

COMMITTEE RULES  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON, Chair  
2017-18 SESSION

1. The Chair shall preside at meetings when present, except when the committee is considering a bill of which he or she is the sole or lead author. Whenever the Chair is not presiding, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair. In the absence of both, a member designated by the Chair shall preside.
2. The committee shall meet in regular session on the day and hour designated by the Committee on Rules. With permission of the Rules Committee, special meetings may be called by the Chair by giving reasonable notice to all members of the committee and specifying the matters to be considered at the meeting. The notice provisions of Joint Rule 62 (a) apply. No matters shall be considered at a special meeting other than those specified in the notice.
3. (a) Four members shall constitute a quorum. No bill shall be voted out of committee except on the affirmative vote of four members. The affirmative vote of four members shall be required to table a bill, remove it from the table, or reconsider a vote on a bill. However, a bill may be amended by a majority of those present and voting.  
  
(b) The committee may, with the unanimous consent of the members present, substitute a roll call from the prior bill, provided that the members whose votes are substituted are present at the time of the substitution.
4. No action shall be taken on any bill outside of a duly constituted committee meeting.
5. The Chair shall set the hearing of the bills and arrange the calendar for committee hearings. Notice of hearing of bills shall be given to the author and any other persons requesting notice. A bill shall not be considered in the absence of the author without his or her consent. However, bills may be presented by the author's representative if the representative is authorized in writing by the author.
6. A bill may be set for hearing only three times. A bill is "set" whenever notice of the hearing has been published in the file for one or more days. If a bill is set for hearing and the hearing is postponed at the committee's initiation and not the author's, the setting for hearing of the bill shall not be counted as one of the three times a bill may be set. If the hearing notice in the file specifically indicates that "testimony only" will be taken, the committee may not vote on the bill at that hearing.
7. Bills, including constitutional amendments and resolutions, shall be heard by the committee in file order, unless specially set by the Chair at the Chair's discretion.
8. (a) Meetings shall be open to the public, except where otherwise provided or permitted by statute or rule.

(b) Representatives of the press shall be permitted to transcribe, record, and photograph the proceedings for news purposes; provided that, with the permission of the Chair, supplementary lighting may be used only when existing lighting is deemed inadequate. Televising equipment shall not impede the committee proceedings. Notice shall be provided to the committee Chair pursuant to Senate Rule 21.8 when audio recording equipment or television cameras will be present and taping or filming.

The Chair may request any person to relocate or remove any object, or discontinue the use of any equipment, which is situated or used in such a manner as to disrupt the proceedings or obstruct the view of members of the committee or the public.

In case any person fails to respond to such a request of the Chair to relocate, remove, or discontinue the use of such objects or equipment, the committee may, by majority vote, require it.

9. The Chair shall direct the order of presentation of the arguments for and against matters for consideration by the committee. He or she shall permit questions to be asked by the various members of the committee in an orderly fashion and in keeping with proper decorum. The Chair shall expedite all business of the committee in an orderly and efficient manner.
10. The Chair may, or at the request of any committee member or author of a bill shall, order a call of the committee. If the committee adjourns while operating under a call, the call shall be dispensed with and any pending vote shall be announced.
11. Further consideration of a bill which has been voted out of the committee, held in committee, or defeated shall be by reconsideration only, as follows:
  - (a) Bills voted out: A motion to reconsider a vote by which a bill is voted out shall be in order and shall be voted upon at the same meeting. If the motion is carried by the affirmative vote of four members of the committee, the bill may be considered at the meeting, if the author is present, or at a subsequent meeting.
  - (b) Bills defeated in committee: A motion to reconsider a bill which has been defeated or held in committee may be taken up only after notice is published in the Daily File unless the vote is taken at the same meeting at which the vote to be reconsidered was taken and the author is present.
  - (c) Any bill which has been defeated and granted reconsideration shall not be heard again until a subsequent meeting of the committee, after being calendared in the Daily File and notice being given in the manner as that required for its initial hearing. This requirement shall not apply to a bill which has been voted out of committee, granted reconsideration, and considered at the same meeting pursuant to subdivision (a) of this rule.
  - (d) No bill which failed passage shall be granted reconsideration more than once.

12. Any bill which has been laid on the table and is removed from the table at a later meeting shall not be heard again until a subsequent meeting of the committee after being calendared in the Daily File and after notice.
13. With permission of the Rules Committee, the Chair may appoint, from the members of the committee, a subcommittee of one or more members to consider and recommend action to the full committee on any matter which may be assigned to the subcommittee for consideration from time to time by the Chair. The Chair may assign and reassign members of, and matters to, the various subcommittees. The recommendation of a subcommittee may be accepted by the affirmative vote of four members of the committee.
14. (a) Unless waived by the Chair upon written request and good cause stated by the author, author's amendments proposed for a bill set for hearing shall be delivered to the committee assistant no later than by 2 p.m. on the Friday two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing date of the bill. Proposed amendments shall be in Legislative Counsel Form.  
  
(b) Author's Amendments offered during a hearing that are found by the Chair to raise substantive issues shall cause the bill to be sent out to print and heard at a subsequent meeting of the committee. In extraordinary cases and in the interest of fairness, the Chair may elect to consider the bill with the proposed author's amendments at the same hearing.
15. (a) The committee assistant shall send a background sheet to the author of any bill referred to the Judiciary Committee. The author or his or her representative shall complete and return the completed background sheet and information to the committee assistant within seven (7) calendar days of receipt. If the proposed bill sets forth legislative findings or declarations, the author shall include within the provided background information all necessary records, reports, studies, and other documentation in support of the proposed findings or declarations. If the completed background sheet is not returned to the committee assistant within the specified timeframe, that failure shall be deemed to be a request from the author to continue the bill to another hearing. In that event, the bill shall be reset for hearing at a later date unless the bill has been set for hearing on three prior occasions.  
  
(b) A copy of any record, report, research memorandum or article, survey, statistic, study or other material cited by an author or a witness testifying before the committee shall have been provided to the committee consultant assigned to analyze the bill at least seven (7) business days prior to the scheduled hearing date of the bill.  
  
(i) Failure to comply with this requirement shall prevent the introduction and consideration of such record, report, research memorandum or article, survey, statistic, study or other material. In addition, the Chair may order the hearing on the bill postponed unless, in the interest of fairness, the Chair elects to consider the bill at the hearing with an admonishment to the offending witness that the

proffered testimony is in violation of committee rules and cannot be presented to the committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chair may in the interest of fairness allow the consideration of any material which would be subject to judicial notice if such material were presented in a court of law.

(ii) If a bill is removed from the hearing file due to non-compliance by the author or an author's witness with the provisions of this section, the bill may not be reset for hearing until compliance is achieved.

16. Any bill that proposes the creation of a pilot project shall contain the following specific requirements:

(a) A statement of purpose of the proposed pilot project which specifically states the goals or objectives of the project.

(b) Precise cost projections and methods by which savings, if any, may be calculated.

(c) A definitive mechanism by which the value and success, if any, of the project may be quantified. This mechanism shall include specific numerical objectives which must be met or exceeded if a project is to be judged successful.

17. Pursuant to Section 9080 of the Government Code, the Committee shall preserve its current legislative records and may lodge its older legislative records with the State Archives. Legislative records that are in the Committee's possession are open to reasonable opportunities for inspection and copying by the public in the Committee's office, Room 2187 of the State Capitol, during normal office hours. The Committee's legislative records that are lodged with the State Archives are open to inspection and copying by the public, subject to the procedures established by the Secretary of State.

18. In all cases not provided for by these rules, the Rules of the Senate, the Joint Rules, statute, or the Constitution, the authority shall be Mason's Manual.