

Hi, this is Chris Micheli, a principal with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law in its Capital Lawyering Program.

This podcast is on legislative committees and their jurisdictions. Both houses of the California Legislature provide committees of legislators to do their work based upon subject matter jurisdiction.

With fewer legislators, the Senate naturally has a fewer number of committees than the State Assembly. Nonetheless, both consider legislation from their house of origin as well as the other house.

This is a brief overview of the Senate and Assembly standing committees and their basic jurisdictions. Let's look at the Senate first, followed by the Assembly.

In the Senate, there are 21 standing committees that are provided pursuant to Rule 12 of the Standing Rules of the Senate. These committees and their subject matter are as follows.

Agriculture. Bills relating to agriculture.

Appropriations. Basically, bills that deal with appropriations under Joint Rule 10.5 and bills that constitute state-mandated local programs.

Budget and Fiscal Review has jurisdiction over the budget bill and bills implementing the budget, and any bills that affect the state budget, including deficiencies.

Business, Professions, and Economic Development handle bills relating to business and professional practices, licensing and regulations, as well as economic development, commerce, and international trade.

Education. Bills relating to education, higher education and such programs, including education employee issues and collective bargaining.

Elections and Constitutional Amendments covers bills relating to elections and constitutional amendments and ballot measures, the Political Reform Act, and elected officials.

Energy, Utilities, and Communications deals with bills relating to public utilities and carriers, energy companies, alternative energy development and conservation, and communications development and technology.

Environmental Quality. Bills relating to environmental quality, health, air quality, water quality, waste management, recycling, toxics and hazardous materials, and waste.

Governance and Finance. Bills relating to local government procedure, administration, and organization, bills relating to land use, to state and local revenues, bonds, and taxation.

Governmental Organization. Bills relating to horse racing, public gaming, and alcoholic beverages, as well as bills relating to the management of public safety, emergencies and disaster

response, government organization, and bills dealing with lands and building, state contracting, and interstate compacts.

Health. Bills relating to public health, alcohol and drug use, mental health, health insurance, managed care, long-term care, and related topics.

Human Services. Bills relating to welfare, social services and support, and related institutions.

Insurance, Banking, and Financial Institutions covers bills relating to insurance, indemnity, surety, warranty agreements, financial institutions, lending, and corporations.

Judiciary covers bills amending the Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Evidence Code, Family Code, and the Probate Code, as well as bills relating to courts, judges, court personnel, liens, claims, unclaimed property, privacy, and consumer protection.

Labor and Industrial Relations. Bills relating to labor, industrial safety, unemployment, workers' compensation and insurance, and non-certificated public school employees.

Natural Resources and Water covers bills relating to conservation and management of public resources, fish and wildlife, regulation of oil, mining, geothermal development, wetlands and lakes, ocean and bay pollution, coastal resources, forestry practices, recreation, parks and historical resources, as well as water supply management.

Public Employment and Retirement. Bills relating to state and local public agency collective bargaining, employees, retirement systems, compensation and employment benefits, as well as state Social Security administration.

Public Safety. Bills amending the Evidence Code relating to criminal procedure, the Penal Code, and bills relating to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Rules Committee deals with proposed amendments to the rules and other matters relating to the business of the legislature.

Transportation and Housing. Bills relating to the operation, safety, equipment, ownership, licensing of vehicles, aircraft, vessels, the Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, as well as bills relating to highways, public transportation systems and airports, and bills relating to housing and community redevelopment.

Lastly, Veterans Affairs. Bills relating to veterans, military affairs and armories, and bills amending the Military and Veterans Code.

Let's turn to the Assembly and its committees. There are 32 standing committees in the Assembly, pursuant to Rule 11 of the Standing Rules of the Assembly. Those committees and their subject matter jurisdictions are as follows.

Accountability and Administrative Review. Primary jurisdictions are identifying efficiencies in the management of state government, reviewing and studying the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of state programs and agencies.

Aging and Long-Term Care has primary jurisdiction over area agencies on aging, the California Department of Aging, long-term support and services, Older Americans Act, Older Californians Act, the California Senior Legislature, etc.

Agriculture. Primary jurisdiction includes agriculture, agricultural chemicals, ag commodities and commissions, the Department of Food and Agriculture, expositions and fairs, food labeling, livestock and poultry, milk and milk products, pest management, and other items relative to agriculture.

Appropriations has primary jurisdiction of fiscal bills, including bonds and alternative public financing measures.

Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media. Primary jurisdiction includes programs and policies that affect the motion picture and entertainment industries, tourism and arts, museums, amateur and professional sports, the Athletic Commission, and the regulation of athlete agents, as well as the Internet media.

Banking and Finance. Primary jurisdiction over financial institutions, real property finance, consumer finance, and corporate securities.

Budget Committee. The Budget Committee's jurisdiction is the budget and trailer bills.

Business and Professions. Bills including regulatory entities within the Department of Consumer Affairs, the oversight and elimination of regulatory entities within DCA, healthcare professional licensing, vet licensing, occupational licensing, vocational education, and Department of General Services.

Communications and Conveyance Committee. Primary jurisdiction over cable, common carriers, moving companies, broadband, telecommunications, and transportation network companies.

Education. Primary jurisdiction of education generally, including school facilities and school finance.

Elections and Redistricting Committee. The primary jurisdiction is elections and redistricting.

Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Primary jurisdiction, toxic substances and hazardous materials, hazardous waste regulation, drinking water regulation, and pesticides.

Governmental Organization. Primary jurisdiction includes alcohol, Indian gaming, horse racing, gambling, tobacco, public records, open meetings law, state holidays, outdoor advertising, and emergency services and natural disasters.

Health. Primary jurisdiction includes healthcare, health insurance, Medi-Cal and other public health care programs, mental health licensing, and long-term healthcare facilities.

Higher Education. Primary jurisdiction over university, state university, and community college systems, and student financial aid.

Housing and Community Development. Primary jurisdiction over building standards, common interest developments, eminent domain, homelessness programs, housing discrimination, housing finance issues, land use planning, mobile homes, manufactured housing, and rent control.

Human Services includes child welfare services, foster care, child care, adoption assistance, CalWORKs program, CalFresh program, In-home Supportive Services, community care licensing, and adult protective services.

Insurance has primary jurisdiction over all insurance except health insurance, as well as workers' compensation and unemployment compensation.

Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy has primary jurisdiction over trade, economic development, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, overseas trade offices, state and local economic development programs, women and minority business enterprises, international trade, capital formation, import, export, and interstate commerce.

Judiciary has primary jurisdiction over family law, product liability, tort liability, the Civil Code, and the Evidence Code except for criminal procedure.

Labor and Employment has primary jurisdiction over wage, hour, employment discrimination, Cal/OSHA, employment development, and public job programs.

Local Government Committee has primary jurisdiction over general plans, land use, housing elements, local agency formation commissions, city and county organization and powers, special districts, special taxes, the Subdivision Map Act, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, redevelopment, local government finance, eminent domain, the Williamson Act, design-build, and other such items.

Natural Resources Committee has primary jurisdiction over air quality, climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, the California Environmental Quality Act, coastal protection, forestry, land conservation, oil spills, solid waste, and recycling.

The Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee has a wide range of technology issues, including consumer protection in the digital and analog worlds. It also has jurisdiction over privacy, information technology, false advertising, as well as oversight of the Department of Technology.

Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security. Primary jurisdiction is oversight of classified school employees, Judges Retirement Law, public employee collective bargaining, and public retirement administration.

Public Safety has primary jurisdiction over the California Penal Code.

Revenue and Taxation Committee has primary jurisdiction over the Revenue and Taxation Code.

The Rules Committee has primary jurisdiction over amendments to the rules and other matters relating to the business of the House.

Transportation includes jurisdiction over the High-Speed Rail Authority, California Highway Patrol, California Transportation Commission, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Transportation, driver's license, transportation agency around the state, interstate, rail, vehicles, aircraft, bicycles, vessels, local streets, and roads.

Utilities and Energy has primary jurisdiction over the Energy Commission, the Independent System Operator, the Public Utilities Commission, electricity generation, biogas, biomass, coal, geothermal, hydroelectric, renewables, solar and wind energy, service providers, natural gas, power plants, railroads, utility rates, electric, gas, water and vessels, and water utilities.

Veterans Affairs has primary jurisdiction over the Cal-Vet loan program, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Guard, the state military, and veterans generally.

Finally, the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, which has primary jurisdiction over water resources, flood management, fish and game, parks and recreation, and wildlife.

Thanks for this look at legislative committees and their subject matter jurisdictions.