

TxLege Terms: Committee Substitute

Posted At : April 3, 2017 3:45 PM | Posted By : TexasLRL

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In this occasional post, we explain terms used in the Texas legislative environment.

When a house or senate committee is considering a bill, they have various reporting options: they may report favorably without amendments, report unfavorably, report favorably as amended, or report favorably as substituted. The latter is called a "committee substitute."

A committee substitute must be "germane"—it must address the same subject as the original bill.

How can you tell that a bill has been "substituted"? On [Texas Legislature Online](#) or the [Legislative Archive System](#), the bill's actions will include entries like "Committee substitute considered in committee" and "Reported favorably as substituted." The committee report will note if it is a substitute, and will add a "CS" to the bill number. (So, HB 20 becomes CSHB 20.) In the Journal, it will be noted with the CS until it passes to engrossment.