



Committee Structures in the Legislature

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

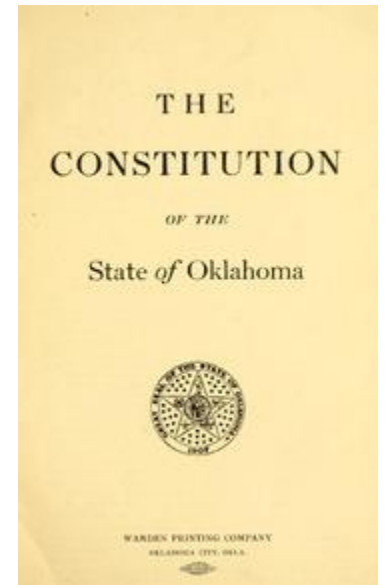
Legislative Learning Lab

January 31, 2024

Purpose of Committees

“Every bill shall be read on three different days in each House, and no bill shall become a law unless, on its final passage, it be read at length, and no law shall be passed unless upon a vote of a majority of all the members elected to each house in favor of such law; and the question, upon final passage, shall be taken upon its last reading, and the yeas and nays shall be entered upon the journal.”

ARTICLE V, SECTION 34, OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION



Purpose of Committees

1. Detailed study of legislation
2. Serve to screen legislation
3. Creates a pool of expertise in a given area
4. Can kill legislation (prevent it from moving forward in the legislative process)
5. Investigate and provide legislative oversight of any public agency

Committee Membership

Committee members are selected by their expertise

Oklahoma Senate

16 Standing
Committees

7 Appropriations
Subcommittees

Members appointed
by President Pro
Tempore and
Minority Leader,
Approved by Senate

Ex Officios: President
Pro Tempore and
Majority Floor Leader



Oklahoma House

29 Standing
Committees

10 Appropriations
Subcommittees

Members
appointed by
Speaker

Ex Officios: Speaker
and Speaker Pro
Tempore



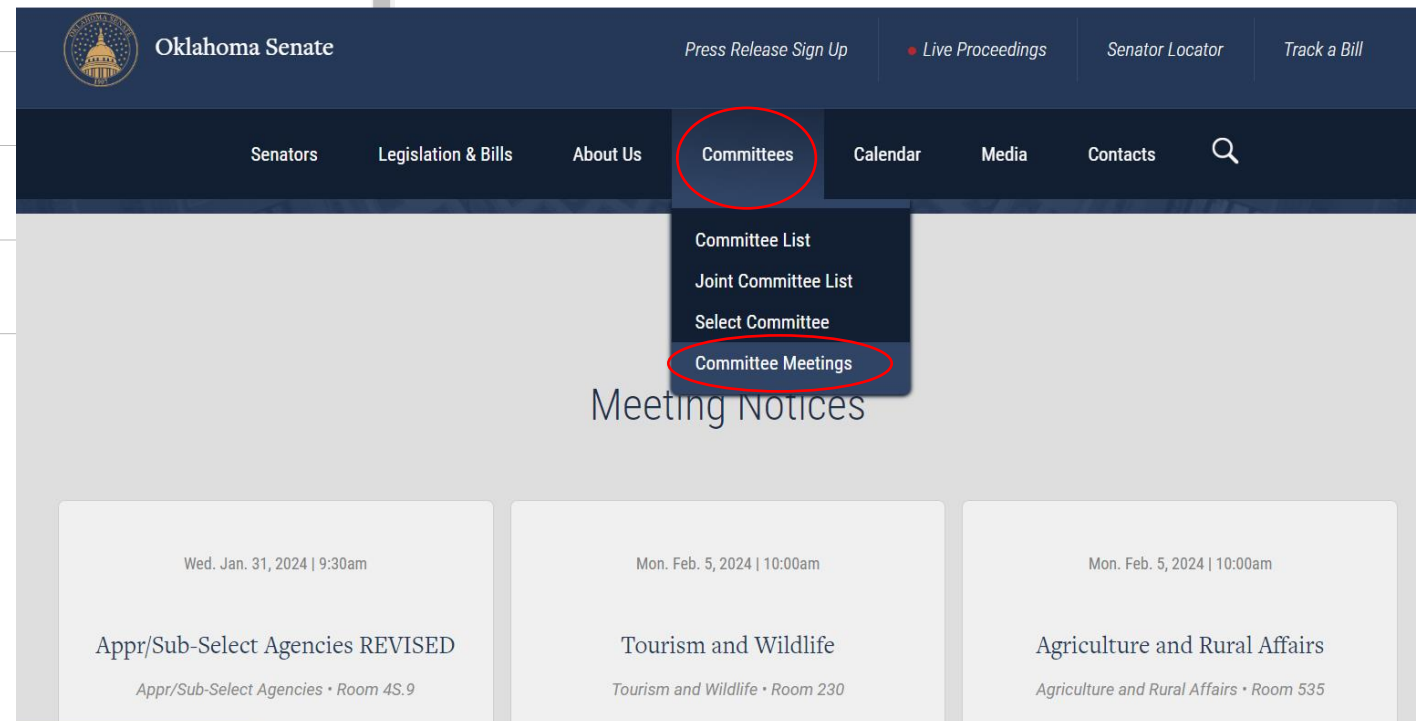
Committee Assignment of Legislation

- **Bills Assignments are Determined by Legislative Leadership**
 - Floor Leaders in consultation with the President Pro Tempore or Speaker
- **Committee Structure**
 - Each committee and Subcommittee has a Chair and Vice Chair appointed by leadership
 - Chair and Vice Chairs are generally members of the majority party
- The full Appropriations Committee Chair may assign bills to subcommittees or may retain them to be heard in the full committee or not heard at all
- Bills sent to the Appropriations committees will typically have implementation costs and affect the state budget
- Under Senate Rules, bills affecting the receipt, expenditure or budgeting of state funds may be double-assigned to the Appropriations or Finance Committee in addition to the standing policy committee

Committee Meetings

- Committee Chairs decide what bills are heard in committee once they receive bill assignments
- The Senate and House follow a standing committee schedule
- Meeting agendas must be posted at least 24 hours in advance
- Committee meeting agendas are posted on the House and Senate websites under Meeting Notices

Committee Meeting Notices



Committee and Legislative Deadlines

Oklahoma Senate

DEC
8

Bill Request Deadline

JAN
18

Bill Introduction Deadline, 4:00 pm

FEB
5

Session Begins, 12:00 p.m.

FEB
29

Deadline to report Senate bills from Senate committees

MAR
21

3rd Reading in House of Origin Deadline

APR
11

Deadline to report House legislation from Senate committees

APR
25

3rd Reading in Opposite House Deadline

MAY
31

Sine Die Adjournment, 5:00 p.m

Oklahoma House of Representatives

Monday, February 5, 2024 12:00 noon - First Day of the Second Regular Session of the 59th Legislature

Monday, February 26, 2024 - Deadline for HBs/HJRs Out of Subcommittee

Thursday, February 29, 2024 - Deadline for HBs/HJRs Out of Standing Committee

Thursday, March 21, 2024* - Deadline for Third Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions in Chamber of Origin

Monday, April 8, 2024 - Deadline for SBs/SJR Out of Subcommittee

Friday, April 12, 2024 - Deadline for SBs/SJR Out of Standing Committee (exception for SBs/SJR in full A&B committee)

Friday, April 19, 2024 - Deadline for SBs/SJR Out of Full A&B Committee

Thursday, April 25, 2024 - Deadline for Third Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions from Opposite Chamber

Friday, May 31, 2024 NLT 5:00 p.m - Sine Die Adjournment

Committee Procedure

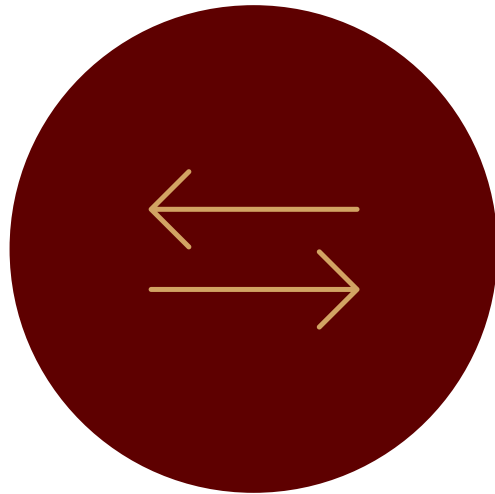
- Bills are considered after being placed on the agenda by the Committee Chair, the rules allow a process for some exceptions
- Committee meetings provide an opportunity for non-legislators who may support or oppose legislation to address the committee
- Committees have the power to amend bills, substantial changes are presented as a Committee Substitute
- If a bill is not heard or it fails to receive a majority vote on a Recommendation (of Do Pass or Do Pass as Amended), it can “die” in committee *
- If a bill receives a positive Recommendation by a majority vote of the committee members, the bill is placed on general order for consideration by the full house
- Bills assigned to the Appropriations committee must be approved by the subcommittee and full committee before advancing

Author
presents the
bill to the
committee



Committee
Members
ask the
author
questions

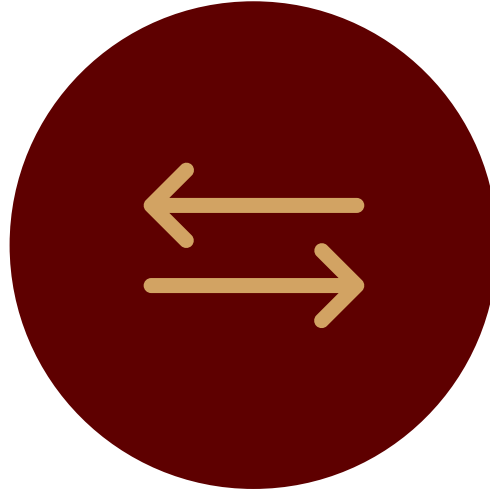
Amendments
to the bill are
considered



Committee makes
a recommendation
- Committee vote



Do Pass



Do Pass As
Amended



* Do Not Pass
(House only)



Questions?

Arnella Karges

Chief Operating Officer

Oklahoma Senate

www.oksenate.gov

www.okhouse.gov