

Senate Public Safety Committee

Jesse Arreguín, Chair

2025 - 2026 COMMITTEE RULES

SETTING BILLS

- 1) The Committee shall set the hearings of the bills and arrange the calendar for committee hearings. Notice of hearing of the bills shall be given to the author and any other persons requesting notice. Bills shall not be considered in the absence of the author without their consent. However, bills may be presented by the author's representative if authorized. A registered lobbyist, however, shall not present a bill before the committee under any circumstances.
- 2) 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 committee, on its own initiation and not the author's, postpones the hearing on the bill or adjourns the hearing while testimony is being taken, such hearing 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 and such hearing shall not be counted as one of the three times a bill may be set.

HEARINGS

- 1) The Chair shall preside at hearings when present, except when the committee is considering a bill of which they are 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. Upon approval by the Senate Committee on Rules, special hearings may be called at any time by the Chair by giving reasonable notice to all members of the committee and specifying the matters to be considered at the hearing. The notice provisions of Joint Rule 62 (a) apply. No matters shall be considered at a special hearing other than those specified in the notice.

VOTING

- 1) A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum. No bill shall be voted out of committee except on the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the committee. The affirmative vote of a majority of the committee membership 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.

- 2) The committee may substitute, with the unanimous consent of the members present, a roll call from the prior bill, provided that the members whose votes are substituted are present at the time of the substitution.
- 3) Further consideration of a bill which has been voted out of the committee, (bills held in committee are reconsidered) 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 hearing. If the motion is carried by the affirmative vote of a majority of the committee membership, the bill may be considered at that hearing, if the author is present, or at a subsequent hearing.
 - b) Bills Defeated in Committee: After a committee has voted on a bill that has been defeated, reconsideration may be granted only one time. Reconsideration may be granted within 15 legislative days or prior to the interim study joint recess, whichever first occurs. A vote on reconsideration cannot be taken without the same notice required to set a bill unless such 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 granted reconsideration pursuant to subdivision (b) of this rule 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. However, if a bill granted reconsideration had three or more no votes then it shall only be reheard if the author has proposed amendments which, in the opinion of the Chair, are major amendments.

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

- 1) Letters of support and opposition received by the committee after 3:00 p.m. 10 days prior to the hearing of the measure may not be reflected in the committee analysis. Letters must be signed and on official letterhead reflecting the organization or association taking a position on a bill. Generally, emailed letters will be accepted pursuant to these requirements, if submitted through the advocacy portal located on the committee website by that time to be reflected in the analysis.
- 2) For measures heard in committee and recommended to the floor, it is the responsibility of the author's office and advocates to provide updated support and opposition letters to the committee, as soon as possible. Floor analyses shall reflect support and opposition on file in the committee offices no later than noon the day before the bill is eligible to be heard on the Senate floor, and presented in a format consistent with subdivision (1) above.

- 3) It is the responsibility of authors and advocates to provide the committee with any updated position letters reflecting a position change in the timeframes set forth above to ensure the accuracy of support and opposition listed in policy and floor analyses.

AMENDMENTS

- 1) Authors shall notify the committee immediately of any amendments planned to be proposed prior to the hearing. The chair retains the discretion to postpone the hearing of a bill for which amendments are planned or proposed.
- 2) Author's amendments proposed for a bill set for hearing shall be delivered to the Committee Assistant no later than by 12 P.M. 10 business days prior to the scheduled hearing date of the bill. Proposed amendments shall be in Legislative Counsel Form, signed by the author (upper right corner), and include the amendments in context.
- 3) Author's amendments that may appear to have the effect of circumventing the action of another legislative committee, or which would cause the measure to come under the jurisdiction of another Senate committee, may not be accepted by this committee unless they are determined to be known by the other committee and consistent with that committee's transparent and orderly consideration of legislative proposals. The Senate Rules Committee shall be notified of any amendment submitted to the committee which appears to circumvent the action of another committee, or fall under the jurisdiction of another Senate committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Members of the public requesting to examine Senate committee records on legislation must submit the request via email to Senate.Rules@sen.ca.gov, or by visiting 1020 N St., Room 250, Sacramento, CA 95814.