

ROLE PLAY SCRIPT

Who: Chair of Health & Welfare Committee

What:

- You ensure that all members of the committee get a chance to participate in the discussion and vote.
- You ensure that all members of the public who wish to testify on a bill get a chance to do so.
- You determine who speaks and when; you run the meeting

Where: Committee room

Setting: S.238 has come to your committee after First Reading.

YOU RUN THE MEETING-ASK SPONSOR TO SPEAK

1. Call the committee to order and ask sponsor of the bill to speak:

“I would like to call the Health and Welfare Committee to order. We are now going to consider S. 238, An Act To Increase The Legal Age For Purchase And Use Of Tobacco To 21. Could the sponsor of the bill, Legislator _____ from Rutland County, please explain to us the purpose of this bill?”

Let the legislator talk. When the legislator is finished say:

“Thank you Legislator _____. Do any committee members have any questions for the Legislator from Rutland?” Then you call on individual committee members.

This is the time for legislators to ask question if they don't understand the bill. Discussion about the bill comes later.

YOU RUN THE MEETING-ASK WITNESSES TO SPEAK

2. Call up witnesses:

“There are a number of people who wish to testify on this bill. When I call you up, please sit in the witness chair and begin by stating your name and the organization you represent. I ask that you keep your comments short because we have many people who wish to speak.”

Call up the first witness. Say:

“The Chair recognizes _____ (or ask witness to identify themselves).”

When the witness is done, or when you think he or she has spoken long enough, say:

“Do any of the committee members have any questions for this witness?”

This is not the time to discuss the bill. This is a time to get information from the witness.

When there are no more questions, thank the witness for testifying and call up the next witness. Say:

“Are there any other witnesses who wish to testify?” Repeat the process.

YOU RUN THE MEETING-ASK COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE BILL

3. Lead the committee discussion of the bill:

After all of the witnesses have spoken you say to the committee:

“Let’s go around the table and have each legislator let us know what they think about this bill. “

Call on committee members to speak, one by one. This gives everyone a chance to talk about possible amendments and you can get an idea of how the committee will vote on the bill. Don’t forget to give your opinion as well.

REMINDE THE COMMITTEE THAT DISCUSSION IS NOT THE PROPER TIME TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS. THAT COMES AFTER DISCUSSION.

YOU RUN THE MEETING-ASK COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS

4. Lead the committee discussion of amendments to the bill:

“Does anyone have amendments they wish to make to the bill?”

If there is a proposed amendment, ask:

“Do I hear a second to the motion to amend?”

Ask if there is discussion on the amendment. Each committee member should speak.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ROLE PLAY, COMMITTEE WILL PROPOSE ONLY ONE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL. THE TOUR GUIDE WILL SHOW YOU A LIST OF OPTIONS FOR AMENDING A BILL AND PASSING IT OUT OF COMMITTEE.

Call the vote on the amendment:

“Let’s vote on the amendment. All in favor of amending the bill as proposed by Legislator_____ please signify by saying ‘Aye.’ (listen to vote) All opposed?”

State the out-come of the vote on the amendment and move on to vote on the bill.

YOU RUN THE MEETING-ASK COMMITTEE TO VOTE ON THE BILL

5. Direct the committee to vote on the bill:

“Now that discussion is complete, let us vote on the bill. All in favor of passing the bill out of committee (state how committee is passing the bill), please signify by saying ‘Aye.’ Those opposed, please signify by saying ‘Nay.’”

“The vote passes” or “The vote fails”; specify the numbers of how people voted

YOU RUN THE MEETING-APPOINT A BILL REPORTER

6. Appoint a Reporter:

“I appoint Legislator_____ the reporter of this bill.”

“I would like to thank the Committee for the good work we have done here today.”

LIST OF WITNESSES TO CALL FOR TESTIMONY

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.