

Passing Legislation: Committee Proceedings

Referring of the Bills in Session

- A bill is referred to its appropriate committee by the Speaker/President. The committee will then go through the bill to see if it is applicable law, and will go through many processes to get through the house and senate floor, and come before the governor to either be signed, allowed to become law without a signature or vetoed.
- Once referred, the committee has a number of duties to make sure the legislation is considered by citizens, lobbyist, and any other concerned group or individual.

Committee Meetings - Quorum and Consent Calendar

- A quorum must be taken with at least a majority of the members present to be able to make any legislation passing or failing official. The secretary of the committee (appointed by committee chair) will take the quorum.
- The Chair will then ask for the bills which have been referred to the committee to be read for the first time by title only. The bills will be read in order that they are coded.
- After all bills have been read for the first time by title only, the committee shall vote on the consent calendar¹. This will be the order that legislation is discussed. After the consent calendar has been set, a member may move a bill on the calendar, at the Chair's discretion, by a motion to suspend the rules (with the required votes) to make the change.

Committee Meetings - Public and Private Input

- After the consent calendar has been set, The Chair will then yield the floor to the bill sponsor(s) for opening remarks and **non-debatable technical** questions of the sponsor. The Chair will yield the floor for an appropriate time to lobbyist and citizens wishing to speak on the legislation. The chair may also limit this questioning period to an appropriate time. This will happen for every bill.

Committee Meetings - Debate, Amendments, and Favorable/Unfavorable

- After public and private input has been completed, the chair will yield to representatives or senators to ask any follow-up **non-debatable** questions of the bill sponsor, if necessary. The sponsor may yield to all questions or take them one by one.
- The Chair will then ask for debate in the form of timed pro/con speakers, which may be extended if necessary. Once debate has been exhausted, the committee shall review and debate on any amendments that have been brought forth ([please note the motions which will table amendments](#)). A vote on amendments will take place before the bill is passed with a Favorable (yea) or unfavorable vote (nay). Members of the committee may not abstain unless direct personal gains will be made from the legislation, meaning that only Yeas and Nays should be counted. Before the committee can adjourn, they must pass and collect ballots on preference for being placed on the House/Senate Consent Calendar.

¹ This Consent Calendar will only be for Your Committee, The House Speaker and Senate President will set the consent calendars for their respective legislative meetings.