

December 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Senate Law & Justice Committee

FROM: Senator Jamie Pedersen, Chair

RE: Senate Law & Justice Committee Rules

Welcome to the 2021 session! I am looking forward to working with all of you on a long list of important issues. Because we will be doing all committee work remotely this year, our process and rules need to adapt. I am grateful for your flexibility as we work through this together. To help us complete the work of our committee efficiently and effectively during what I hope is a unique session, I would like to ask that all of us abide by the following rules:

1. Punctuality

I expect that our committee agendas will be very full. Out of respect for those testifying and your fellow members, please be log in to the Zoom meeting a few minutes before the stated meeting time. That will give staff a chance to troubleshoot any connection problems. I intend to call each committee meeting to order at the time stated on the agenda.

2. Hearings

Please let me know if you have bills that you would like scheduled for a hearing. I will try to give members as much notice as practicable of the committee's work schedule. Typically, the ranking minority member and I will set agendas for the following week each Monday and staff will distribute the agendas to the committee later that day. This includes all bills to be heard and to be considered for possible executive action. We may not vote on all listed bills, but we will not vote on bills that have not been listed.

If you have a question or would like to speak during a hearing, please use the "raise hand" function in Zoom.

Unless you are experiencing connection issues, I ask that you keep your video on during the entire hearing and all executive action. We will not have signature sheets this session, so all votes will be taken orally. Staff and I must see and hear you to record your votes correctly.

3. Electronic Bill Book (EBB)

The committee will rely upon and use Electronic Bill Book. Given the logistical challenges of this session, members must use EBB. Committee staff will add all

materials relating to hearings, work sessions, or executive sessions to EBB as early as possible or when the material has been made public. The EBB will include bills, bill analyses, bill reports, fiscal notes, and amendments.

4. *Committee Hearing Sign-In*

The committee will use the Committee Hearing Sign-In application. The sign-in for each bill will become available when the agenda listing the bill has been published, and will close one hour before the start of the public hearing. I have requested that the application be made available to all members so that everyone will be able to see who has signed in to testify on each bill. The ranking minority member and I will meet briefly before each public hearing to review the sign-ins. Please let one of us know if there are people from whom you would especially like to hear on a particular bill.

5. *Amendments*

- a. All amendments (including substitutes) must be sponsored by a committee member.
- b. All amendments and effect statements must be drafted and/or reviewed by nonpartisan committee staff: Tim Ford, Shani Bauer, or Melissa Burke-Cain. Nonpartisan staff have the final say on the content of any effect statement.
- c. Amendment sponsors should turn in requests for amendments to committee staff no later than *12 noon of the day preceding the scheduled executive session* on the bill. Please be considerate of staff and turn in amendment requests earlier if they are long or complex, keeping in mind the final deadline below.
- d. I will not ordinarily entertain oral amendments. I may consider very short and simple amendments after consultation with the ranking minority member.

To be eligible for consideration at an executive session, amendments must be released from confidentiality and posted to EBB for committee members by *4:00 p.m. the day before the executive session* or the amendments will be considered out of order. I will consider waiving this deadline only in extraordinary circumstances.

6. *Executive Sessions*

The committee generally will hold executive sessions on the same day each week (typically Thursdays) at the beginning of the meeting time. The committee will not take executive action on a bill on the same day as the public hearing on the bill.

7. Confidentiality

Committee staff are impartial and serve members of both parties. Your request for confidentiality on a specific assignment will be honored by the staff.

8. General

I may waive these rules (except, of course, for Rule 7) at my discretion. I will consult with the ranking minority member before granting any waivers.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about these rules or other matters relating to the committee. I look forward to working with you this session.