
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8407

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Pedersen and Short

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, the Senate concurring,
2 adopted joint rules of the Sixty-Eighth Legislature under House
3 Concurrent Resolution No. 2023-4401;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of
5 Representatives concurring, That Joint Rule 17 as set forth in House
6 Concurrent Resolution No. 2023-4401 is amended to read as follows:

7 **JOINT RULES**
8 **OF THE SENATE AND THE**
9 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
10 **SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE**

11 **2023-2024**

12 **JOINT RULE NO.**

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| 13 Rule 1 | Ethics. |
| 14 Rule 2 | Prohibited political activity. |
| 15 Rule 3 | Legislative code of conduct. |
| 16 Rule 4 | Employee protection. |
| 17 Rule 5 | Sessions of the legislature. |
| 18 Rule 6 | Joint session. |
| 19 Rule 7 | Motions for joint session. |

1	Rule 8	Business limited.
2	Rule 9	Joint legislative committees.
3	Rule 10	Joint committee meetings.
4	Rule 11	Joint and concurrent resolutions: Memorials.
5	Rule 12	Amendatory bills.
6	Rule 13	Bills, how drawn.
7	Rule 14	Amendments to state Constitution: Action by legislature.
8	Rule 15	Publicity of proposed amendments to state Constitution.
9	Rule 16	Initiative petition before the legislature.
10	Rule 17	Conference committee.
11	Rule 18	Failure to agree.
12	Rule 19	Report of conference committee, how made out; whom returned to.
13	Rule 20	Adoption of reports.
14	Rule 21	Messages between the two houses.
15	Rule 22	Bills to be engrossed.
16	Rule 23	Final action on bills, how communicated.
17	Rule 24	Enrolled bills—Presiding officer to sign.
18	Rule 25	Disposition of enrolled bills.
19	Rule 26	Adjournment.
20	Rule 27	Adjournment sine die.
21	Rule 28	Each house judge of its own membership.
22	Rule 29	Convening special legislative sessions.
23	Rule 30	Convening special legislative sessions solely to reconsider vetoed bills.
24	Rule 31	Amendments to joint rules.
25	Rule 32	Joint rules to apply for biennium.

Ethics

27 **Rule 1.** Legislators and legislative employees are subject to the
28 provisions of the Ethics in Public Service Act, chapter 42.52 RCW.
29 The house of representatives and senate may impose disciplinary
30 action for violations of the act. Disciplinary actions for violation
31 include: In the case of a legislator, reprimand, censure, or
32 expulsion, and when applicable, restitution; and in the case of a

1 legislative employee, reprimand, suspension, or dismissal, and when
2 applicable, restitution.

3 **Prohibited Political Activity**

4 **Rule 2.** (1) A legislator shall not knowingly solicit, directly or
5 indirectly, a political contribution from a legislative employee.

6 (2) A legislative employee shall not knowingly solicit or accept
7 contributions for any candidate or political committee during working
8 hours. At no time shall a legislative employee directly or indirectly
9 solicit a contribution from another legislative employee for any
10 legislative candidate, caucus political committee, or leadership
11 political committee, nor coerce another employee into making a
12 contribution to any candidate or political committee. No legislative
13 employee, as a condition of becoming or remaining employed, may
14 directly or indirectly be required to make any contribution to a
15 political candidate, committee, or party.

16 **Legislative Code of Conduct**

17 **Rule 3.** The legislature is committed to maintaining a
18 professional and respectful environment for all members of the
19 legislative community. As stewards of the public trust, each member
20 is expected to:

21 (1) Conduct themselves with self-awareness, self-respect, and
22 professionalism;

23 (2) Treat all others with respect, dignity, and civility,
24 regardless of status or position; and

25 (3) Refrain from engaging in hostile, intimidating, offensive, or
26 unlawful activities or behaviors that may amount to discrimination,
27 harassment, sexual harassment, or bullying.

28 **Employee Protection**

29 **Rule 4.** No retaliation shall be permitted against any legislative
30 employee for reporting in good faith the violation of any policy or
31 law.

32 **Sessions of the Legislature**

33 **Rule 5.** The sessions of the legislature shall be held annually,
34 convening on the second Monday of January each year, as provided by

1 RCW 44.04.010 in accordance with Article 2, section 12 of the state
2 Constitution.

3 **Joint Session**

4 **Rule 6.** Whenever there shall be a joint session of the two
5 houses, the proceedings shall be entered at length upon the journal
6 of each house. The lieutenant governor or president of the senate
7 shall preside over such joint session, and the clerk of the house of
8 representatives shall act as the clerk thereof, except in the case of
9 the joint session held for the purpose of canvassing the votes of
10 constitutional elective state officers, when the speaker shall
11 preside over such joint sessions. The lieutenant governor in no case
12 shall have the right to give the deciding vote. A joint session may
13 be held remotely as provided by concurrent resolution. Members
14 participating remotely shall be considered present for purposes of a
15 quorum and voting.

16 **Motions for Joint Session**

17 **Rule 7.** All motions for a joint session shall be made by
18 concurrent resolution to be introduced by the house in which such
19 joint session is to be held; and when an agreement has once been
20 made, it shall not be altered or annulled, except by concurrent
21 resolution.

22 **Business Limited**

23 **Rule 8.** No business shall be considered in joint session other
24 than that which may be agreed upon before the joint session is
25 called.

26 **Joint Legislative Committees**

27 **Rule 9.** Joint legislative committees may be created by concurrent
28 resolution originating in either house and passed by a majority vote
29 of both houses.

30 Joint legislative committees may have the powers of subpoena, the
31 power to administer oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the
32 examination of witnesses in accordance with the provisions of chapter
33 44.16 RCW. Before a joint legislative committee may issue any
34 process, the committee chairperson shall submit for approval of both

1 the executive rules committee of the house of representatives and the
2 rules committee of the senate, a statement of purpose setting forth
3 the name or names of those subject to process. The process shall not
4 be issued prior to approval by both the executive rules committee of
5 the house of representatives and the rules committee of the senate.
6 The process shall be limited to the named individuals.

7 **Joint Committee Meetings**

8 **Rule 10.** All meetings held by joint committees or held jointly by
9 house of representatives and senate standing committees must be
10 conducted in accordance with the rules and applicable interim
11 resolutions of both the senate and the house of representatives.
12 Expenditures and meetings may be subject to approval in accordance
13 with such rules and applicable interim resolutions. Remote
14 participation in committee meetings is authorized to the extent it is
15 technologically feasible. When participating remotely, committee
16 members shall be considered present for purposes of a quorum and
17 voting.

18 **Joint and Concurrent Resolutions - Memorials**

19 **Rule 11.** All memorials and resolutions from the legislature
20 addressed to the President of the United States, to the Congress or
21 either house thereof, to any other branch of the Federal government,
22 to any other branch of state government, or to any unit of local
23 government shall be in the form of joint memorials. Proposed
24 amendments to the state Constitution shall be in the form of joint
25 resolutions. Business between the two houses such as joint sessions,
26 amendments to redistricting plans submitted by a redistricting
27 commission created under chapter 44.05 RCW, adopting or amending
28 joint rules, creating or empowering joint committees, opening and
29 closing business of the legislature and all such related matters
30 shall be in the form of concurrent resolutions. Joint memorials,
31 joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions, up to and including
32 the signing thereof by the presiding officer of each house, shall be
33 subject to the rules governing the course of bills. Concurrent
34 resolutions may be adopted without a roll call. Concurrent
35 resolutions amending a redistricting plan submitted by a
36 redistricting commission, authorizing investigations or authorizing
37 the expenditure or allocation of any money must be adopted by roll

1 call, and the yeas and nays recorded in the journal. Concurrent
2 resolutions amending a redistricting plan as well as all amendments
3 to those resolutions must be agreed to by two-thirds of the members
4 elected or appointed to each house.

5 **Amendatory Bills**

6 **Rule 12.** All amendatory bills shall refer to the section or
7 sections of the official codes and statutes of Washington, and
8 supplements thereto and to the respective Session Laws, to be
9 amended.

10 **Bills, How Drawn**

11 **Rule 13.** Bills introduced in either house intended to amend
12 existing statutes shall have the words that are amendatory to such
13 existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from the
14 existing statutes shall be indicated by lining out such matter with a
15 broken line and enclosing the lined out material within double
16 parentheses, and no bill shall be printed or acted upon until the
17 provisions of this rule shall have been complied with.

18 New sections need not be underlined but shall be designated "NEW
19 SECTION." in upper case type and such designation shall be
20 underlined.

21 Sections of a bill that repeal a prior enactment shall include
22 the section caption accompanying the section in the Revised Code of
23 Washington.

24 No bill shall be introduced by title only, and, in the event a
25 bill is not complete, at least section 1 shall be set forth in full
26 before the bill may be accepted for introduction.

27 Amendments to bills will be acted upon in the manner provided in
28 the Rules of the Senate and in the Rules of the House of
29 Representatives. No amendment to a bill shall be considered which
30 strikes the entire subject matter of a bill, and substitutes in lieu
31 thereof entirely new subject matter not germane to the original or
32 engrossed bill.

33 **Amendments to State Constitution - Action by Legislature**

34 **Rule 14.** Amendments to the state Constitution may be proposed in
35 either branch of the legislature by joint resolution; and if the same
36 shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of

1 the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be
2 entered on their respective journals with the ayes and nays thereon.
3 (Const., art. 23, sec. 1.)

4 **Publicity of Proposed Amendments to State Constitution**

5 **Rule 15.** The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of
6 all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution
7 referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and
8 amendments so referred, so that each voter of the state shall receive
9 the publication as soon as possible before the election at which they
10 are to be voted upon. (Const., art. 2, sec. 1e.)

11 **Initiative Petition Before the Legislature**

12 **Rule 16.** Initiative petitions filed with the secretary of state
13 not less than 10 days before any regular session of the legislature
14 shall take precedence over all other measures in the legislature
15 except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or rejected
16 without change or amendment by the legislature before the end of such
17 regular session. Upon certification from the secretary of state that
18 an initiative to the legislature has received sufficient valid
19 signatures, the secretary of state shall submit certified copies of
20 the said initiative to the state senate and the house of
21 representatives. Upon receipt of said initiative, each body of the
22 legislature through its presiding officers shall refer the certified
23 copies of the initiative to a proper committee.

24 Upon receipt of a committee report on an initiative to the
25 legislature, each house shall treat the measure in the same manner as
26 bills, memorials and resolutions, except that initiatives cannot be
27 placed on the calendar for amendment. After the action of each body
28 has been recorded on the final passage or any other action by
29 resolution or otherwise which may refer the initiative to the people
30 has been recorded, the president and secretary of the senate and the
31 speaker and chief clerk of the house of representatives will certify,
32 each for its own body, to the secretary of state the action taken.
33 (Const., art. 2, sec. 1a.)

34 **Conference Committee**

35 **Rule 17.** (1) In every case of difference between the two houses,
36 upon any subject of legislation, either house may request a

1 conference and appoint a committee for that purpose, and the other
2 house may grant the request for a conference and appoint a committee
3 to confer. The presiding officer of each house shall appoint on each
4 conference committee three members, selecting them so as to
5 represent, in each case, the majority and minority positions to the
6 extent possible as relates to the subject matter, and the majority
7 and minority caucuses. The committees, at the earliest possible hour,
8 shall confer upon the differences between the two houses indicated by
9 the amendment or amendments adopted in one house and rejected in the
10 other.

11 (2) ~~((Conference))~~ (a) Except as otherwise provided herein,
12 conference committee deliberations shall be conducted in a manner
13 consistent with the rules of the house of representatives and senate
14 applicable to deliberations of standing committees. Except as
15 provided in (b) of this subsection, conference committee
16 deliberations shall be in person and voting shall be through a roll
17 call vote, with votes recorded electronically.

18 (b) When a conferee requests remote participation because of
19 illness or emergency, the conferee shall notify the leader of the
20 conferee's caucus. If the leader of the caucus approves the request
21 for remote participation, the leader shall inform the leader of the
22 other three caucuses, the secretary of the senate, and the chief
23 clerk of the house of representatives, as soon as practicable but no
24 later than two hours before the scheduled start of the meeting. In
25 such instances, the entire conference committee shall meet remotely,
26 and conferees shall vote through a roll call vote, with votes
27 recorded electronically.

28 (3) Public notice of a conference committee meeting shall be
29 given by the secretary of the senate, for house bills, and the chief
30 clerk of the house of representatives, for senate bills, prior to the
31 convening of the meeting by distributing meeting notices via the
32 legislature's email system.

33 (4) The papers shall be left with the conferees of the house of
34 representatives if a senate bill, and with the conferees of the
35 senate, if a house bill, and the holders of the papers shall first
36 present the report of the committee to their house. Every report of a
37 conference committee must be recommended by a majority of the
38 conference committee members of each house. Conference committee
39 reports must be recommended at a meeting duly convened by the chief

1 clerk of the house of representatives for senate bills or the
2 secretary of the senate for house bills.

3 **Failure to Agree**

4 **Rule 18.** In case of failure of the conferees to agree on matters
5 directly at issue between the two houses, the committee may in
6 addition consider new proposed items within the scope and object of
7 the bill in conference. A report proposing new items shall include
8 all amendments to the bill or resolution agreed upon by the
9 conference committee. The proposed report may be in the form of a new
10 bill or resolution and such report must be recommended by a majority
11 of the members of the committee appointed from each house.

12 **Report of Conference Committee, How Made Out - Whom Returned to**

13 **Rule 19.** The conference committee shall submit the bill as
14 amended together with three copies of its report to the house of
15 representatives if a senate bill, and to the senate, if a house bill.
16 A copy of the report shall be distributed to each member of the
17 legislature at the time the report is received by this house. If this
18 house acts to approve the report and pass the bill as amended, it
19 shall then transmit its action, the bill, and two copies of the
20 report to the other house.

21 **Adoption of Reports**

22 **Rule 20.** No floor vote may be taken on any conference committee
23 report without a distribution to all members of a summary of
24 additions, changes, and deletions made by the conference committee
25 that is sufficiently explicit to inform the members of the effect of
26 said additions, changes, and deletions. The chief clerk of the house
27 of representatives and the secretary of the senate shall distribute
28 the reports to the members as soon as possible.

29 Each house shall have 24 hours from the time of proper receipt,
30 by the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary
31 of the senate, and by distribution to the members before considering
32 reports from a conference committee which has proposed new items
33 within the scope and object of the bill in conference.

34 The foregoing provision relating to 24 hour intervals may be
35 suspended by the senate or the house of representatives by two-thirds

1 vote of the members present, and such suspension shall apply only to
2 the house voting to suspend this provision.

3 The report must be voted upon in its entirety and cannot be
4 amended. The report of a conference committee may be adopted by voice
5 vote.

6 Passage of a bill as amended by conference report shall be by
7 roll call and ayes and nays shall be entered on the journals of the
8 respective house. Passage requires a constitutional majority in both
9 houses, except in the case of constitutional amendments, which
10 require a two-thirds vote.

11 **Messages Between the Two Houses**

12 **Rule 21.** Messages from the senate to the house of representatives
13 shall be delivered by the secretary or the secretary's designee, and
14 messages from the house of representatives to the senate shall be
15 delivered by the chief clerk or the chief clerk's designee.

16 **Bills to be Engrossed**

17 **Rule 22.** Any bill amended in the house of its origin shall be
18 engrossed before being transmitted to the other house. The secretary
19 or clerk of the receiving house, as the case may be, may waive the
20 right to receive an engrossed bill.

21 **Final Action on Bills, How Communicated**

22 **Rule 23.** Each house shall communicate its final action on any
23 bill or resolution, or matter in which the other may be interested,
24 in writing, signed by the secretary or clerk of the house from which
25 such notice is sent.

26 **Enrolled Bills - Presiding Officer to Sign**

27 **Rule 24.** After a bill shall have passed both houses and all
28 amendments have been engrossed therein, it shall be signed by the
29 presiding officer of each house in open session, first in the house
30 in which it originated. The secretary of the senate or the chief
31 clerk of the house of representatives shall present the original bill
32 to the governor for signature.

33 **Disposition of Enrolled Bills**

1 **Rule 25.** Whenever any bill shall have passed both houses, the
2 house transmitting the bill in its final form to the governor shall
3 also file with the secretary of state a copy of the bill together
4 with the history of such bill up to the time of transmission to the
5 governor.

6 **Adjournment**

7 **Rule 26.** Neither house shall adjourn for more than three days,
8 nor to any place other than that in which they may be sitting,
9 without the consent of the other. (Const., art. 2, sec. 11.)

10 **Adjournment Sine Die**

11 **Rule 27.** Adjournment sine die shall be made only by concurrent
12 resolution.

13 **Each House Judge of Its Own Membership**

14 **Rule 28.** Each house of the legislature is the judge of the
15 qualifications and election of its members, and shall try all
16 contested elections of its members in such manner as it may direct.
17 (Const., art. 2, sec. 8.)

18 **Convening Special Legislative Sessions**

19 **Rule 29.** As provided in RCW 44.04.012, the legislature may
20 convene a special legislative session as follows:

21 (1) A resolution calling for convening a special legislative
22 session shall set forth the date and time for convening the session,
23 the duration of the session which shall not exceed 30 days, together
24 with the purpose or purposes for which such session is called.
25 Members of the house of representatives or senate may present a
26 proposed resolution for the convening of a special legislative
27 session to the committee on rules of their respective houses.

28 (2) The authority to place a resolution convening a special
29 legislative session before the legislature is vested in the committee
30 on rules of the house of representatives and the committee on rules
31 of the senate.

32 (3) Upon a majority vote of both the committee on rules of the
33 house of representatives and the committee on rules of the senate in
34 favor of a resolution convening a special legislative session, a vote

1 of the house of representatives and senate shall be taken on such
2 resolution.

3 (4) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
4 secretary of the senate shall conduct the vote on the resolution by
5 written ballot of the members of their respective houses under such
6 procedures as may be ordered by the committee on rules of their
7 house. The results of such vote shall be transmitted to the members
8 of the legislature and shall be a public record and shall be entered
9 upon the journal of the house of representatives and senate at the
10 convening of the next legislative session.

11 (5) If two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to each
12 house vote in favor of the resolution, then a special legislative
13 session shall be convened in accordance with the resolution. (Const.,
14 art. 2, sec. 12.)

15 **Convening Special Legislative Sessions Solely to Reconsider Vetoed**
16 **Bills**

17 **Rule 30.** (1) Any member may petition the legislature to convene a
18 special session in the form of a resolution solely to reconsider the
19 governor's veto on any bill within 45 days next after the
20 adjournment.

21 (2) A resolution calling for convening a special legislative
22 session for this purpose shall set forth the bill or bills that the
23 governor has vetoed that the resolution seeks to reconsider in the
24 special legislative session. Members of the house of representatives
25 or senate may present a proposed resolution for the convening of a
26 special legislative session for this sole purpose to the committee on
27 rules of their respective houses.

28 (3) The authority to place a resolution convening a special
29 legislative session before the legislature is vested in the committee
30 on rules of the house of representatives and the committee on rules
31 of the senate.

32 (4) If the committee receiving the resolution approves it by a
33 majority vote of all members of the committee, it shall set forth the
34 date and time for convening the proposed special session and shall
35 transmit the resolution to the committee on rules of the other
36 chamber through the chief clerk of the house of representatives and
37 the secretary of the senate, as applicable.

1 (5) Upon a majority vote of both the committee on rules of the
2 house of representatives and the committee on rules of the senate in
3 favor of a resolution convening a special legislative session, a vote
4 of the house of representatives and senate shall be taken on such a
5 resolution.

6 (6) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
7 secretary of the senate shall conduct the vote on the resolution by
8 written ballot of the members of their respective houses under such
9 procedures as may be ordered by the committee on rules of their
10 house. The results of such a vote shall be transmitted to the members
11 of the legislature and shall be a public record and shall be entered
12 upon the journal of the house of representatives and senate at the
13 convening of the next legislative session.

14 (7) If two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to each
15 house vote in favor of the resolution, then a special legislative
16 session shall be convened in accordance with the resolution, not to
17 exceed five days in length. (Const., art. 3, sec. 12.)

18 **Amendments to Joint Rules**

19 **Rule 31.** These joint rules may be amended by concurrent
20 resolution agreed to by a majority of the members of each house,
21 provided one day's notice be given of the motion thereof.

22 **Joint Rules to Apply for Biennium**

23 **Rule 32.** The permanent joint rules adopted by the legislature
24 shall govern any session called during the same legislative biennium.

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