

2026
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 in order to allow time for thorough analysis by staff and committee members. **This requirement is non-negotiable.**
3. Double Dropped Bills: If both the House and Senate introduce identical bills during the same session, STBTC may only hear one of the two bills 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.

Public Comment and Rules for Debate

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

1. Zoom Public Comments: To ensure everyone has a full opportunity to express an opinion on legislation under consideration, we have established a STBTC Zoom protocol. Once you send an email to STBTC.zoom@nmlegis.gov to register for public comment in advance of an STBTC meeting, you will receive instructions on the Chair's preferred guidelines for participation.
2. Recommendations from the Chair on Bill Presentation: Bill sponsors, and their experts or proponents, shall have a total of **10 minutes** to present the bill. Sponsors are encouraged to use 5 minutes to present the bill and 5 minutes to organize support or public comment as coordinated by the sponsor. However, sponsors have the option to use their total of 10 minutes as they choose. Sponsors may organize their presentation with as many experts or speakers as they wish. The Committee Vice-Chair will give you a **5-minute warning** as you near the end of your time limit.

IF there are any experts that will be participating in a bill debate via zoom, please inform the secretary by **NOON** of the day your bill is to be presented in committee. You can email the name(s) to: STBTC.comml@nmlegis.gov. The Committee Secretary will provide the Zoom link to you for your expert.

It is helpful for you as a bill sponsor to work with your experts. An expert who rambles and doesn't directly answer the question may, in fact, **hurt** your bill defense. Share with your expert that the best approach is to answer the questions as concisely as possible. This also will help you stay within the time limit for your bill presentation.

Following **ALL** public Testimony, the Chair will give the bill sponsor a chance to address any issues brought up by the public. You will have **5 minutes** to address those concerns.

3. **Public Testimony:** The Chair will include public testimony in support and in opposition to your bill. **IF** there is a large number of the public in support or opposition of the legislation, the chair will choose a number of individuals to speak for both sides. The Chair will also apply this to individuals testifying on Zoom. For example, if there are 15 people for support and 10 for opposition, the number will be noted and the Chair will select 8 people to testify from both sides. (That number is random and only used as part of this example.)

The Chair reserves the right to hear public testimony. There may be times when public support or opposition will be recorded and not heard.

The sponsor should coordinate with their supporters before the committee about who would be the most effective to speak. This also applies to those in opposition.

Depending on the number of individuals who wish to publicly testify, the Chair may impose a time limit on individual testimonies for both support and opposition.