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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.

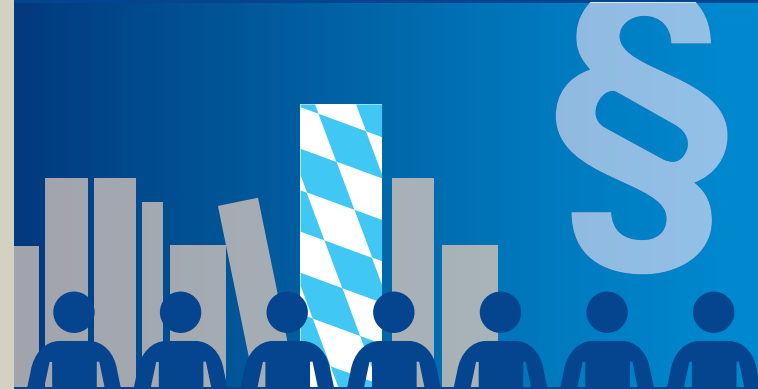
All the Bavarian State Parliament's parliamentary groups are represented on the committees, which have 14, 18 or 22 members depending on their field. At the same time, the political majorities on the committee must correspond to those in the Bavarian State Parliament's plenary. The committee chairmanships 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.

Publisher:
The Bavarian State Parliament
Committee on Constitution,
Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
and Integration
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Last updated: October 2022
18th electoral term (2018–2023)

18
Electoral Term



Committee on Constitution, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Integration



**Bayerischer
Landtag**

The Committee on Constitution, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Integration



Chairwoman: Petra Guttenberger (CSU)
Vice Chairman: Christoph Maier (AfD)

Duties

The Committee on Constitution, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Integration is one of the 14 permanent committees of the Bavarian State Parliament. 14 members of Parliament belong to the committee: six CSU members, three members from ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS (GRU), two members from the FREE VOTERS (FW) and one member each from the AfD, SPD and FDP.

The Committee on Constitution, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs' legal and domestic area of responsibility is a mirror image of the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice's work and the duties of the Department for Constitution and Public Administration of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Building and Transport. The committee also deals with the problem of data protection and questions of principle regarding the law on immigration and asylum. The legal issues of gambling and the law governing public holidays and the right of assembly are also among its responsibilities.

The committee is responsible for advising on legislative and motion initiatives for these areas. One of the committee's important tasks is to scrutinise the executive duties of the aforementioned Bavarian State Ministries. The Committee on Legal Affairs' specific duties include checking the constitutionality and legality of all bills, decrees and state treaties, examining the legality of petition decisions by other Bavarian State Parliament committees and advising on the Bavarian State Parliament's involvement in constitutional dispute proceedings and its representation before Constitutional Courts. In addition, the committee is responsible for all general questions regarding the parliamentary process, the Act on the Legal Status of members of the Bavarian State Parliament and the rules of procedure, as well as for immunity issues and verification of credentials. The committee also hears experts to prepare for decisions. The committee is kept regularly up-to-date about current legal data protection problems by the state representative for data protection and by the State Office for Data Protection Supervision.

The committee also regularly deals with numerous petitions from citizens. Besides constitutional, civil, criminal and administrative law issues, it also focuses on matters of state remuneration, data protection and applications for naturalisation. As far as legal consumer protection is concerned, complaints about unfair business practices and consumer information and awareness affairs are often on the committee's agenda. One of the aspects of legal consumer protection is also protecting against the negative spin-offs of cyber crime. Besides this, the committee also deals with complaints against judges and public prosecutors. The principles of the separation of powers and judicial independence must be observed in the process though. As for these reasons the Bavarian State Parliament does not have the authority to scrutinise that judgements are correct and annul or amend them, the committee can only deal with complaints against the judicial process within very narrow limits.

Meetings

The meetings always take place on Thursdays during sitting weeks. They are convened and chaired by the chairwoman. 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.