

MAIN COMMITTEE

The Main Committee is a second chamber of the House of Representatives. It is an extension of the House of Representatives and meets usually at the same time as the House on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The Main Committee chamber is a large room near the House of Representatives and is permanently set up with special furniture to look like a smaller version of the House of Representatives.

The Main Committee exists to give members more time and opportunity to debate bills that are not controversial. Therefore, there are no division votes. Members in the Main Committee spend most of their time debating legislation at the second reading stage. If, at any time, there is a division vote in the House of Representatives, debate in the Main Committee is suspended and members go downstairs to the House to vote.

The chamber can function with a quorum of only three members including the Deputy Speaker or a member of the Speaker's panel. The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives or a member of the Speaker's panel chair the Main Committee meetings.

All decisions made in the Main Committee are reported back to the House of Representatives.