



CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

TO: Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee
FROM: Chairman Cindy Abrams
DATE: February 21, 2023
RE: 135th General Assembly Committee Rules and Expectations

a. Members of Committee

Members shall, at all times, conduct themselves with courtesy and respect for the public, members of the committee, staff, and the chair and shall discharge their duties in accordance with the high public trust placed in them.

[House rules apply to committee unless otherwise noted.](#)

b. Attendance

1. Members shall make a good faith effort to be in attendance for the duration of all committee meetings.
2. Members who anticipate an absence shall submit a signed letter to the Chair's office requesting an excused absence from the Committee at least 12 hours before the start of the meeting. The chair may waive the 12 hour deadline.
3. Members may "check-in" to committee, but must do so in person.

c. Rules of Decorum

1. All discussion in committee shall be through the Chair, including questions.
2. No person may take photos, video, or audio recordings during any committee hearing without explicit approval from the Chair's office. If any person wishes to take photographs, video, or audio recordings, they must complete a "Media Request Form" and submit it to the Chair's office.
3. In accordance with Rule 112 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, live video streaming of committee is prohibited.

4. Members of the committee and the public must use wireless devices in a considerate and respectful manner during proceedings
5. The Chair shall call to order any member of the committee or the public that is deemed out of order. Any member of the public that refuses to come to order may be ordered to leave and barred from re-entering by the chair.

d. Rules of Testimony

1. Prior to testifying, all individuals must fill out a “Witness Information Form” and submit it to the Chair’s office. The only exception to this rule will be employees of the Legislative Service Commission specifically assigned to this committee. They must be submitted to Chair’s office 24 hours before committee is set to meet.
2. At the discretion of the Chair, testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes. Each member will be granted one (1) question that shall last no longer than one (1) minute and one (1) *related* follow-up question before moving on to the next member. The response to member questions will be limited to five (5) minutes. Members are welcome to ask multiple questions once every member has a first opportunity.

e. Amendments

1. All amendments and substitute bills should be submitted to the Chair’s office by 4pm the day prior to committee.
2. All amendments and substitute bills will be dispersed to committee members, committee members’ legislative aides, the majority caucus policy advisor, and the minority caucus policy advisor in advance of committee unless the Chair’s office receives written notice stating otherwise.