

**Minnesota House of Representatives
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Peter Fischer, Co-Chair
Representative Josh Heintzeman, Chair**

Committee Rules for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session

- 1. Respect and Decorum:** The most important rule for this committee is to be respectful – of one another, of the process, of testifiers, and of the public. Proper decorum must be maintained in the committee hearing room. All rules and parliamentary procedures for this committee are as specified in the Rules of the House of Representatives and Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure. All presentations, discussions and questions must go through and be recognized by the presiding Chair. Side bar discussions must be taken outside the committee hearing room. Signs, noise, or demonstrations that disrupt the work of the committee may result in removal from the hearing room. Electronic devices must be turned on silent mode inside the committee hearing room. Beverages, but not food items (unless provided to the committee), are permitted in the committee room.
- 2. Schedule:** Committee meetings will begin promptly at the scheduled time. The presiding Chair will make every effort to start meetings promptly. The Co-Chairs may schedule additional meetings, or recess and reconvene a meeting on the same day, as necessary to complete the committee’s work.
- 3. Attendance:** Members are expected to attend all committee meetings. If a member is unable to attend a committee meeting, the member shall notify the presiding Committee Legislative Assistant (CLA) to be noted as "excused" in the minutes. After the hearing starts, the roll will remain open for absent members until the hearing is adjourned. All other absences will be marked "unexcused."
- 4. Process During Meetings:** The presiding Chair may determine time limits on debates, testifiers, and time allowed for bills and amendments. The presiding Chair will determine the order and number of testifiers. The presiding Chair has the authority to terminate a presentation at any time if the presiding Chair feels that the issue or matter has been adequately addressed.
- 5. Bill Hearings:** It is the responsibility of the author of a bill referred to the committee to submit a request for a hearing via e-mail to both Committee Administrators (CA). Include an estimate of how much time the bill will need to be heard. Hearings may be granted at a presiding Chair’s discretion. Authors are expected to arrange their own testifiers and notify the presiding CA via e-mail 24 hours in advance of the hearing the name, title, and organization of those testifying to their bill. Also let the presiding CA know if audio-visual or other equipment is needed.
- 6. Meeting Materials:** Presenters or members of the public must provide all materials to be offered in committee to the presiding CLA or CA at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. Distribution of such materials is subject to approval of the presiding Chair. Materials should be in an accessible (optical character recognition) format for posting to the committee webpage.

7. Testifiers must contact the presiding CA to request the option to sign up to testify at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. Testimony is assumed to be in-person. Every effort will be made to accommodate testifiers who have traveled from Greater Minnesota and non- lobbyist testifiers. The presiding Chair may allow and arrange for remote testimony. Remote testifiers, when allowed by the presiding Chair, will keep their line muted except when addressing the Chair or committee. Written testimony is encouraged and will be posted on the committee webpage prior to the meeting and included in materials provided to members of the committee, whenever practicable. Members presenting a bill to the committee must provide the presiding CA the name and organization of individuals the bill author intends to provide testimony.
8. **Amendments:** All amendments are to be pre-filed, via email, with the presiding CA by 3:00 PM the day before the hearing. An amendment is considered public once it is turned in. Amendments will be available for review on the committee's web page as soon as possible prior to the meeting. To ensure proper format, Members are encouraged to have amendments drafted by House Research staff or the Revisor's Office. Please allow staff enough time to draft your amendments in order to meet the 3:00 PM deadline. Exceptions to the 3:00 PM amendment deadline, and minor oral amendments during hearings, may be granted at the discretion of the Chair.
9. **Member/Staff Committee Folders:** Materials left on the committee table after the meeting will be disposed of unless placed in the "SAVE" portion of the committee folder.
10. **Per diem requests:** Requests for interim per idem, and expense reimbursement for committee business other than meetings called by either Co-Chair, require prior approval by both Co-Chairs. Requests should be submitted in writing to the CA.
11. **Waiver.** These rules may be waived or amended at the Chair's discretion.