

SENATE BILL 1223, Printer's No. 1651

Provides for staff cross-examination of witnesses at the discretion of Commission counsel and with the consent of the presiding officer.

COMMENT

Technical staff should be afforded the opportunity to directly cross-examine witnesses advanced by other parties to a rate case. Primary cross-examination responsibility should rest with legal counsel to the Commission. However, it is both reasonable and advisable to also permit selected staff, for example, a staff economist, under Commission rules of practice and procedure, to join in the cross-examination. As a matter of practice, it is largely the technical staff which passes on to Commission counsel the questions to be asked of a witness. Such cross-examination currently takes place in Wisconsin to good effect and without disruption of the case.