

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2026

COMMITTEE RULES

1. The officers of the Senate Committee on Emergency Management shall be a Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Assistant.
2. The Chair shall preside at meetings when present except when the Committee is considering a bill of which the chair is the sole author or the lead author. Whenever the Chair is not presiding, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair. In the absence of both, a member designated by the Chair shall preside.
3. The Chair shall direct the order of presentation of the arguments for and against matters for consideration by the Committee and shall permit questions to be asked by the various members of the Committee in an orderly fashion and in keeping with proper decorum.
4. The Committee Assistant shall keep a complete record of the meetings and actions taken by the Committee. Bills favorably acted upon shall be reported to the Senate as expeditiously as the reports can be prepared.
5. The Committee Assistant is the custodian of the Committee's legislative records. Pursuant to Section 9080 of the Government Code, the Committee Assistant shall preserve the Committee's current legislative records and may lodge the Committee's older legislative records with the State Archives. The Committee's legislative records that are lodged with the State Archives are open to inspection and copying by the public, subject to the procedures established by the Secretary of State. Members of the public requesting to examine Senate committee records on legislation must submit the request via email to Senate.Rules@sen.ca.gov, or by visiting 1020 N St., Room 250, Sacramento, CA 95814.
6. The Committee shall meet in regular session in the room and on the day and hour designated by the Rules Committee. Adjourned meetings or special meetings shall be held at the time fixed in the adjourning motion, or on the call of the Chair for the special meeting.
7. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, with the approval of the Committee on Rules, by giving reasonable notice to the public and all members of the Committee either in writing or by telephone, specifying the purpose of the meeting, the time and place thereof, and the matters to be considered at such special meeting. Notice of hearing of bills as provided by Joint Rule 62(a) shall be given in the Daily File. No matter shall be considered at such special meeting other than that specified in the notice. Such special meeting shall be scheduled so as to permit a full attendance of the members without conflict with other scheduled Committee meetings.

8. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum and no bill shall be voted out of Committee except on the affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee. A majority vote of the Committee shall be required to reconsider a vote on a bill. An affirmative vote of a majority of those voting is required to recommend to the Senate adoption of any amendments to any bill.
9. The Chair may, at any time, order a call of the Committee. Upon a request by any member of the Committee or the author in person, the Chair 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 Chair shall send the Sergeant-at-Arms for those members who are absent and not excused by the Senate.

When a call of a Committee is ordered by the Chair with respect to a particular bill, the chair shall send the Sergeant-at-Arms for that purpose for those members who have not voted on that 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 Chair 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 Assistant shall record the votes of members answering a call.

10. 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 or the house of the Committee and may not be considered further during the session.
11. Voting on the disposition of bills shall be by rollcall vote only. All rollcall votes taken in Committee shall be recorded by the Committee Assistant. Bills favorably acted upon shall be reported to the Senate as expeditiously as the reports can be prepared.

The provisions of this rule shall not apply to:

- (a) Procedural motions, which do not have the effect of disposing of a bill.
- (b) Withdrawal of a bill from a Committee calendar at the request of an author.
- (c) Return of bills to the Senate, where the bills have not been voted on by the Committee.
- (d) The assignment of bills to Committee.

A rollcall vote on a motion to amend shall be reported only if the motion carries or when requested by a member of the Committee or by the author of the bill under consideration.

12. A re-hearing shall be granted in accordance with rules 15 and 16.
13. The Chair shall set the hearings of bills and arrange the calendar for Committee hearings.

Notice of hearing of bills shall be given the author and such other persons requiring notice. Bills will not be considered in the absence of the author without the author's consent. A registered lobbyist, however, shall not present a bill before the Committee under any circumstances.
14. Meetings shall be open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee provided in Section 9029 of the Government Code.
15. No bill, which has been voted on, shall be given a re-hearing more than one time.
16. Further consideration of a bill, which has been voted out of the Committee, held in Committee, or defeated shall be by reconsideration only, as follows:
 - (a) A motion to reconsider a vote by which a bill is voted out shall be in order and shall be voted upon at the same meeting. If the motion is carried by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee, the bill may be considered at that meeting, if the author is present, or at a subsequent meeting.
 - (b) The procedure for reconsideration of a bill, which has been defeated shall conform to the requirements of Joint Rule 62(a). Any bill, reconsideration of which has been granted pursuant to this paragraph, shall not be heard again until a subsequent meeting of the Committee after being calendared in the Daily File.
17. When the Committee adopts proposed amendments to a bill, the bill may be taken up for vote at that meeting, or if the Committee or author requests, sent out to print before final action. If the amendments are not in Legislative Counsel form, they shall be prepared and submitted to the Chair for approval, before being reported to the Desk. Amendments submitted by the author which in the opinion of the Committee Chair are major or substantial shall be submitted to the Committee, in Legislative Counsel form, at least two legislative days before the bill is scheduled for hearing.
18. A bill may be set for hearing in Committee only three times. Any measure that has not been presented by the author or their authorized representative, shall not be set for a hearing.
19. The Committee may introduce a bill germane to any subject within the proper consideration of the Committee in the same manner as any member. A Committee bill shall contain the signatures of all of the members of the committee.

The Committee, at the discretion of the Chair, will seek to consolidate related subject matter into a single legislative proposal whenever appropriate.

Committee bills shall not be counted against a member's bill introduction limit as specified in Senate Rule 22.5.

20. Whenever possible, Committee consultant analyses shall be provided to the authors of legislation to be heard by the Committee prior to the day of hearing.
21. In all cases not provided for by these rules, the Senate Rules, or the Joint Rules, the authority shall be Mason's Manual.