

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee Information

Meeting times and locations. The Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee meets on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. and on Tuesday mornings upon adjournment of the full Senate. The committee's designated meeting room is Senate Committee Room 357, on the third floor of the State Capitol Building. Occasionally, the committee meets in a different room to accommodate larger crowds or the needs of other committees. Changes to the committee's regular schedule are announced on the Senate floor prior to adjournment.

Committee hearings. Committee meetings are broadcast over the internet. Interested persons who are not able to attend the meeting in person can listen live. To access the live feed, go to the committee's website, or from the General Assembly's main page at <http://leg.colorado.gov/> the *Watch & Listen* link is in the top right corner of the page. The meeting audio is organized by committee, and archived meetings are available as well.

Joint meetings with the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. Joint rules of the House and Senate require the committee to stay advised of the activities, functions, and budgets of the Department of State and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The committee meets jointly with the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee to receive briefings from the Joint Budget Committee and the two departments for which the committee has oversight responsibility. Joint meetings of the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee will be posted in the calendar when scheduled.

Testifying before the committee. Individuals who wish to testify before the committee are asked to sign up prior to the start of the meeting on the designated sign-up sheets in the committee room. There will be a separate sign-up sheet for each bill the committee is hearing at each meeting. Individuals are asked to sign in on the sheet pertaining to his or her bill of interest.

The chair of the committee, Senator Mike Foote, will oversee the public testimony on bills and other matters before the committee. When it is time for a witness to testify, the chair will call the name of the witness and ask the witness to come forward. With rare exception, everyone who signed up to testify will be called upon; however, at times witness testimony may be limited. Witnesses should wait to be recognized by the chair prior to beginning their testimony. Because the meetings are taped and broadcast over the internet, it is important for the chair to recognize all those speaking. The appropriate manner of address for the committee chair is "Mister Chair." The appropriate manner of address for Senate committee members is "Senator."

Once witnesses have been recognized by the chair, they may begin their testimony by giving their name and the organization they represent, if any. Committees are subject to tight deadlines and busy schedules. As a courtesy to the legislative members, as well as those in the audience waiting to testify, witnesses are asked to keep their testimony concise, relevant to the bill, and, to the extent possible, to not repeat testimony that may have already been provided to the committee. Witnesses may prepare copies of handouts and written testimony for the committee. Witnesses who wish to distribute materials to the committee are asked to provide **six copies** to the committee staff – one for each member of the committee, as well as a copy for the committee's official record. Please hand any materials to the committee staff person, who will distribute the materials to the committee members.

Witnesses are asked to observe professional decorum during the committee meetings. Clapping, booing, or otherwise disruptive behavior is not permitted. In addition, witnesses must avoid any personal attacks or other emotional outbursts. Finally, all individuals present in the committee room are asked to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices prior to the start of the meeting.

Committee staff. The Legislative Council Staff person for the committee is Julia Jackson. She is available to answer any questions regarding the committee schedule. Her phone number is 303-866-4788 and her email address is julia.jackson@state.co.us.

Committee website. Additional information can be found on the committee's website at: <http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/state-veterans-military-affairs/2019-regular-session>. Interested persons can also follow the State Affairs Committees on Twitter to receive updates on bill votes, schedule changes, and other important information: <https://twitter.com/COStateAffComm>.