

COMMITTEE RULES

2013

KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of these rules is to facilitate the understanding of members of the Committee and the public in reviewing the flow of legislation through this committee. Unless stated to the contrary herein, the rules of the House or Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure will apply.

PROTOCOL OF MEETING & COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Unless otherwise stated, committee meetings shall begin promptly at 9AM once there is a quorum of the members present.
2. Items listed on the agenda shall be brought before the committee as announced by the chair. However, the chair may bring to discussion, and possible vote any bills previously heard at any time. Any listed item on the agenda may be removed, at any time by the chair.
3. Original motions shall be in order when a bill is pending for consideration. A motion requires a second to be in order. A substitute motion will not be allowed. Amendments to motions are not in order unless approved by the Chair.
4. An amendment to a bill must be "germane" to the area of law that is being proposed or changed. Since committees serve the purpose of examining issues for which there may be multiple solutions or approaches, "germaneness" will be interpreted as broadly as possible. Only the Chair shall determine if an amendment is "germane".
5. The question of adjournment shall be reserved to the Chair and no motion to adjourn shall be entertained.
6. A motion to "table a bill" shall be in order at any time a bill is taken up by the chair for discussion. The motion to "table a bill" is non-debatable and requires a majority vote of members present to pass. A successful motion to "table a bill" shall lay the bill over a minimum of one day. The Chair may refuse to accept a motion to table a bill or move a bill out of committee.
7. A motion to "take from the table" shall be in order only when such item is on the agenda or is taken up by the Chair. The motion requires a simple majority and is non-debatable, unless debate is approved by the chair.

8. A motion to report a bill “without recommendation” shall not be in order.
9. A motion to reconsider a previous successful motion shall only be made by a member voting on the prevailing side of the original motion. A simple majority vote of members present shall be required to reconsider a previous successful motion.
10. A motion to report a bill out of committee shall not be in order until all amendments, which have been prepared by the Revisor of Statutes office reported to the chairman in advance of the meeting, have been considered.
11. No conferee shall be interrupted, except by the chair, during presentation of their testimony. Questioning of a conferee shall be limited to the subject matter on the agenda for the day unless approved by the Chair. If the questioning of a conferee by a committee member goes beyond “reasonableness”, the chair may discontinue the committee member’s questioning of that conferee. Conferees and members shall be respectful of one another. If someone is causing a disturbance to the committee meeting, they will be warned once prior to removal.
12. There shall be no recorded committee votes on committee action. Any committee member may request their individual vote be recorded on a bill.
13. The Chair shall set the Committee Agenda, including scheduling, the order of business, and the adjourning of meetings.
14. All requests for committee bills shall only be made by committee members or state agencies.
15. All seating will be assigned by the Chair.
16. Granting of excused absences is reserved to the chair. Prior notification of absences shall be communicated to the committee assistant, Jill Martin (6-7647). Any absence by a member not requesting an excused absence shall be an unexcused absence and recorded as such by the committee assistant unless the Chair makes an exception.
17. All cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices, in the committee room shall be in “silent” mode and use of cell phones in the committee room will not be permitted. The owner of any cell phone that rings during a committee meeting shall provide apples or oranges for all committee members and staff.
18. Photography, including cell phones, video, and audio taping is prohibited unless approved in advance by the Chair.
19. Committee members may bring snacks or beverages into the committee room so long as it does not cause any problems.
20. All powers, duties and responsibilities not addressed above are reserved to the Chair.

