

**RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

**CHAPTER 0600-15
RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS**

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0600-15-.01 PURPOSE.

The purpose of these rules is implementation of the provisions of Public Chapter 300, Acts of 2023, amendment to Tenn. Code Ann., Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1 which requires the Board to reserve a period for public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for any applicable Meeting occurring on or after July 1, 2023.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 8-44-112 and 67-1-305. **Administrative History:** New rules filed November 7, 2024; effective February 5, 2025.

0600-15-.02 APPLICABILITY.

These rules apply to all members of the public requesting to comment at a Meeting before the Board or any subsidiary Governing Body of the Board. The opportunity for public comment authorized in these rules is separate and apart from the opportunity of parties in contested case proceedings to present oral argument in accordance with Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0600-01 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-315(e).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-315 and 8-44-112. **Administrative History:** New rules filed November 7, 2024; effective February 5, 2025.

0600-15-.03 DEFINITIONS.

As used in these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Board" means the State Board of Equalization or any subsidiary governing body of the State Board of Equalization.
- (2) "Governing Body" means any entity as defined by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-102.
- (3) "Meeting" means any meeting subject to the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-112.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 8-44-102 and 8-44-112. **Administrative History:** New rules filed November 7, 2024; effective February 5, 2025.

0600-15-.04 PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS.

- (1) Written notification to request to make public comment at a Meeting must be sent to and received by the Executive Secretary of the Board at least two business days in advance of the Meeting. Requests may be made by email to sb.web@cot.tn.gov. The request should include the proposed speaker's name, the agenda item(s) upon which the speaker wishes to comment, and whether the speaker's comments will be in favor of or opposed to the agenda item(s). Speakers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

(Rule 0600-15-.04, continued)

- (2) The public comment period will be held at the beginning of the Meeting once the Meeting is called to order and a quorum has been established.
- (3) Speakers will be limited to three minutes per person per agenda item, with a maximum of two speakers in favor of and two speakers opposed to each agenda item.
- (4) Speakers must identify themselves at the beginning of their allotted time and stay on topic of the agenda item(s) that they have indicated their desire to speak on when addressing the Board.
- (5) Speakers should conduct themselves in a respectful manner and will be asked to remove themselves if they engage in threatening or disruptive behavior.
- (6) The Board, in its discretion, may ask relevant questions of any speakers providing public comment. Such a question period will not be included in the speaker's allotted time frame.
- (7) The Chair may extend the allotted time frame or increase the maximum number of speakers for a particular agenda item if the Chair determines that the circumstances reasonably require it. If the Chair extends the allotted time frame or total number of speakers, the Chair shall ensure that an equal extension is granted to both those in favor of and opposed to any agenda item subject to an extension.

Authority: T.C.A. § 8-44-112. **Administrative History:** New rules filed November 7, 2024; effective February 5, 2025.