

SENATE TAX, BUSINESS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been established to allow for efficiency and due diligence in regard to how the Senate Tax, Business & Transportation Committee will be conducted and how bills and confirmations will be heard. These procedures may be updated so individuals coming before STBTC are encouraged to check them throughout the legislative session.

1. Start time and Subcommittee: STBTC begins at 1:30 p.m. or 30 minutes after adjournment of the floor session. The Chair will reaffirm the start time of the meeting during Committee announcements during the floor session. If a quorum is not present at the start time, STBTC will hear the matters on the agenda as a Subcommittee, and official action will be taken once a quorum is present.
2. Lengthy Amendments and Committee Substitutes: In order to give STBTC members and analysts sufficient time to review legislation, bill sponsors shall submit lengthy amendments and proposed committee substitute bills to STBTC at least 24 hours in advance of a hearing.
3. Double Dropped Bills: If both the House and Senate introduce identical bills during the same session, STBTC will only hear one of the two bills in order to best manage time and prevent repetitive agendas. Sponsors of double dropped bills are encouraged to inform STBTC of which bill they would like heard. If sponsors do not inform STBTC of their preference, STBTC will hear the bill that is referred to STBTC first. Bills that are identical to portions of other bills that have already been heard by STBTC are likely to be treated as double dropped bills.

Public Comment and Rules for Debate

To best manage the presentation and debate of legislation and conferees, including by remote and video conferencing, the following procedures are adopted for STBTC except as otherwise modified.

1. Emailed Public Comments: To ensure everyone has a full opportunity to express an opinion on legislation and conferees under consideration, we have established a STBTC mailbox, where written comments of up to 300 words may be emailed in advance of an STBTC meeting. Comments should be emailed to STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov. Committee members will be provided with these comments prior to committee hearings.
2. Sponsor and Proponent Advocacy: Bill sponsors, and their experts or proponents, shall have a total of 20 minutes to present the bill. Sponsors are encouraged to use 10 minutes to present the bill and 10 minutes to organize support or public comment as coordinated by the sponsor, however sponsors have the option to use their total of 20 minutes as they choose. Sponsors shall organize their presentation with as many experts or speakers as they wish. Sponsors shall identify their speakers and the order of speaking in writing to the STBTC Committee Secretary at least 1 hour in advance of the scheduled hearing by sending an email to STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov.

Persons wishing to speak in support of legislation shall coordinate with the sponsors. The sponsors shall designate those who will speak and shall limit or interrupt their own speakers as necessary to meet time constraints.

Sponsors may also reserve any part of their time for a rebuttal after any opposition.

3. Organized Opposition: STBTC recommends opponents of legislation organize and designate a spokesperson to coordinate one or more speakers in opposition. A coordinated opposition shall have up to 15 minutes for opposition with or without experts. The names and order of persons to be recognized for an organized opposition, and any exhibits or proposed amendments, shall be submitted to the STBTC Committee Secretary at least 1 hour in advance of the scheduled hearing by sending an email to STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov.

If no opposition presentation is organized or coordinated behind a designated spokesperson, then up to 10 minutes of opposition may be heard with each speaker limited to 1 minute each.

Persons wishing to speak in opposition shall sign in to do so with the STBTC Committee Secretary at least 1 hour before the scheduled committee meeting.

4. Additional Comment: Individuals intending to comment on a bill that are not part of organized support by sponsors or organized opposition will be permitted to speak if time allows. Those wishing to give additional comment are highly encouraged to sign up at least 24 hours in advance by sending an email to STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov that includes the individual's name, the matter they wish to speak on, whether they will appear in person or remotely, and whether they wish to speak in support or opposition. Individuals who sign up in advance will have priority to speak within allotted time, if time permits.

5. Recognition of supporting/opposing organizations: Any organization or lobbyist may ask to have the name of their organization or client associated with either support or opposition to a bill. The sign-in for this input shall be received up to 1 hour before STBTC scheduled start time at STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov. The names of organizations, lobbyists, and their support or opposition will be read during the committee hearing.