



THE FLORIDA SENATE

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Location

402 Senate Office Building

Mailing Address

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Senator J. Alex Villalobos, *Chair*
Senator Dave Aronberg, *Vice Chair*

Professional Staff: David Coburn, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators
From: Senator Alex Villalobos
Subject: Attendance Issues
Date: January 28, 2010

Senators, since interim meetings began last fall we have been experiencing attendance problems in many committee meetings. I have discussed this problem with the President, and he asked me to remind you of your responsibilities as Senators to attend the meetings of the committees to which you have been assigned.

The President intends to strictly enforce the provisions of Senate Rule 2.27. You will be removed automatically from any committee following two consecutive unexcused absences. I remind you that written requests for excused absences must be submitted to and approved by the committee chair **before** the meeting begins. In addition, it is not acceptable to appear at a committee meeting for roll call and then disappear. Under Senate Rule 2.17 no business of any kind can be conducted by a committee in the absence of a quorum. Leaving a meeting after roll call is unfair to your constituents and to your fellow Senators on the committee.

The President has also asked me to inform those of you who are Chairs that he does not consider campaign or fund raising conflicts to be acceptable as an excuse for an absence. Please do not authorize excused absences for those reasons.

Finally, please remember that great care is taken to develop a schedule for committee meetings which avoids conflicts with other meetings. Chairs are required to begin their meetings at the time shown in the Senate Calendar unless specific approval for a change is given in advance by the Rules Committee and adequate notice of delay is provided to the public. It is not acceptable to keep other Senators and guests, many of whom are from out of town, waiting to begin a meeting.