the House Speaker/Senate President shall set the initial committee consent calendar prior to the start of the organizational session. Committee members shall vote/approve the consent calendar at the start of the organizational session and proceed to bill review.
- Each committee member will review the bills in their committee. Prior to consent calendar approval, a bill may be moved around by using the appropriate motion (**SEE MOTIONS/RULES OF PROCEDURE**).
- The Committee Chair will have the authority to set/limit debate to pro/con or convene as a whole for open debate.



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# COMMITTEES – COMMITTEE AGENDA

- Bill Review/Debate
  - Each sponsor presents their bill to the committee and take non-debatable technical questions
  - Lobbyist or members of the public present may testify on the bill
  - Members debate (pro/con or convene as a whole)
- Bill amendments
  - Chair will ask for any amendments
  - Amendment sponsor presents amendment, much like bill is presented
  - Members vote on the amendment (favorable amendment becomes part of the bill, unfavorable does not)
- Bill sponsor closes the bill
  - Committee members will then vote on the bills presented
    - Note that, bills with a favorable consensus will be sent to the floor, those reported as non-favorable will not.
- Members vote
- Repeat process for all bills in the committee
- After bills are voted on, those passed will be re-ranked in their order of priority. This will be sent to the chamber leadership.



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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Thank You!
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