

Understanding the Committee Process

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN COMMITTEE?

1. EVALUATE BILLS

- Evaluate bills using the criteria on the ranking form, i.e., Debate Potential, Feasibility, Statewide Impact & Correct Form
- Will the end result be a meaningful contribution to a value-oriented society?
- Will it have a positive effect on a significant number of citizens?
- Is its issue worthy of legislative consideration?
- Is the bill in conflict with the Constitution? (And if so, then has the bill been written in the form of a Constitutional Amendment?)
- Does the bill provide for the concise accomplishment of its intended purposes?

2. MAKING AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments given in committee should be attached to the respective bill, with the proponents name(s) (persons offering the amendment) listed on the amendment. **DO NOT** write on the original bill. **USE ONLY THE PROPER AMENDMENT FORM**, and clearly indicate whether the amendment is **FAVORABLE** or **UNFAVORABLE** to its patrons.

A majority vote is required to pass an amendment in committee. Proponents should be prepared to present and defend the amendment on the floor.

Committee proposed amendments will be considered on the floor directly after the bill's patrons have presented the bill and moved for passage.

3. RANKING BILLS

After each bill has been considered and some action has been taken, the committee will rank the respective bill. **Red House/Senate bills will be ranked separately from Blue House/Senate bills.**

Each BILL TEAM will rank each bill on the ranking forms provided, based upon the instructions given by the Chair. (This means each team will fill out only ONE ranking from per bill .)

Please be sure to write legibly on your ranking form. If there are any questions regarding legibility, the form in question will be thrown out.