

Introduction

Oversight Committees serve a vital function in State Assemblies by investigating serious allegations of misconduct when backed by credible evidence.

However, without proper safeguards, these committees can become tools of abuse, used to promote political agendas or personal vendettas.

This presentation explores the proper roles of Oversight Committees and Ombudsman Committees, and how they should work together to ensure accountability while preventing abuse.

"Oversight Committees need to be under the control of Ombudsmen Committees that protect the rights of individual Assembly members, other Assembly Committee, and officers and officials of the Assembly."

— Anna Von Reitz



Key Functions of Oversight Committees

Investigation of Serious Allegations

Investigating allegations of criminal behavior when backed by credible evidence

Making Recommendations

Formulating recommendations based on investigation findings

Reporting to Proper Authorities

Bringing findings to Sheriff's Office, Marshals, or General Assembly

"The true function of an Oversight Committee is to be on hand when and if there are serious allegations of criminal behavior, such as theft, insurrection, purposeful obstruction, selling information about the Assembly or its members, etc. that are backed up with credible evidence."

— Anna Von Reitz



The Role of the Ombudsman Committee

Protection of Individual Rights

Safeguarding the rights of Assembly members, committees, officers, and officials

Oversight of Oversight Committees

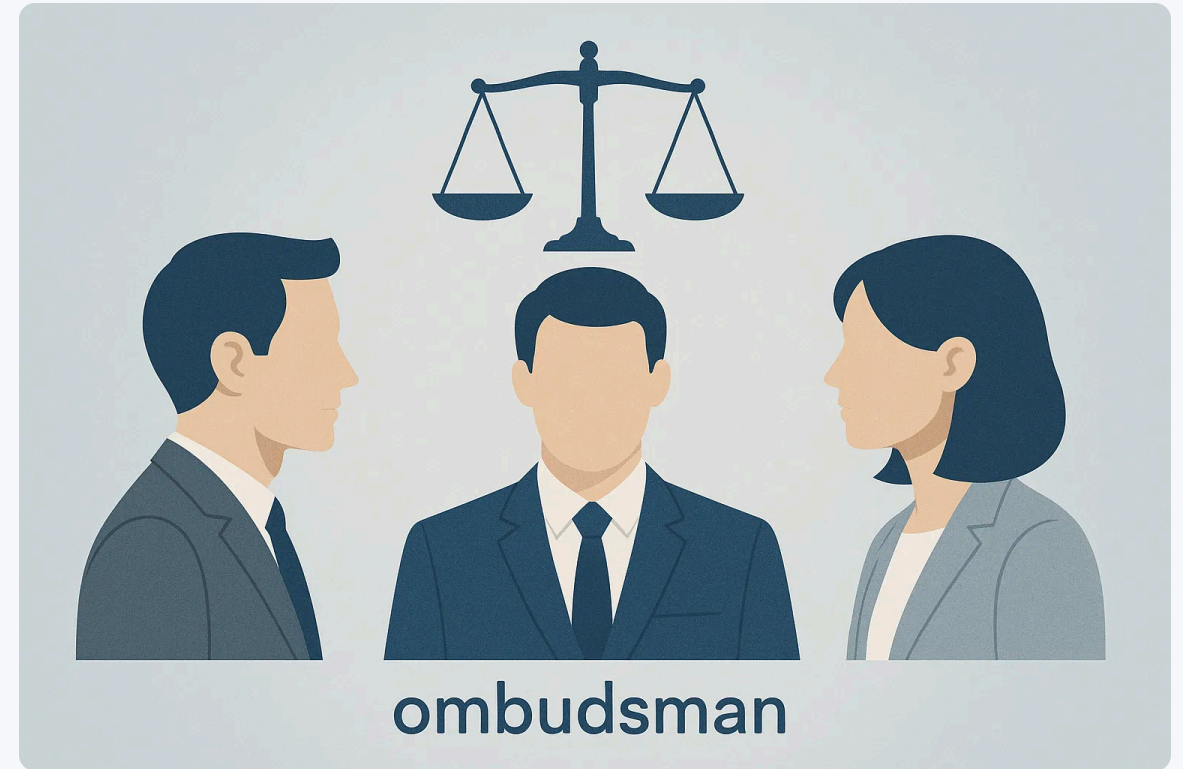
Providing direct supervision of Oversight Committees to prevent abuse

Ensuring Proper Procedures

Verifying that investigations are based on credible evidence and follow proper channels

"Oversight Committees need to be under the control of Ombudsmen Committees that protect the rights of individual Assembly members, other Assembly Committee, and officers and officials of the Assembly — and they need to be subject to review by the General Assembly."

— Anna Von Reitz



Relationship Between Committees

Hierarchical Structure

The General Assembly has ultimate authority over both the Ombudsman Committee and the Oversight Committee.

Ombudsman Committee Control

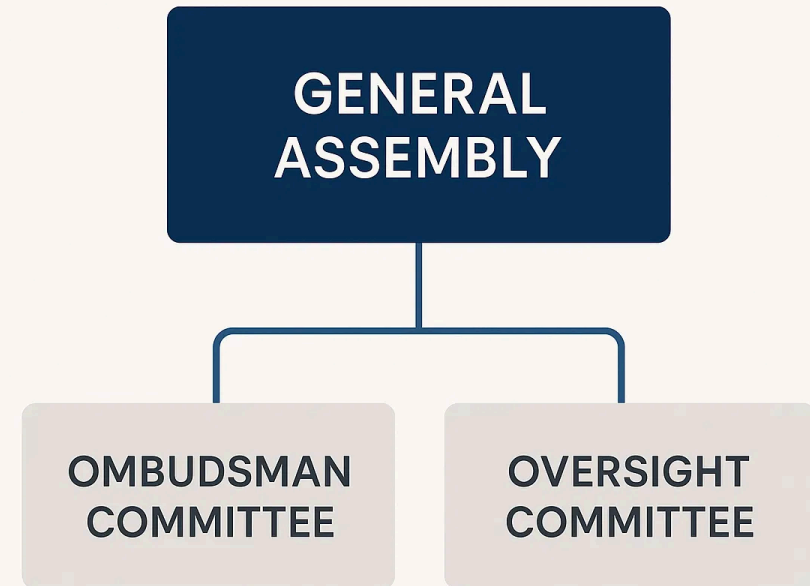
The Ombudsman Committee directly supervises the Oversight Committee to prevent abuse of power.

Oversight Committee Reporting

After investigations, the Oversight Committee reports findings to proper authorities, including the General Assembly when appropriate.

"Thus, a standing Oversight Committee is constantly replenished with new members and is under oversight of the Ombudsman Committee and the General Assembly itself."

— Anna Von Reitz



Structural Safeguards Against Abuse



Ombudsman Committee Oversight

Oversight Committees must be under the control of Ombudsmen Committees



General Assembly Review

Both committees are subject to review by the full General Assembly

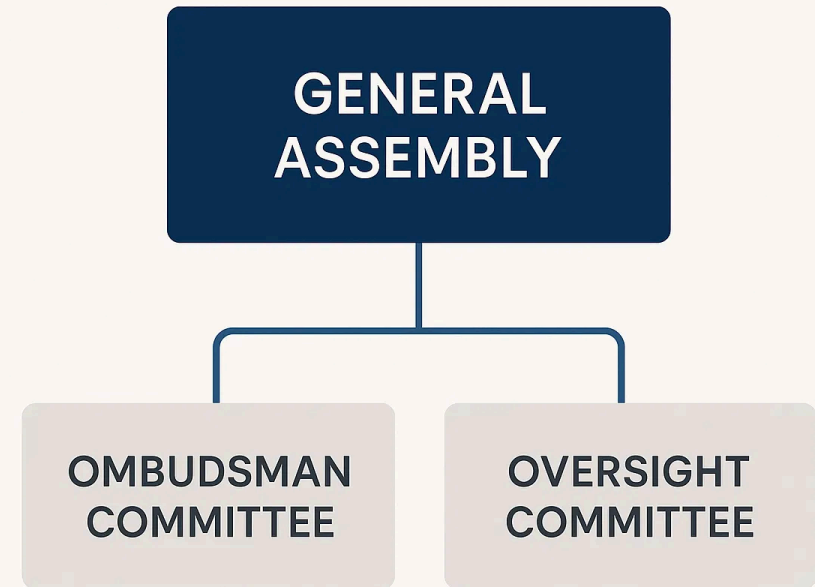


Special Oversight Committees

Chairman's ability to appoint specialized committees for technical investigations

"These measures are necessary to prevent the Oversight Committee from being used as a tool to control, coerce, or exercise abusive power over individual members and other committees."

— Anna Von Reitz



Procedural Protections



Evidence-Based Investigations

Investigations must be based on credible evidence, not speculation or hearsay



Prohibition on Self-Initiated Investigations

Committees cannot unreasonably commence investigations on their own



Defined Reporting Channels

Findings must be brought to proper authorities for further action

"They are not allowed to unreasonably or without credible evidence commence investigations on their own, and may not in any case promote any witch hunts against other members or Committees."

— Anna Von Reitz



PROCEDURAL SAFEGAUDS

Member Rotation System

Regular Cycling of Members

Members serve for one-year and two-year terms through a volunteer selection process similar to juror selection

Prevents Power Concentration

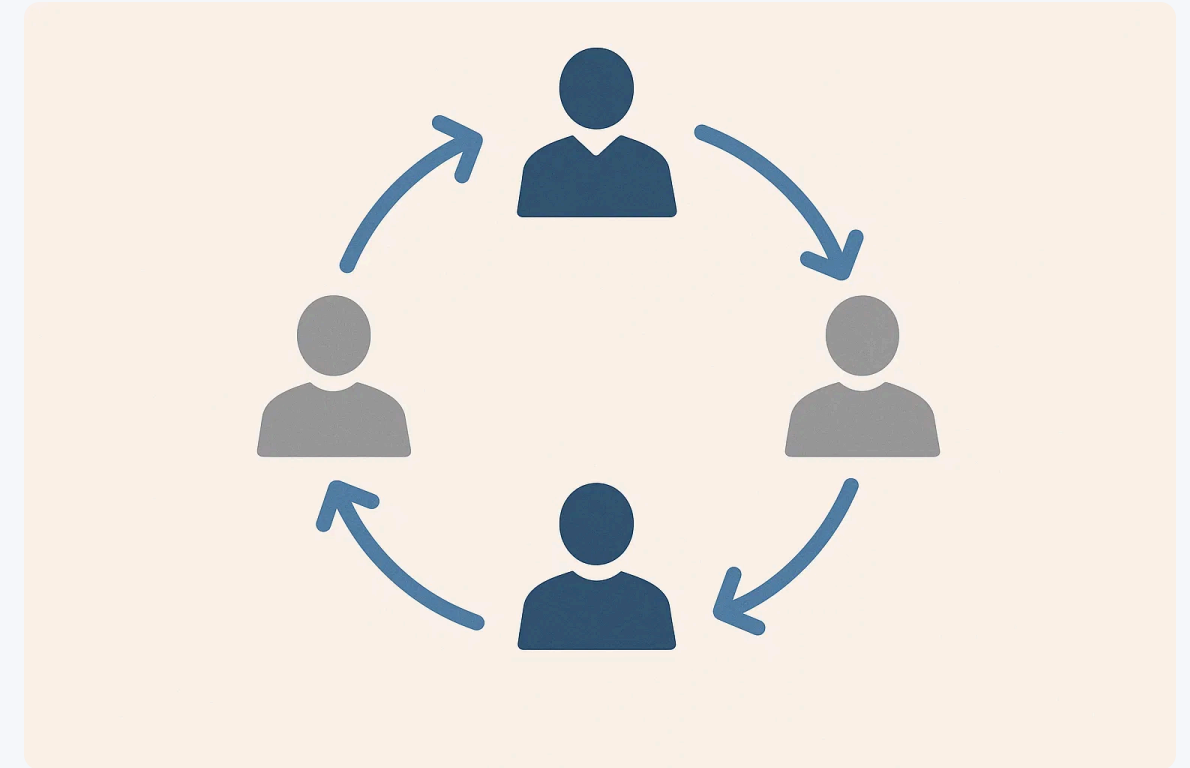
Regular rotation prevents individual members from accumulating excessive influence

Fresh Perspectives

New members bring diverse viewpoints and approaches to oversight activities

"An Oversight Committee should not be a static Committee, even though it may be a standing Committee – meaning that people are regularly cycled through the Oversight Committee according to a volunteer selection process, similar to Juror Selection, to serve for one year and two year terms as Committee Members."

— Anna Von Reitz



Implementation Recommendations

Immediate Action

Implement safeguards without delay if they are not already in place

Clear Communication

Ensure committee members understand their proper role and limitations

Structural Implementation

Establish formal relationships between committees and the General Assembly

"If your Assembly has attempted to create an Oversight Committee without these clearly stated countermeasures in place, they need to be undertaken without delay. Any such Oversight Committees should be fully informed of their true function(s), the limits of their functions and authorities..."

— Anna Von Reitz



PROCEDURAL SAFEGAUDS

Conclusion

Proper Structure is Essential

Oversight Committees must operate within a carefully designed structure that includes Ombudsman Committee supervision and General Assembly review.

Procedural Safeguards Prevent Abuse

Evidence-based investigations, prohibition on self-initiated investigations, and defined reporting channels are critical procedural protections.

Member Rotation Maintains Integrity

Regular cycling of committee members through a volunteer selection process prevents concentration of power and brings fresh perspectives.

"These measures are necessary to prevent the Oversight Committee from being used as a tool to control, coerce, or exercise abusive power over individual members and other committees."

— Anna Von Reitz

