

2022 Senate Utilities Rules For Conferees

The purpose of these rules is to facilitate the understanding for members of the Committee and the public in reviewing the flow of legislation through this committee.

It is the policy of the Senate Committee to ensure and promote free and open discussion of matters coming before the Committee. Because of the importance of issues that are to be discussed, certain rules are necessary. Just as there are rules relating to the conduct of Committee business when matters are debated among Senators, the following rules apply to the hearing process itself. Any questions about these rules should be directed to the Committee Chair.

By appearing before the Committee each conferee is presumed to have read the rules and therefore has agreed to be bound by these rules. We thank you for your understanding of and compliance with these rules.

The Chairperson shall set the Committee Agenda.

Senators shall not be approached during Committee hearings or deliberation by anyone other than fellow legislative members or legislative staff.

Cellular phones and pagers with audible tones must be turned off or disabled while in the Committee room.

No food or drinks will be allowed in the Committee room by guests, spectators or conferees.

Senate Utilities Committee Meetings will be held at 1:30 pm in Room 548-S. Individuals wishing to present testimony before the Committee (in person, remotely, or written only), **MUST** provide a digital PDF copy of the testimony to the committee assistant at least **48 business hours in advance of the hearing**. If a hearing is scheduled for a Monday, testimony should be submitted by 1:30 p.m. on the preceding Thursday. If a Tuesday hearing is scheduled, the testimony is due on the preceding Friday. This gives the Committee Assistant time to print and collate the testimony. No hard copies are required until further notice.

Conferees wishing to give oral testimony must let the committee assistant know 48 business hours in advance whether they will be testifying in person, virtually, or providing written-only testimony.

Please be aware that testimony provided to the Committee will be made part of public record, including being published on the Kansas Legislature's website. Do not include any personal information such as your address, phone number or email address if you do not want this information to be part of the public record.

For those wishing to participate virtually, an invitation will be sent out by email with a link to join the meeting. Conferees who have not signed into the WebEx system previously will need to complete a few steps that will help identify them once they join the meeting. Computers, smart phones or tablets may be used for WebEx.

Testimony shall relate to the subject matter of the measure under consideration. Conferees testifying on unrelated subjects will be admonished and if unrelated testimony continues, the Chair will terminate that conferee's testimony.

Conferees shall address their remarks during testimony to Senators and staff only.

No conferee shall be interrupted, except by the Chairperson, during presentation of their testimony.

Conferees **SHOULD NOT** read their testimony. Rather, testimony should be presented in a summary fashion.

Conferees shall introduce themselves, identify on whose behalf they are appearing, identify whether they are a proponent, opponent or neutral on the bill, and as briefly as possible, state the reason for their position.

Conferees **should limit use of acronyms**. Excessive use of acronyms is confusing to members of the public listening in on live streaming. To the extent that it is possible...use the full name of the reference before using the acronym...for example explain that you will be using "RPS" to refer to "Renewable Portfolio Standards" before using the acronym in the rest of the testimony.

Where the number of hearings and/or conferees scheduled warrant time limitation, the Chair may limit testimony to a specific number of minutes.

The Chair reserves the right to limit testimony that is cumulative in nature or testimony that is, in the judgment of the Chair, not relevant to the matter under consideration.

While the taking of testimony is not preceded with the formality of an oath, by appearing before the Committee, every conferee hereby certifies that his/her testimony is truthful, based upon facts that are capable of verification and offered in good faith.

Conferees shall promptly bring to the Committee's attention any qualifications or corrections in their testimony.

Questioning of a conferee shall be limited to the subject matter on the agenda for the day unless approved by the Chairperson.

If the questioning of a conferee by a committee member goes beyond "reasonableness", the Chairperson may discontinue the committee member's questioning of that conferee.

When time is separately reserved on the agenda for proponents and opponents of an issue and the time expires for either side, the testimony shall cease.

A conferee's time limit will be determined by the number of conferees and order of business. The Chair may make exceptions for the original sponsor of a bill, legislative staff, and state agency personnel.

Conferees will be recognized in the order as established by the committee chair. No conferee will be allowed to "yield" their remaining time to another conferee. A conferee may give their entire time to another conferee, in lieu of testifying, if the Chair and/or Committee Assistant is notified prior to the start of the committee meeting.

There shall be no recording, audibly, photographically, or otherwise, of the Committee meeting during any portion of the meeting unless approved in advance by the Committee Chair.