

# **Assembly Committee on Appropriations**

## **2025-26 Committee Rules**

Subject to the Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly, the Rules of the Assembly shall govern the conduct of all committee meetings. Committees may adopt additional rules not in conflict with the Assembly Rules or the Joint Rules.

### **BILL SETTING**

Upon receipt of a bill by the committee secretary, the committee will set the bill for hearing. It is not necessary to call the committee to set a bill. Generally, the committee will not set a bill that is "pending referral."

Generally, bills set for hearing will appear in the Daily File on the Friday prior to the hearing.

Contact committee staff as soon as possible to request the committee remove a bill from the committee's hearing calendar. Generally, the committee will reset such a bill for hearing at the next committee meeting, unless arrangements are agreed to by the author and committee staff and approved by the committee chair. The committee will make every effort to accommodate a request by a bill's author to set a bill for hearing, consistent with the committee calendar and the committee's workload.

A bill may be set for hearing in Appropriations only three times, in accordance with Joint Rule 62(a).

### **AMENDMENTS**

#### **Author's Amendments**

Generally, the committee will accept author's amendments until 12:00 p.m. (noon), seven days prior to the day on which a bill is set for hearing. (Because the committee generally meets on Wednesdays, typically, this deadline will fall on a Wednesday at noon.) The committee requires author's amendments be in Legislative Counsel format and that the author submit, by the deadline, a signed original of the amendments and one "in-context" draft of the amendments, submitted electronically to the appropriate committee consultant.

To accommodate committee workload, the committee may establish deadlines for author's amendments that differ from the deadline described above. This is especially likely during Summer Recess (typically in July). The committee will attempt to advise authors and staff of modified amendment deadlines. However, it is incumbent upon each author's office to confirm amendment deadlines with the committee.

Amendments may require the committee to put a bill over to the following committee meeting. If an author offers amendments that, in the committee's opinion, make major policy changes to a bill, the committee chair may refer the bill to the Rules Committee for referral to policy committee. The committee strongly recommends authors discuss potential amendments, and share drafts of amendments, with committee staff before the amendment deadline.

### **Committee Amendments**

Appropriations Committee staff is responsible for preparing amendments adopted in committee.

### **PILOT PROJECTS**

Generally, the committee will not set for hearing any bill that, in the judgement of the committee, establishes a pilot project unless the bill specifies measurable goals, objectives, and time frames.

### **SUSPENSE FILE**

Generally, any bill with a fiscal effect in any fiscal year of \$150,000 or more (any fund source) will, by a majority of members present and voting, a quorum being present, move to the committee's suspense file, without prejudice, for further consideration. "Fiscal impact" includes any fiscal effect on any fund source, including any bill estimated to result in an annual revenue loss or gain of \$150,000 or more.

In addition, the committee, generally, will move to the suspense file any bill the committee determines has the primary purpose of creating a task force, a commission, a work group, a pilot project or a pilot project extension, a report, or a study.

This provision generally shall not apply to deficiency or supplemental appropriations bills authored by the chair of the budget committee of the Assembly or the Senate or claims or judgements or settlements bills authored by the chair of the appropriations committee of the Assembly or Senate.

Authors should present all witnesses and testimony at the time of the bill's first hearing, even if the bill's provisions indicate a likely referral to the suspense file. An author may waive their right to presentation.

The committee will hear a bill on the suspense file prior to the fiscal committee deadlines. When a bill is placed on the committee's agenda as "From Suspense File – For Vote Only," no testimony will be taken and the author need not be present.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The committee chair will, with concurrence from the committee vice chair, prepare for each hearing a proposed consent calendar of noncontroversial bills with no significant costs that received no dissenting votes in the Assembly.

The consent calendar will be made available to the public prior to the date of the hearing. Any committee member may remove a bill from consent or register a "no" vote with the secretary. If a bill is removed from the consent calendar during the hearing, the sergeants will notify the author of the need to present the bill to the committee.

## **COMMITTEE ANALYSES**

Generally, the committee analysis of a bill will be available to the public prior to the date of hearing the bill. In the case of a special hearing, analyses shall be available to the public at the beginning of the hearing.

## **AUTHOR ORDER**

Generally, the committee will accept presentations by bill authors in the order in which the authors sign in with the sergeant, except as otherwise determined by the chair. An author may take up all of their bills at the same time.

## **TESTIMONY**

The committee considers all of a bill's effects and implications. However, the only aspect of a bill under consideration during a regular-order hearing of the committee is the bill's fiscal impact. Therefore, authors should limit presentations to the fiscal implications of their bills.

## **ROLL CALL VOTES**

Bills may be passed by substituting the consent calendar vote or a previous roll call. Additions or changes to the roll will be permitted prior to adjournment of the committee, and only provided the outcome of the vote is not changed.

When the roll on a bill is called, members who are silent will be recorded as not voting.

## **COAUTHOR REVISIONS**

An author who wishes to add a coauthor to their bill may request a coauthor revision form from the committee secretary. The author must sign the form and return it to the committee prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) the day before the hearing at which the bill is scheduled to be heard. Coauthor forms approved by the chair will be submitted to the Assembly Desk when bills are reported out of committee.