

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA



Fact Sheet No. 14 REPORT STAGE AMENDMENT

PURPOSE

After a bill is examined in committee, it is considered by the House. At this stage (called Report Stage), Members may, after giving written notice, propose amendments to the text of the bill as it was presented by the committee. Those motions are then debated. (Marleau and Montpetit, House of Commons Procedure and Practice, page 662.)

PROCEDURE

1. NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

In order that a motion to amend a bill may be considered at report stage, notice must be given in writing on the day that the bill is reported from committee. (For example, if the committee meets on Monday and concludes consideration of a bill, that bill will be reported from the committee on Tuesday afternoon.) On the day the bill is reported, the MLA wanting to move a report stage amendment must contact Legislative Counsel before the House adjourns. Legislative Counsel will then advise the Journals Clerk of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly's Office of the report stage amendment.

On the next sitting day, the Report Stage amendment must be distributed in the House. (in this scenario, the day of distribution would be Wednesday.)

The Journals Clerk will then print on the Order Paper two days after the Committee has reported a notation that there will be a report stage amendment to the bill. In the example cited above, the bill is reported from the committee on Tuesday, so the Order Paper for Thursday will show:

Report Stage Amendment
Bill 555 – The Highway Act
Report Stage Amendment—Mr. Smithers

2. DEALING WITH REPORT STAGE

The Government House Leader determines what business will be called each day under "Government Business" which is when a Report Stage Amendment would be done. Usually the Government House Leader consults with the Opposition about business. A Member

(either Opposition or Government, but usually an Opposition Member) who has a report stage amendment would be advised by her/his House Leader that the matter is to be called on a certain day. The earliest the Report Stage Amendment can be called would be two sitting days following the day that the bill in question was reported from committee. A Report Stage Amendment, however, can remain on the Order Paper for a long period of time. It depends on when there is a will to proceed with it on the part of the House.

3. MOVING THE REPORT STAGE AMENDMENT

A Clerk will provide the text of the motion to the MLA which is to be used to read to move the motion. Because these motions are debatable, they can be subject to amendment and sub-amendments. Debate on the amendment is limited to 10 minutes per person, except for the Premier or the Leader of a Recognized Opposition Party who may speak for up to 30 minutes. Once debate has concluded, the House votes on the amendment. Sub-amendments are not permitted except by unanimous consent, and it is not allowable to move as a Report Stage Amendment any amendment that was moved in Committee.

4. CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READING

After Report Stage is concluded, a motion for Concurrence and Third Reading is moved, debated and voted upon.

See Rules 138 and 139 of the Manitoba Rule Book. Also see Chapter 15 of House of Commons Procedure and Practice. For more details about Report Stage, please the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly at 945.3636.

Summary of Report Stage Steps and Times

- ✓ Committee reports to House (Tuesday for example)
- ✓ MLA files report stage amendment with Legislative Counsel that day before adjournment
- ✓ On Wednesday the report stage amendment is distributed in the House

On Thursday the bill appears on the Order Paper under Report Stage including the name of the MLA with the amendment