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## **Fact Sheet No. 14**

### **REPORT STAGE AMENDMENT**

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#### **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. (Bosc and Gagnon, House of Commons Procedure and Practice, third edition, page 780).

#### **PROCEDURE**

##### **1. NOTICE OF AMENDMENT**

In order to amend a bill at Report Stage, notice must be given on the day that the bill is reported back from the committee that considered it. (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 back to the House, the MLA wanting to move a Report Stage Amendment must contact Legislative Counsel before the House adjourns on that day of the Committee report. 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 considered. 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 Table Officer will provide the text of the motion to the MLA which is to be used for moving the motion. Debate on the Report Stage 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. The Speaker can group Report Stage Amendments for debate at the request of the Member moving the amendments.

### **4. CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READING**

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

See Rule 139(12) of the Manitoba Rule Book. Also see Chapter 16 of House of Commons Procedure and Practice. For more details about Report Stage, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly at (204) 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

#### **DEADLINE DATES**

There are deadline dates in the Rules indicating when Report Stages of Specified Bills and Designated Bills must be concluded, based on the number of sitting days from when Committees are required to report the Bills back to the House.