

Principal Rules & Practices

FOR HOUSE COMMITTEES



Applicable Rules

Rules 10(c), 67(e) & 98



Committees are governed by the House Rules, and a committee may *not* suspend any rule.

The Chair may adopt procedural rules that must be approved by the Speaker, filed with the Clerk, and provided to each member of the committee.

Referral to Committee

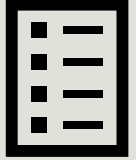
Rules 18 & 78(d)



Bills, resolutions, amendments, and some motions are automatically referred to the **Rules Committee**, which may then refer them to a **standing or special committee**.

Referral to a standing or special committee is *not* automatic.

Only Posted Measures May be Considered



Rule 21

Committees, including subcommittees, may consider only the legislative measures that are referred to the committee and included on the list of items posted for the hearing.

There is no requirement that the Chair post all measures in committee for a hearing.

Committee Notice Requirements



Rule 21(a)


Bill, Resolution, Subject Matter	Committee Amendment	Floor Amendment, Concurrence Motion
6-Days Notice	If Filed by Deadline May Be Added to Hearing Notice at Any Time	One-Hour Notice

Committee Amendment Requirements

Rules 21(a) and 40(d)

May be filed *after* the Rules Committee has referred the bill or resolution to committee.

May be added to the notice for a posted hearing if:

- ✓ Filed by **3:00 p.m.** on the business day before the hearing 
- ✓ The Rules Committee has referred the amendment to committee
- ✓ The bill or resolution is posted for that hearing

Suspension of Committee Notice Rule

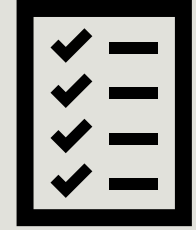
Rule 21(e)

By a vote of the House, the requirement for **6-days** notice may be suspended to allow the consideration of additional bills resolutions at a scheduled hearing.



Agenda

Rule 10(c)



The Chair determines which posted measures will be considered at the hearing and the order of consideration.

The Chair is not required to provide for committee consideration of every item posted for a hearing.

Late Arrivals & Replacements

Rules 10(b) & 49



When a member arrives after the attendance roll call, the Chair must add them to the roll before they may vote.

Temporary replacements may be appointed at any time for members who are not available for all or a portion of a hearing, and the Chair must add them to the roll in the same manner.

Testimony During Vote



The Chair will sometimes “open the roll” for the vote on the pending measure while witnesses are still providing testimony. This allows members to vote before departing for another hearing occurring at the same time. Witness testimony on the measure will continue while the “roll is open.”

Membership Changes During a Vote

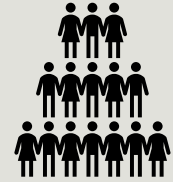


Rule 49

The Chair may add late arrivals and temporary replacement members to the committee attendance roll *during a roll call vote* on a bill, resolution, or motion, and those members may participate in that vote.

Quorum & Vote Requirements

Rules 22(a), 32(a), 40(a) & 102(13)



A “**majority of those appointed**” is defined as a majority of the total authorized voting membership for a committee.

This number is (1) the quorum requirement, and (2) the vote necessary for most actions of the committee, such as reporting bills and resolutions and adopting committee amendments. Vacancies do *not* reduce this number.

Second Chance Votes

Rule 22(g) & Rule 24



Motions to favorably report legislative measures from committee are renewable. So, if the “Do Pass” or “Be Adopted” motion fails, **a second vote is allowed** at the same meeting or a later meeting when the measure is posted. If the second vote fails, the measure will be automatically tabled.

Voting Shortcuts



Committee amendments are usually adopted by **voice vote**. When voting on a motion to report a measure from committee, the Chair may ask for “leave” to use the *attendance roll call* (all members voting in the affirmative), or alternatively the *partisan roll call* (all Democrats voting one way and all Republicans voting the opposite way). Otherwise, a roll call vote is required.

Principal Sponsors

Rule 22(f)



No vote will be taken on a measure unless the Principal Sponsor is present, or the Principal Sponsor authorizes the **Chair, Spokesperson**, or a **Chief Co-sponsor** to present the measure, and the committee consents.

Action on Amendments

Rules 18(e), 22(a), 40(b) and (g) & 72(a)



When a committee adopts a *committee* amendment, it immediately becomes part of the bill; when a committee considers other measures, such as *floor* amendments and motions to concur with *Senate* amendments, the committee is only making a recommendation, and a vote of the House is still required.

Subject Matter

Rules 21 & 32(a)

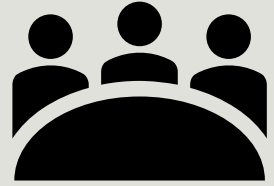


In addition to legislative measures, a committee may hold hearings on an identified “subject matter.” These hearings are limited to testimony and discussion, and a quorum need *not* be present.

As with bills and resolutions, the hearing notice requirement is **6 days**.

Opportunity to Testify

Rule 26



Any person wishing to offer testimony must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, but the Chair may set time limits on oral testimony.

The Chair may allow remote witness testimony when the committee location has the required equipment.

Reconvened Committee Hearings

Rule 21(a)(1)



If the committee **recesses**, rather than adjourns, posted measures remain eligible for consideration at any reconvened meetings of the committee that week. When the House adjourns for the week, the notice expires and committees cannot reconvene.

The **attendance roll call** is not taken at reconvened meetings; the roll call from the previous meeting remains in effect.