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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.

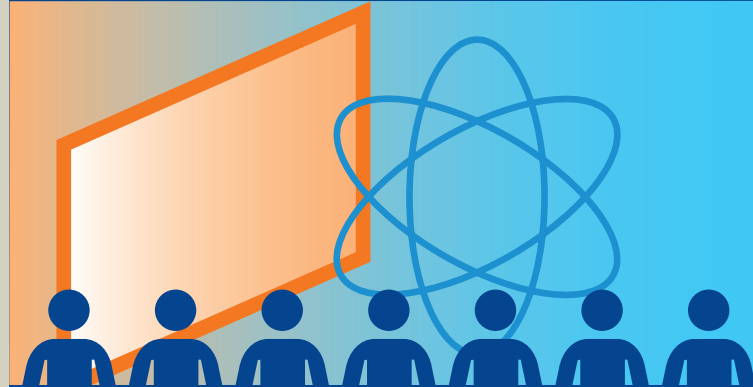
All of the Bavarian State Parliament's parliamentary groups are represented on the committees, which have 14, 18 or 21 members depending on their field. At the same time, the political majorities on the committee must correspond to those in the Bavarian State Parliament's plenary. The committee chairmanships 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
Electoral Term



Committee on Science and the Arts



**Bayerischer
Landtag**

The Committee on Science and the Arts



Chairman: Prof. Dr. Michael Piazolo (FW)
Vice Chairman: Robert Brannekämper (CSU)

Duties

The Committee on Science and the Arts is one of the Bavarian State Parliament's 14 standing committees. It has a total of 18 members of Parliament: eight CSU members, three members each from FREIE WÄHLER (FW), AfD and ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS (GRU) and one SPD member.

Its remit essentially corresponds to the policy areas of the State Ministry of Science and the Arts, whose work is monitored, supported and followed by the committee. It is responsible for advising on laws, state treaties and motions. The committee's work focuses on all issues relating to higher education institutions and universities, including the university hospitals and university research.

Bavaria's universities have been and continue to be crucial driving forces for innovation and progress and are currently undergoing a dynamic process of modernisation and internationalisation. The work of the Committee on Science and the Arts also focuses on the continuous improvement of conditions for teaching staff, employees and students at Bavarian universities.

"Bavaria is a cultural state" – this is stated in Article 3 of the Bavarian Constitution. The committee deals with basic issues of cultural policy and such areas as protection of historical buildings and monuments, music, museums and the visual arts, scientific collections and theatres as well as the public media and broadcasting services. Whether in the professional or amateur sector, in large centres or in rural areas, whether traditional or innovative: culture is alive and diverse in Bavaria. The committee's remit also includes the modernisation and expansion of the Bavarian museum and theatre landscape as well as generating the best framework conditions for those working in the creative cultural sector.

The committee regularly hears experts and interest groups to gain a balanced view of opinions and prepare for decisions. Furthermore, it advises and decides on citizens' petitions and complaints falling within its area of responsibility.

The Committee on Science and the Arts does not deal with issues relating to non-university research, private media and the media industry. The Committee on Economic Affairs, Regional Development, Energy, Media and Digitalisation is responsible for these matters.

Meetings

The meetings always take place on Wednesdays 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.