



Bill B-21-22

The University of Alabama

27th Senate 2022-2023

Authors: Senator Tyler Tannehill, Senator Myles Gollop

Sponsors: Senator Xzarria Peterson, Senator Elizabeth Prophet

Endorsements:

A BILL TO REFORM THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SENATE COMMITTEES

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.

Section 1. Findings:

- A. The intent of Student Government Association Senate Committees is to provide a thorough avenue for legislation to be reviewed and enhanced as well as transparency for students,
- B. Some Senate committee meetings meet on the day of a general Senate meeting instead of holding Senate committee meetings on weeks where the entire Senate does not meet,
- C. The Speaker of the Senate has traditionally announced the result of legislative recommendations made by Senate committees but lack context as to why the Senate committee came to that conclusion,
- D. Minutes of Senate committees are not required to detail as to why a recommendation was made,
- E. Senate committees have the power to table legislation without allowing it to proceed to the Senate floor for a final vote,
- F. Minutes of Senate meetings are not required to detail as to why a tabling of legislation was made,
- G. When legislation is tabled, there is no provision for reconsidering such legislation at a specific time

- H. Two bills have been tabled so far this semester without providing context nor clarification to the student body as to why the respective Senate committee came to their conclusion,
- I. The student body deserves the utmost transparency through the entire legislative process,

Section 2. Legislation (changes in red):

Chapter 300.2 Committees may only conduct business when a quorum of committee membership is present

Chapter 300.2.1 If a committee fails to have a quorum to conduct business, all legislation that has been referred to that committee will proceed to a vote on the Senate floor of the next regular Senate session without committee recommendation or committee postponement of that legislation.

Chapter 300.3 Committee Meetings

Chapter 300.3.6 Committees shall aim to meet on weeks where the entire Senate does not convene.

Chapter 300.3.7 Committees may not meet within 48 hours of a regular Senate session.

~~Chapter 300.4 Committees shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes of meeting time at the beginning of each regular session of the senate.~~

Chapter 501 Special Rules of the Senate

~~Chapter 501.5.4 Be tabled—a majority of Senate committee members present vote for tabling the legislation for further review.~~

Chapter 501.5.4 Be postponed—a majority of Senate committee members present vote for postponing the legislation for further review at their next Senate committee meeting. The same legislation cannot be postponed again.

Chapter 501.8 Addressing Committee Results to the Senate Session

Chapter 501.9 The Speaker of the Senate must call upon any Senate committee chair to address the chamber regarding their last committee meeting and to explain whatever recommendation or postponement decision that was concluded by that respective committee.

Section 3. Copies:

Copies of this bill shall be sent to Madeline Martin, SGA President; Angel Navarez-Lugo, Advisor; *The Crimson White*; and others as may deemed necessary at a later date.

