

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

January 26, 2022

To best manage the presentation and debate of legislation, including by remote and video conferencing, the following procedures are adopted for the Senate Judiciary Committee except as otherwise modified for specific legislation:

1. Emailed Public Comments. To ensure everyone has a full opportunity to express an opinion on legislation under consideration we have established a SJC mailbox, where written comments of up to 300 words may be emailed in advance of a SJC meeting. Emailed statements are preferred - in contrast to extemporaneous comments during committee hearings. Encouraging written comments in advance, in contrast to spoken comments during the hearings, assists committee members and staff attorneys to spot issues in advance and to prepare SJC amendments. SJC legislators and their staff can read comments far more quickly and efficiently than by admitting speakers at our meetings or into video conferences.

This procedure also reduces the need for the chairperson and video host to cut people off, or to select from among those who wish to speak, given limited time constraints.

Comments should be emailed to SJC@nmlegis.gov. Committee members will be encouraged to review these comments prior to considering proposed legislation, and during committee hearings.

2. Sponsor and Proponent Advocacy. Bill sponsors, and their experts or proponents, shall have 10 minutes to present the bill. This will be followed by 10 minutes for organized support or public comment as coordinated by the sponsors. Sponsors shall organize their presentation with as many experts or speakers as they wish within these time constraints.

The sponsor shall identify their speakers and the order of speaking in writing, and at least 1 hour in advance of the scheduled hearing. The SJC staff can then anticipate and assure these speakers are efficiently admitted into the video conference, and that any exhibits or proposed amendments are coordinated with committee staff and video host.

Persons wishing to speak in support of legislation shall coordinate with the legislative sponsors. The sponsors shall designate those to speak, and shall limit or interrupt their own speakers as necessary to meet time constraints. The sponsors may also reserve any part of their 10 minutes for a rebuttal after any organized opposition to the legislation.

3. Organized Opposition. SJC 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.

With up to 15 minutes, an organized presentation of opposition allows for a meaningful opportunity to identify issues. This procedure encourages opponents of the legislation to organize themselves beforehand, avoids redundancy in presentations, and provides the best opportunity for constructive opposition. The names and order of persons to be recognized for an organized opposition, and any exhibits or proposed amendments, shall be submitted to the SJC office at least 1 hour before the scheduled start.

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 SJC office at least 1 hour before the scheduled committee meeting.

4. Rebuttal by sponsor. After hearing the opposition to legislation, sponsors who reserved any part of their time may then rebut the opposition up to that reserved time.
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 the bill. The sign-in for this input shall be received up to 1 hour before the SJC scheduled start time. The names of organizations, lobbyists, and their support of opposition will be read during the committee hearing.