

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Rules of Procedure
(In Addition to the House Rules of Order, Revised Statutes, and Constitutional provisions)
Adopted February 27, 2024

I. Quorum

If no quorum has been obtained within 30 minutes immediately following the posted time of the meeting, the committee may adjourn.

II. Committee Decorum

A. All members and witnesses shall conduct themselves in a decorous manner.

B. Upon commencement of the meeting, no person other than legislators or legislative staff may come on the dais or approach where the committee members are seated.

C. Cell phones or other electronic devices with audible tones must be turned off or muted during a committee meeting. Cell phone use is not allowed during committee. All persons, including members, should step out of the committee room to place or receive a call.

III. Authorization to Present Instrument

Any person, other than a co-author of a bill presenting the bill on behalf of the author, shall first obtain and deliver to the committee secretary or the chairman written authorization containing the date, bill number, presenter's name, and the author's signature.

IV. Witness, Oath, Testimony, and Documentation

A. No person shall be allowed to address the committee without first signing and delivering to the committee secretary a witness card stating his name, agency, organization or other interest represented, address, and the legislative instrument or other matter for which he is appearing.

B. All testimony shall be delivered, under oath, from the witness table after recognition by the chairman.

C. In accordance with House Rule 14.33, a prepared statement may be submitted and filed in the committee records. Any statement containing statistical information shall cite the source thereof.

D. All handouts for presentation to the committee shall be of sufficient number for distribution to each committee member and three staff members.

V. Amendments

Lengthy or complicated amendments, including in the form of a substitute bill, shall be requested or prepared and delivered to committee staff with sufficient time for the staff to prepare the amendments and make the amendments available to committee members and the public at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting. If not timely submitted and made available to committee members and the public at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, the chairman may refuse the amendments and proceed with the hearing on the instrument or cause the instrument to be voluntarily deferred. Staff is authorized to make purely technical corrections to amendments adopted by the committee, subject to review by the chairman.

VI. Hearing Procedure

Unless otherwise determined by the chairman, instruments on the agenda will be heard under the following procedure:

A. Determination of the necessity of a fiscal note or technical amendments.

B. The author or his designee will be heard on the instrument. At the author's request, discussion of the bill may include any amendments proposed by the author and offered on his behalf by a member of the committee. Thereafter, committee members may question the author on the legislation.

C. Amendments submitted by the author will be considered before other amendments. Otherwise, amendments will be considered in the order submitted.

D. Proponents of the legislation will be heard as nearly as practicable in the order in which they submitted witness cards followed by questions by committee members.

E. Opponents of the legislation will be heard as nearly as practicable in the order in which they submitted witness cards followed by questions by committee members.

F. If there are any amendments offered after the testimony of witnesses, the chairman may allow additional testimony upon request.

G. Closing or rebuttal by the author; questions by the committee members at the discretion of the chairman.

H. Motions relative to reporting the instrument.

I. Motion to recommend placement in special order.

VII. Motions

It is within the discretion of the chairman to entertain motions while testimony is pending.

VIII. Voting

During a roll call vote no member may withhold his vote or "pass". Unless he has recused himself, each member shall cast his vote when his name is called and the committee secretary shall repeat the member's vote as either "yes" or "no".

IX. Time Limitations

At the discretion of the chairman or upon majority vote of its members, the committee may adopt equitable time limitations on members or witnesses, or both.

X. Committee Rules

The Rules of Order of the House govern all questions of committee procedure. In the absence of an applicable House Rule, these Committee Rules shall govern. All other questions shall be decided by the chairman who may consult Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure.