

House Transportation Committee – 2011

Amendments:

1. Legislative services staff will draft amendments only at the request of a legislator. A legislator must be willing to “sponsor” the proposed amendments before the legislative services staff (drafter, editor, attorney) will devote time to an amendment.
2. Committee members are the only legislators who can move amendments to a bill while the bill is in committee.
3. Although legislators who are not on the committee may request that amendments be drafted, the legislators must be able to convince a committee member to move, carry, or “sponsor” the amendments while the bill is in committee.
4. It is best that requests to draft amendments to a bill that is still in committee come from a member of the committee. Otherwise, if no committee member will agree to move the amendments, staff time will have been spent drafting “dead” or non-introducible amendments. However, once on the floor of the House (“committee of the whole”), a bill may be amended by any legislator.

Timeline for Submissions of Amendments:

1. Amendments to be considered by the committee during executive session must be:
 - a. Requested by a legislator (see 1 through 4 above); and
 - b. Submitted in writing to legislative services staff for drafting, legal review, function and coordination analysis, and editing **by noon on the day prior to executive action on the bill.**
2. This deadline will become even more important as the session progresses and more bills and amendments are up for consideration. Complicated amendments or substantive amendments to complex legislation can require considerable staff time to analyze, cross reference, draft, edit, and prepare accurately. Voting on conceptual amendments is highly discouraged and even risky in the event that the amendments do not function once they are incorporated in the bill. Conceptual amendments are not allowed to amend a bill during second reading on the House floor.

Exception: A minor amendment that requires no detailed analysis or editing (changing a word or date, clerical corrections, etc.) may be considered on shorter notice and/or during executive session at the discretion of the Chair.