

Part 6 Conference Committees

JR3-2-601 Appointment and chairs -- Notice.

- (1)
 - (a) If the Senate refuses to concur in the House amendments to a Senate bill, the secretary of the Senate shall notify the House of the refusal and ask the House to recede from its amendments.
 - (b) Either house may recede from its position on any difference existing between the two houses by a majority vote of its members.
 - (c)
 - (i) If the House refuses to recede, the speaker shall appoint a conference committee of three.
 - (ii) After making the appointment, the speaker shall:
 - (A) publicly announce the House members of the conference committee and the time and place that the conference committee will meet;
 - (B) ensure that no more than two of the appointees are members of the majority party; and
 - (C) direct House staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the House members of the conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.
 - (d) If the speaker does not immediately appoint a conference committee, the president may appoint a conference committee as provided in Subsection (2)(c).
- (2)
 - (a) If the House refuses to concur in the Senate amendments to a House bill, the chief clerk of the House shall notify the Senate of the refusal and ask the Senate to recede from its amendments.
 - (b) Either house may recede from its position on any difference existing between the two houses by a majority vote of its members.
 - (c)
 - (i) If the Senate refuses to recede, the president shall appoint a conference committee of three.
 - (ii) After making the appointment, the president shall:
 - (A) publicly announce the Senate members of the conference committee and the time and place that the conference committee will meet;
 - (B) ensure that no more than two of the appointees are members of the majority party; and
 - (C) direct Senate staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the Senate members of the conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.
 - (d) If the president does not immediately appoint a conference committee, the speaker may appoint a conference committee as provided in Subsection (1)(c).
- (3)
 - (a) Whenever the president or speaker appoint a conference committee, the secretary of the Senate or chief clerk of the House shall:
 - (i) immediately notify the other house of the action taken; and
 - (ii) request the appointment of conference committee members from that other house.
 - (b) After receiving the notice and request, the presiding officer of the other house shall:
 - (i) appoint a conference committee of three;
 - (ii) publicly announce the members of the conference committee from that house and the time and place that the conference committee will meet; and
 - (iii) direct staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the members of the conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.

- (4)
 - (a) The first senator named on the conference committee is the Senate chair of the committee, and the first representative named on the conference committee is the House chair.
 - (b) The conference committee chairs shall direct the preparation of the conference committee report.

JR3-2-602 Conference committee procedures.

- (1) The chair from the house of origin of the bill shall chair meetings of the committee.
- (2) Staff from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel may attend the conference committee meeting to assist in the preparation of the committee report.
- (3)
 - (a) Subject to Subsection (3)(b), conference committee meetings are open to the public.
 - (b) Public comment may not be received or made during a conference committee meeting unless a majority of committee members from one house and at least 50% from the other house vote to receive public comment.
- (4)
 - (a) A majority of committee members from each house must approve a conference committee report in order for it to be presented to the Legislature.
 - (b)
 - (i) If the conference committee cannot reach an agreement, the committee shall report the failure to agree to both houses.
 - (ii) Upon notice that a conference committee has failed to agree, the presiding officer of each house may either appoint a new committee by following the requirements of JR3-2-601 or reappoint the former committee and announce the time and place of the committee's meeting.
- (5) Before a bill being considered by a conference committee is abandoned, not to be reviewed again by either house during the remainder of the session, each house shall vote to refuse further conferences by the same committee or a new committee.

JR3-2-603 Conference committee report -- Contents -- Disposition.

- (1) The conference committee's report shall:
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) list the vote of each member of the conference committee by name.
- (2)
 - (a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), the committee may report any modifications or amendments to the bill that they think advisable.
 - (b) A conference committee may not consider or report on any matter except those at issue between the two houses.
- (3)
 - (a) If the bill being discussed by the conference committee is a House bill, the Senate conference committee members shall present the conference committee report first to the Senate.
 - (b) If the bill being discussed by the conference committee is a Senate bill, the House conference committee members shall present the conference committee report first to the House.
- (4)
 - (a) After a motion to adopt the conference committee report is approved, the bill shall be put at the top of the third reading calendar in the first house for consideration.

- (b) When the first house has acted on the bill, it shall transmit the bill and the report to the other house, along with a letter explaining its action.
- (c) Before a house's vote is taken on the conference committee report, the report shall be read.

JR3-2-604 Failure to meet.

If the members of the conference committee do not meet in a timely manner after being appointed, the presiding officers of both houses may appoint a new conference committee and disband the original conference committee.