

REPORT OF
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Legislative Procedures and Facilities Committee recommends to the Legislative Council that the Committee system of the Iowa General Assembly should be strengthened so that bills are more thoroughly studied and amendments are proposed for consideration by the standing committee to which a bill is referred rather than being proposed on the floor.

In connection with the preceding general recommendation, the Legislative Procedures and Facilities Committee discussed the following specific possibilities, without making any recommendations, and presents them to the Legislative Council for discussion purposes:

1. Amendments to bills, except corrective amendments, must be filed at least one day before floor debate on the bill and must be printed in the Journal.
2. The presiding officer should be encouraged to rule more closely on the germaneness of amendments.
3. A procedure should be adopted to allow amendments to be laid on the table without laying the entire bill on the table.
4. A gentleman's agreement should be encouraged which would limit the length of time for discussion of individual amendments.
5. Standing committee chairmen should be encouraged to provide agendas in advance of each committee meeting listing the bills which will be considered by the committee at the meeting.
6. Unanimous consent of the house should be required in order for an amendment to be filed on the day a bill is to be debated.
7. Approval of the majority leader or the sponsor of a bill should be required before an amendment may be debated that has not been printed in the Journal.
8. Subcommittees of standing committees should be required to hold at least one meeting on a bill, or each subcommittee member should be required to sign a recommendation pertaining to the bill.

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9. The total number of committees should be reduced.
10. The number of committees to which each member is assigned should be reduced to no more than three.
11. Committee chairmen should be assigned only to the committee they chair, or should be limited to membership on only one other committee.
12. A bipartisan committee should be established to which all bills reported out of committee are assigned, and this committee would select the bills which will be placed upon the calendar.
13. Standing committees should adopt rules providing procedures for members of the committee and for members of the General Assembly to request public hearings on major bills.