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## The Bavarian State Parliament's Committees



Many citizens associate the term “Bavarian State Parliament“ with the image of a plenary session in a plenary chamber. However, the standing committees that are appointed for the duration of the electoral term are just as important to the parliamentary work. Each of the currently 14 standing committees is responsible for one area of politics that its members specialise in. They advise on bills and motions and submit recommendations for a resolution. As a result, the committees prepare the content for the plenary session's meetings and decisions.

The committees can request the presence of any member of the state government at their meetings. State government members and their officers have access to committee meetings and must be heard at any time. The committees also deal with petitions and complaints from citizens and take a final vote on these.

All of the Bavarian State Parliament's parliamentary groups are represented on the committees, which have 14, 18 or 21 members depending on their field. At the same time, the political majorities on the committee must correspond to those in the Bavarian State Parliament's plenary. The committee chairmanships are also distributed across the parliamentary groups based on relative strength. The parliamentary groups then decide internally which member of Parliament they delegate to a committee and who should take over the chairmanship or vice chairmanship, as necessary. The committees generally hold public meetings.

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19  
Wahlperiode



## Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection



Bayerischer  
Landtag

## Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection



Chairman: Alexander Flierl (CSU)  
Vice Chairperson: N.N.

### Duties

The Committee on Petitions and Complaints is one of fourteen permanent committees of the Bavarian State Parliament. 18 members of Parliament belong to the Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection: eight CSU members, three members each from the FREIE WÄHLER (FW), AfD and ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS (GRU) and one SPD member.

The Bavarian State Parliament set up an independent environmental committee for the first time on 10.12.1974 that deals with the protection of natural resources, which has also been adopted into the Constitution of the Free State of Bavaria since 5 April 1984. This was not only a milestone in constitutional and environmental policy in Bavaria but in fact in the Federal Republic of Germany as a whole.

Up until this point in time, the protection of natural resources had not been emphasised in German Constitutional Law or in the federal state constitutions in the way it was by being adopted into the Constitution of the Free State of Bavaria. The committee's area of responsibility today is largely the same as that of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, whose work the committee monitors, assists and scrutinises. A healthy environment is a value in its own right and the basis for a high quality of life. Preserving essential natural resources is the benchmark of the policy work that focuses on the principle of sustainability. The principle of sustainability is an attempt to reconcile ecology, economy and social justice. The need for this global perspective is clearly reflected, for example, in the complexity of climate protection.

Environmental protection and consumer protection expertise is pooled on the committee. The panel advises on motions and bills which focus particularly on improving the quality of the environmental media water, soil and air and keeping them clean, protection of animals and species, generally on consumer protection and specifically on food safety. The committee can also hear experts to get a rounded opinion and prepare decisions. In addition, the committee advises and decides on petitions and complaints from citizens that come under its specialist area of responsibility.

### Meetings

The meetings always take place on Thursdays during sitting weeks. They are convened and chaired by the chairman. Besides the committee members and head of the committee office, state government representatives responsible for the specific agenda items also attend.

With important political issues, responsible members of the government are also present. The Bavarian State Parliament's shorthand writers' service documents the meetings.