



April 26, 2021

Members of the Legislature:

As both bodies work to pass their omnibus budget bills under extraordinary circumstances, we thought it important to provide clear and consistent guidance on the format and frequency of conference committees.

In the spirit of Joint Rule 2.06, a bill's first conference committee hearing will be chaired by the bill's house of origin using the chair's preferred meeting format (remote vs. hybrid). The chair shall rotate each calendar day, again using the meeting format preferred by that chair.

It is not expected that conference committees meet every day; however, due to each body's limitation on the number of concurrently streamed hearings, it's important that every conference committee meet in accordance with the forgoing schedule:

HF 2128 (HHS), HF 1077 (Housing), HF 1065 (Education), HF 1079 (Legacy), HF 1831 (State Gov.), HF 1684 (Trans.), HF 991 (Taxes)	
House Chair	Senate Chair
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
SF 958 (Ag), SF 1342 (Jobs), SF 1031 (Comm./Energy), SF 970 (Judiciary), SF 1076 (Envir.), SF 975 (Higher Ed)	
House Chair	Senate Chair
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Due to staffing constraints, conference committee hearings will be limited to three hours in duration. To manage broadcasting and room availability, chairs must coordinate with their respective chief of staff to secure a time block. If a chair does not convene a hearing on the day they hold the gavel, the gavel switches to the other chair at the end of the day.

Any deviation from the schedule and hearing format described above must be jointly approved by the House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader.

Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader

