Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee Information

Meeting times and locations. The Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee meets on Monday afternoons beginning at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday mornings upon adjournment of the Senate floor session, and Wednesday afternoons beginning at 1:30 p.m. The committee's designated meeting room is Senate Committee Room 354. 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. Schedule changes will also be communicated through the Twitter feed, by the committee staff. The Twitter feed can be located on the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee web page www.colorado.gov/SenateBusLabTechCmte.

Committee hearings. Committee meetings are broadcast over the internet. Interested persons who are not able to attend the meeting in person can listen live over the internet. To access the live feed, go the General Assembly's main page at http://leg.state.co.us. At the top of the page is a link to audio broadcasts of current proceedings. Individual committee hearings can be accessed by clicking on the room in which the meeting is occurring. Again, the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee meets in SCR 354 unless otherwise noted in the calendar or on the Senate floor. In those instances where a committee room change is made at the last minute, the committee staff will send out an e-mail notification to interested persons.

Joint meetings with the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee. The joint rules of the House and Senate require the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee and the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee to stay advised of the activities, functions, and budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment; the Department of Personnel and Administration; the Department of Regulatory Agencies; and the Office of Information Technology. The Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee meets jointly with the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee to receive briefings from these departments and the Joint Budget Committee. Joint meetings are held in HCR 0112.

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. The sign-up sheets are available on the committee table. 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 their bill of interest.

The chair of the committee, Senator Lois Tochtrop, is responsible for overseeing public testimony and will recognize those on the sign-up sheets in an order most conducive to the business before the committee. With rare exception, everyone signed up to testify will be called upon. Because the meetings are taped and broadcast over the internet, individuals who are testifying are asked to wait to be recognized by the chair prior to beginning their testimony. The appropriate manner of address to the committee chair is “Madam Chair.” The appropriate manner of address to 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 distribute copies of handouts and written testimony to the committee.

Witnesses who wish to distribute materials to the committee are asked to bring **8 copies** - 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 are asked to 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 Senate Business, Labor, and Technology committee is Kristen Johnson. She is available to answer any questions regarding the committee schedule. Her phone is (303) 866-4918. As previously noted, interested persons can sign up to receive periodic committee updates and schedule changes from the committee staff via the Twitter feed.