

Committee Rules
2013
Kansas Senate
Committee on Education

Protocol of Meeting & Committee Information

1. 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. The Chair may remove any listed item on the agenda, at any time.
2. 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.
3. 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”.
4. The question of adjournment shall be reserved to the Chair and no motion to adjourn shall be entertained.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. A motion to report a bill “without recommendation” shall not be in order.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. No conferee shall be interrupted, except by the Chair, during presentation of their testimony.
11. The Chair reserves the right to limit testimony that is cumulative in nature and may limit testimony, when necessary, to a specific number of minutes.
12. 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 the conferee.
13. There shall be no recorded committee votes on committee action. Any committee member may request their individual vote be recorded on a bill.
14. The Chair shall set the Committee Agenda, including scheduling and the order of business.
15. All requests for committee bills shall only be made by committee members or state agencies.
16. All seating for the committee will be assigned by the Chair.
17. Granting of excused absences is reserved to the Chair. Prior notification of absences shall be communicated to the committee assistant, Erna Fabert (296-7381). 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. Any member that arrives after the gavel start of the meeting shall notify the committee assistant of their arrival in a fashion that does not detract from presentations or conferees.
18. 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.
19. Photography, including cell phones, video, and audiotaping shall be in a fashion that does not detract from presentations or conferees.
20. The Chair reserves the right to take such action as may be necessary to prevent disruptive behavior in the committee room during hearings and deliberations.
21. All powers, duties, and responsibilities not addressed above are reserved to the Chair.