FLORIDA MODEL LEGISLATURE

The Legislative Process
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
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
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.
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.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

• Thank You!
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