

## Making amendments in committee

- Committees consider measures in order. A measure may be amended only when that measure is being debated by the committee.
- When a measure is up before a committee, the chair recognizes the measure sponsor, who introduces the measure (2 minutes). After introduction, the chair conducts a question and answer (Q&A) about the measure (3 minutes), followed by debate on the measure (10 minutes).
- During debate on the measure, a committee member may wish to change the measure or add to the measure by offering an amendment.
- If the committee member already has specific amendment language:
  - When recognized by the chair, the committee member states “I move that [the measure] be amended by [read exact text of amendment] (example: on line 4, strike the words....and replace with....)”
    - Another committee member must second the motion.
  - The chair then states “Representative/Senator X has moved that [the measure] be amended, and it has been seconded. Representative/Senator X, please introduce your amendment and state why it should be adopted.”
    - The amendment sponsor then delivers a 2 minute opening statement
  - After the member proposing the amendment has introduced it, the committee conducts Q&A (3 minutes) and debate (10 minutes) on the amendment.
    - When debate ends, the amendment sponsor gives a 2 minute closing statement
  - The amendment is then voted on - it needs a majority to pass.
  - **IMPORTANT:** A vote on the amendment only determines if the bill is to be amended. It is not a vote on the actual bill.
  - After the vote, the committee then goes back to whatever point they were at in the debate before the amendment was proposed. They are now debating the amendment bill if the amendment passed, or they are debating the original bill if the amendment failed.
- If the committee member does not have specific amendment language, the chair *may, but is not required to*, recess the committee. Granting the request permits the committee member the time to develop specific amendment language.
  - Note: this is a good strategy for situations where it is clear there is a lot of desire for an amendment from multiple members, but it is either a complex amendment to draft, or there is general but not specific consensus on what the amendment should be. It is not a good strategy to do this every time anyone wants to amend a bill.
- The chair may entertain motions to extend the introduction, Q&A and debate periods for amendments the same way they can for bills.
- Amendments should be prepared in Google Docs using the suggestion tool that shows the amendment text as distinguishable from the underlying measure text. Then implemented once passed.



- **IMPORTANT:** The constitution requires an amendment to be logically connected to the subject of the measure, as expressed in the title to the bill (the “Relating to” clause). A measure may not be amended by an amendment that is not logically related to the subject of the bill.