

Committee Procedure

62. (a) Notice of a hearing on a bill by the committee of first reference in each house, or notice of an informational hearing, shall be published in the Daily File at least four days prior to the hearing. Otherwise, notice shall be published in the Daily File two days prior to the hearing. That notice requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the house in which the bill is being considered. A bill may be set for hearing in a committee only three times. A bill is "set," for purposes of this subdivision, whenever notice of the hearing has been published in the Daily File for one or more days. If a bill is set for hearing, and the committee, on its own initiation and not the author's, postpones the hearing on the bill or adjourns the hearing while testimony is being taken, that hearing is not counted as one of the three times a bill may be set. After hearing the bill, the committee may vote on the bill. If the hearing notice in the Daily File specifically indicates that "testimony only" will be taken, that hearing is not counted as one of the three times a bill may be set. A committee may not vote on a bill so noticed until it has been heard in accordance with this rule. After a committee has voted on a bill, reconsideration may be granted only one time. Reconsideration may be granted within 15 legislative days or prior to the interim study joint recess, whichever first occurs. A vote on reconsideration may not be taken without the same notice required to set a bill unless that vote is taken at the same meeting at which the vote to be reconsidered was taken, and the author is present. When a bill fails to get the necessary votes to pass it out of committee, or upon failure to receive reconsideration, it shall be returned to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or Secretary of the Senate of the house of the committee and may not be considered further during the session.

This subdivision may be suspended with respect to a particular bill by approval of the Committee on Rules and two-thirds vote of the members of the house.

(b) If the committee adopts amendments other than those offered by the author and orders the bill reprinted prior to its further consideration, the hearing shall not be the final time a bill may be set under subdivision (a) of this rule.

(c) When a standing committee takes action on a bill, the vote shall be by rollcall vote only. All rollcall votes taken by a standing committee shall be recorded by the committee secretary on forms provided by the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate. The chairman or chairwoman of each standing committee shall promptly transmit a copy of the record of the rollcall votes to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate, respectively, who shall cause the votes to be published as prescribed by each house.

This subdivision also applies to action of a committee on a subcommittee report. The rules of each house shall prescribe the procedure as

to rollcall votes on amendments.

Any committee may, with the unanimous consent of the members present, substitute a rollcall from a prior bill, provided that the members whose votes are substituted are present at the time of the substitution.

A bill may not be passed out by a committee without a quorum being present.

This subdivision does not apply to:

(1) Procedural motions that do not have the effect of disposing of a bill.

(2) Withdrawal of a bill from a committee calendar at the request of an author.

(3) Return of a bill to the house where the bill has not been voted on by the committee.

(4) The assignment of a bill to committee.

(d) The chairman or chairwoman of the committee hearing a bill may, at any time, order a call of the committee. Upon a request by any member of a committee or the author in person, the chairman or chairwoman shall order the call.

In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the members present may order a quorum call of the committee and compel the attendance of absentees. The chairman or chairwoman shall send the Sergeant at Arms for those members who are absent and not excused by their respective house.

When a call of a committee is ordered by the chairman or chairwoman with respect to a particular bill, he or she shall send the Sergeant at Arms, or any other person to be appointed for that purpose, for those members who have not voted on that particular bill and are not excused.

A quorum call or a call of the committee with respect to a particular bill may be dispensed with by the chairman or chairwoman without objection by any member of the committee, or by a majority of the members present.

If a motion is adopted to adjourn the committee while the committee is operating under a call, the call shall be dispensed with and any pending vote announced.

The committee secretary shall record the votes of members answering a call. The rules of each house may prescribe additional procedures for a call of a committee.