

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4651, by Representatives Fitzgibbon and Steele

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives adopted permanent rules for
2 the Sixty-eighth Legislature (2023-2024) under House Resolution No.
3 2023 4617;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Rule 17 as set forth in
5 House Resolution No. 2023 4617 is amended to read as follows:

6 PERMANENT RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7 SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE 2023-2024

8 **HOUSE RULE NO.**

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27 **Definitions**

28 **Rule 1.** (A) "Absent" means an unexcused failure to attend.

29 (B) "Bill" means bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or
30 concurrent resolution unless the context indicates otherwise.

1 (C) "Committee" means any standing, conference, joint, or select
2 committee as so designated by rule or resolution.

3 (D) "Fiscal committee" means the appropriations, capital budget,
4 finance, and transportation committees.

5 (E) "Sergeant at arms" means the director of house security.

6 (F) "Session" means a constitutional gathering of the house in
7 accordance with Article II, section 12 of the state Constitution.

8 (G) "Term" means the two-year term during which the members as a
9 body may act.

10 **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

11 **Rule 2.** It shall be the duty of the chief clerk of the previous
12 term to call the house to order and to conduct the proceedings until
13 a speaker is chosen.

14 **Election of Officers**

15 **Rule 3.** The house shall elect the following officers at the
16 commencement of each term: Its presiding officer, who shall be styled
17 speaker of the house; a speaker pro tempore, who shall serve in
18 absence or in case of the inability of the speaker; a deputy speaker
19 pro tempore, who shall serve in absence or in case of the inability
20 of the speaker and speaker pro tempore; and a chief clerk of the
21 house. Such officers shall hold office during all sessions until the
22 convening of the succeeding term: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any of
23 these offices may be declared vacant by the vote of a constitutional
24 majority of the house, the members voting viva voce and their votes
25 shall be entered on the journal. If any office is declared vacant,
26 the house shall fill such vacant office as hereinafter provided. In
27 all elections by the house a constitutional majority shall be
28 required, the members shall vote viva voce and their votes shall be
29 entered on the journal. (Article II, section 27)

30 **Powers and Duties of the Speaker**

31 **Rule 4.** The speaker shall have the following powers and duties:

32 (A) The speaker shall take the chair and call the house to order
33 precisely at the hour appointed for meeting and if a quorum be

1 present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read and
2 shall proceed with the order of business.

3 (B) The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of
4 any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber or
5 legislative area, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the
6 same and may order the sergeant at arms to remove any person creating
7 any disturbance within the house chamber or legislative area.

8 (C) The speaker may speak to points of order in preference to
9 other members, arising from the seat for that purpose, and shall
10 decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the house by
11 any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once
12 without leave of the house.

13 (D) The speaker shall sign all bills in open session. (Article
14 II, section 32)

15 (E) The speaker shall sign all writs, warrants, and subpoenas
16 issued by order of the house, all of which shall be attested to by
17 the chief clerk.

18 (F) The speaker shall have the right to name any member to
19 perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall neither
20 extend beyond adjournment nor authorize the representative so
21 substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the
22 speaker.

23 (G) The speaker, in open session, shall appoint committee chairs
24 as selected by the majority party caucus, and shall appoint members
25 to committees in the same ratio as the membership of the respective
26 parties of the house, unless otherwise provided by law or house
27 rules.

28 (H) The speaker shall serve as chair of the rules committee and
29 the executive rules committee.

30 (I) The speaker shall have charge of and see that all officers,
31 attaches, and clerks perform their respective duties.

32 (J) The speaker pro tempore shall exercise the duties, powers,
33 and prerogatives of the speaker in the event of the speaker's death,
34 illness, removal, or inability to act until the speaker's successor
35 shall be elected.

1 **Chief Clerk**

2 **Rule 5.** The chief clerk shall perform the usual duties pertaining
3 to the office, and shall hold office until a successor has been
4 elected.

5 The chief clerk shall perform all administrative duties related
6 to the public records obligations of members of the house.

7 The chief clerk shall employ, subject to the approval of the
8 speaker, all other house employees; the hours of duty and assignments
9 of all house employees shall be under the chief clerk's directions
10 and instructions, and they may be dismissed by the chief clerk with
11 the approval of the speaker. The speaker shall sign and the chief
12 clerk shall countersign all payrolls and vouchers for all expenses of
13 the house and appropriately transmit the same. In the event of the
14 chief clerk's death, illness, removal, or inability to act, the
15 speaker may appoint an acting chief clerk who shall exercise the
16 duties and powers of the chief clerk until the chief clerk's
17 successor shall be elected.

18 **Executive Rules Committee**

19 **Rule 6.** The executive rules committee is hereby established to
20 oversee administrative operations of the house. The committee
21 consists of four members of the majority caucus and three members of
22 the minority caucus, to be named by the speaker and minority leader
23 respectively.

24 **Duties of Employees**

25 **Rule 7.** Employees of the house shall perform such duties as are
26 assigned to them by the chief clerk. Under no circumstances shall the
27 compensation of any employee be increased for past services. No house
28 employee shall seek to influence the passage or rejection of proposed
29 legislation.

30 **Admission to the House**

31 **Rule 8.** It shall be the general policy of the house to keep the
32 chamber clear as follows:

33 (A) The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following
34 individuals to the wings and adjacent areas of the house chamber for
35 the period of time beginning one-half hour prior to convening and

1 ending one-half hour following the adjournment of the house's daily
2 session:

3 The governor or designees, or both;

4 Members of the senate;

5 State elected officials;

6 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature;

7 Former members of the house who are not advocating any pending or
8 proposed legislation;

9 Representatives of the press;

10 Other persons with the consent of the speaker.

11 (B) Only members of the house, pages, sergeants at arms, and
12 clerks are permitted on the floor while the house is in session.

13 (C) Lobbying in the house chamber or in any committee room or
14 lounge room is prohibited when the house or committee is in session
15 unless expressly permitted by the house or committee. Anyone
16 violating this rule will forfeit their right to be admitted to the
17 house chamber or any of its committee rooms.

18 **Absentees and Courtesy**

19 **Rule 9.** No member shall be absent from the service of the house
20 without leave from the speaker. When the house is in session, only
21 the speaker shall recognize visitors and former members.

22 **Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions**

23 **Rule 10.** Any member desiring to introduce a bill shall file the
24 same with the chief clerk. Bills filed by 10:00 a.m. shall be
25 introduced at the next daily session, in the order filed: PROVIDED,
26 That if such introduction is within the last ten days of a regular
27 session, it cannot be considered without a direct vote of two-thirds
28 (2/3) of all the members elected to each house with such vote
29 recorded and entered upon the journal. (Article II, section 36)

30 Any returning member or member-elect may prefile a bill with the
31 chief clerk commencing the first Monday in December preceding any
32 regular session or twenty (20) days before any special session.
33 Prefiled bills shall be introduced on the first legislative day.

34 All bills shall be endorsed with a statement of the title and the
35 name of the member or members introducing the same. The chief clerk

1 shall attach to all bills a substantial cover bearing the title and
2 sponsors and shall number each bill in the order filed. All bills
3 shall be printed unless otherwise ordered by the house.

4 Any bill introduced at any session during the term shall be
5 eligible for action at all subsequent sessions during the term.

6 No house bill may be introduced that is identical to any other
7 pending house bill.

8 **Reading of Bills**

9 **Rule 11.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days:
10 PROVIDED, That this rule may be temporarily suspended at any time by
11 a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present; and that on and after
12 the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any
13 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the
14 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the
15 third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as
16 established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended by a
17 majority vote.

18 A bill may be returned to second reading for the purpose of
19 amendment by a suspension of the rules: PROVIDED, That on and after
20 the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any
21 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the
22 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the
23 third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as
24 established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended and
25 a bill returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment by a
26 majority vote.

27 (A) FIRST READING. The first reading of a bill shall be by title
28 only, unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in
29 full.

30 After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an
31 appropriate committee.

32 Upon being reported out of committee, all bills shall be referred
33 to the rules committee, unless otherwise ordered by the house.

34 The rules committee may, by majority vote, refer any bill in its
35 possession to a committee for further consideration. Such referral
36 shall be reported to the house and entered in the journal under the
37 fifth order of business.

1 (B) SECOND READING. Upon second reading, the bill number and
2 short title and the last line of the bill shall be read unless a
3 majority of the members present shall demand its reading in full. The
4 bill shall be subject to amendment section by section. No amendment
5 shall be considered by the house until it has been sent to the chief
6 clerk's desk in writing or electronically, distributed to the desk of
7 each member or made available to each member electronically, and read
8 by the clerk. All amendments adopted during second reading shall be
9 securely fastened to the original bill. All amendments rejected by
10 the house shall be passed to the minute clerk, and the journal shall
11 show the disposition of such amendments.

12 When no further amendments shall be offered, the speaker shall
13 declare the bill has passed its second reading.

14 (C) SUBSTITUTE BILLS. When a committee reports a substitute for
15 an original bill with the recommendation that the substitute bill do
16 pass, it shall be in order to read the substitute the first time and
17 have the same printed. A motion for the substitution shall not be in
18 order until the second reading of the original bill.

19 (D) THIRD READING. Only the last line of bills shall be read on
20 third reading unless a majority of the members present demand a
21 reading in full. No amendments to a bill shall be received on third
22 reading but it may be referred or recommitted for the purpose of
23 amendment.

24 (E) SUSPENSION CALENDAR. Bills may be placed on the second
25 reading suspension calendar by the rules committee if at least two
26 minority party members of the rules committee join in such motion.
27 Bills on the second reading suspension calendar shall not be subject
28 to amendment or substitution except as recommended in the committee
29 report. When a bill is before the house on the suspension calendar,
30 the question shall be to adopt the committee recommendations and
31 advance the bill to third reading. If the question fails to receive a
32 two-thirds vote of the members present, the bill shall be referred to
33 the rules committee for second reading.

34 (F) HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. House resolutions shall be filed with the
35 chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If a
36 rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time

1 necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority
2 leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to the
3 rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by the
4 house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a sixty
5 percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a majority
6 vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar for
7 consideration by the house. House resolutions are not subject to
8 debate, except for resolutions necessary for the operation of the
9 house, and resolutions commemorating Children's Day, Day of
10 Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Guard Day, and
11 President's Day.

12 (G) CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS. Reading of concurrent resolutions may
13 be advanced by majority vote.

14 **Amendments**

15 **Rule 12.** The right of any member to offer amendments to proposed
16 legislation shall not be limited except as provided in Rule 11(E) and
17 as follows:

18 (A) AMENDMENTS TO BE OFFERED IN PROPER FORM. The chief clerk
19 shall establish the proper form for amendments and all amendments
20 offered shall bear the name of the member who offers the same, as
21 well as the number and section of the bill to be amended.

22 (B) COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. When a bill is before the house on
23 second reading, amendments adopted by committees and recommended to
24 the house shall be acted upon by the house before any amendments that
25 may be offered from the floor.

26 (C) SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS. A house bill, passed by the
27 senate with amendment or amendments which shall change the scope and
28 object of the bill, upon being received in the house, shall be
29 referred to the appropriate committee and shall take the same course
30 as for original bills unless a motion not to concur is adopted prior
31 to the bill being referred to committee.

32 (D) AMENDMENTS TO BE GERMANE. No motion or proposition on a
33 subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted
34 under color of amendment; and no bill or resolution shall at any time

1 be amended by annexing thereto or incorporating therein any other
2 bill or resolution pending before the house.

3 (E) SCOPE AND OBJECT NOT TO BE CHANGED. No amendment to any bill
4 shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of the bill.
5 This objection may be raised at any time an amendment is under
6 consideration. The speaker may allow the person raising the objection
7 and the mover of the amendment to provide brief arguments as to the
8 merits of the objection. (Article II, section 38)

9 (F) NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE. No act shall ever be revised or
10 amended without being set forth at full length. (Article II, section
11 37)

12 (G) TITLE AMENDMENTS. The subject matter portion of a bill title
13 shall not be amended in committee or on second reading. Changes to
14 that part of the title after the subject matter statement shall
15 either be presented with the text amendment or be incorporated by the
16 chief clerk in the engrossing process.

17 (H) DATE AND TIME FOR AMENDMENT SUBMISSION. To facilitate the
18 orderly consideration of proposed legislation, the speaker, after
19 consultation with the minority leader, may establish a date and time
20 for submission of amendments.

21 **Final Passage**

22 **Rule 13.** Rules relating to bills on final passage are as follows:

23 (A) BUDGET BILLS. No final passage vote may be taken on an
24 operating budget, transportation budget, or capital budget bill until
25 twenty-four (24) hours after the bill is placed on the third reading
26 calendar. The twenty-four (24) hour requirement does not apply to
27 conference reports, which are governed by the Joint Rules of the
28 Senate and the House of Representatives, or to bills placed on the
29 third reading calendar by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members
30 present.

31 (B) RECOMMITMENT BEFORE FINAL PASSAGE. A bill may be recommitted
32 at any time before its final passage.

33 (C) FINAL PASSAGE. No bill shall become a law unless on its final
34 passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the members
35 voting for and against the same be entered on the journal of each

1 house, and a majority of the members elected to each house be
2 recorded thereon as voting in its favor. (Article II, section 22)

3 (D) BILLS PASSED - CERTIFICATION. When a bill passes, it shall be
4 certified to by the chief clerk, said certification to show the date
5 of its passage together with the vote thereon.

6 **Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum**

7 **Rule 14.** (A) HOUR OF MEETING. The speaker shall call the house to
8 order each day of sitting at 10:00 A.M., unless the house shall have
9 adjourned to some other hour.

10 (B) ROLL CALL AND QUORUM. Before proceeding with business, the
11 roll of the members shall be called and the names of those absent or
12 excused shall be entered on the journal. A majority of all the
13 members elected must be present to constitute a quorum for the
14 transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, seven members
15 with the speaker, or eight members in the speaker's absence, having
16 chosen a speaker pro tempore, shall be authorized to demand a call of
17 the house and may compel the attendance of absent members in the
18 manner provided in Rule 23(B). Any member participating remotely in
19 house proceedings as provided in Rule 17 shall be considered present
20 for purposes of a quorum. For the purpose of determining if a quorum
21 be present, the speaker shall count all members present, whether
22 voting or not. (Article II, section 8)

23 (C) The house shall adjourn not later than 10:00 P.M. of each
24 working day. This rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

25 **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

26 **Rule 15.** The rules relating to the daily calendar and order of
27 business are as follows:

28 (A) DAILY CALENDAR. Business of the house shall be disposed of in
29 the following order:

30 First: Roll call, presentation of colors, prayer, and approval of
31 the journal of the preceding day.

32 Second: Introduction of visiting dignitaries.

33 Third: Messages from the senate, governor, and other state
34 officials.

1 Fourth: Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials, joint
2 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.

3 Fifth: Committee reports.

4 Sixth: Second reading of bills.

5 Seventh: Third reading of bills.

6 Eighth: Floor resolutions and motions.

7 Ninth: Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances
8 addressed to the Legislature.

9 Tenth: Introduction of visitors and other business to be
10 considered.

11 Eleventh: Announcements.

12 (B) UNFINISHED BUSINESS. The unfinished business at which the
13 house was engaged preceding adjournment shall not be taken up until
14 reached in regular order, unless the previous question on such
15 unfinished business has been ordered prior to said adjournment.

16 (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as
17 follows:

18 (1) The order of business may be changed by a majority vote of
19 those present.

20 (2) By motion under the eighth order of business, a bill in the
21 rules committee may be placed on the calendar by the affirmative vote
22 of a majority of all members of the house.

23 (3) House resolutions and messages from the senate, governor, or
24 other state officials may be read at any time.

25 Motions

26 **Rule 16.** Rules relating to motions are as follows:

27 (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be
28 entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every
29 motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be
30 reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker
31 or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the
32 house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

33 (B) MOTIONS IN ORDER DURING DEBATE. When a motion has been made
34 and seconded and stated by the chair, the following motions are in
35 order, in the rank named:

- 1 (1) Privileged motions:
- 2 Adjourn
- 3 Adjourn to a time certain
- 4 Recess to a time certain
- 5 Reconsider
- 6 Demand for division
- 7 Question of privilege
- 8 Orders of the day

- 10 (2) Subsidiary motions:
- 11 First rank: Question of consideration
- 12 Second rank: To lay on the table
- 13 Third rank: For the previous question
- 14 Fourth rank: To postpone to a day certain
- 15 To commit or recommit
- 16 To postpone indefinitely
- 17 Fifth rank: To amend

- 19 (3) Incidental motions:
- 20 Points of order and appeal
- 21 Method of consideration
- 22 Suspension of the rules
- 23 Reading papers
- 24 Withdraw a motion
- 25 Division of a question

26 (C) THE EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT - MOTIONS TO POSTPONE OR COMMIT.
27 Once decided, no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or
28 to postpone indefinitely shall again be allowed on the same day and
29 at the same stage of the proceedings. When a question has been
30 postponed indefinitely, it shall not again be introduced during the

1 session. The motion to postpone indefinitely may be made at any stage
2 of the bill except when on first reading.

3 (D) MOTIONS DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE. A motion to adjourn, to
4 recess, to lay on the table and to call for the previous question
5 shall be decided without debate.

6 All incidental motions shall be decided without debate, except
7 that members may speak to points of order and appeal as provided in
8 Rule 24.

9 Motions to adopt house resolutions shall be decided without
10 debate, except as provided in Rule 11(F).

11 A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable
12 except that the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose
13 of the motion and one member may briefly state the opposition to the
14 motion.

15 (E) MOTION TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn shall always be in
16 order, except when the house is voting or is working under the call
17 of the house; but this rule shall not authorize any member to move
18 for adjournment when another member has the floor.

19 **Remote Participation and Voting Permitted Upon Authorization**

20 **Rule 17.** The majority leader and minority leader or their
21 designees may authorize members of their respective caucuses to
22 participate remotely in official house proceedings, including
23 committee meetings and floor sessions, upon the request of a member
24 who is experiencing a medical condition or illness that prevents in-
25 person participation during a regular session, or during the first
26 special session of 2023 members may participate remotely as
27 authorized. Once authorized, any member participating remotely shall
28 be considered present for purposes of a quorum and voting. Members
29 participating remotely shall use the computer and virtual background
30 provided by the house during all committee meetings and floor
31 proceedings. The majority leader and minority leader or their
32 designees shall determine when the member's authorization to
33 participate remotely ends.

34 **Members' Right to Debate**

1 **Rule 18.** The methods by which a member may exercise their right
2 to debate are as follows:

3 (A) RECOGNITION OF MEMBER. When any member desires to speak in
4 debate or deliver any matter to the house, the member shall rise and
5 respectfully address the speaker and pause until recognized. Any
6 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in
7 Rule 17 who desires to speak may request to be recognized by use of
8 the request to speak button in the remote floor activity system.

9 (B) ORDER OF SPEAKING. When two or more members arise at once,
10 the speaker shall name the one who is to speak.

11 (C) LIMITATION OF DEBATE. No member shall speak longer than ten
12 (10) minutes without consent of the house: PROVIDED, That on and
13 after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any
14 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the
15 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the
16 fifth day prior to the day any bill must be reported from the house
17 as established by concurrent resolution, no member shall speak more
18 than three (3) minutes without the consent of the house. No member
19 shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the
20 house: PROVIDED, That the chair of the committee or the mover of the
21 question may close debate if it is consistent with Rule 20 (Previous
22 Question).

23 **Rules of Debate**

24 **Rule 19.** The rules for debate in the house are as follows:

25 (A) QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE. Any member may rise to a question of
26 privilege and explain a personal matter, by leave of the speaker, but
27 the member shall not discuss any pending question in such
28 explanations.

29 (B) WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION, BILL, ETC. After a motion is stated by
30 the speaker or a bill, memorial, resolution, petition, or
31 remonstrance is read by the clerk, it shall be deemed to be in
32 possession of the house, but may be withdrawn by consent of the house
33 at any time before decision or amendment.

1 (C) READING OF A PAPER. When the reading of any paper is called
2 for and is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a
3 vote of the house.

4 (D) DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS. Any materials of any nature
5 distributed to the members' desks on the floor shall be subject to
6 approval by the speaker and shall bear the name of at least one
7 member granted permission for the distribution. Any member
8 participating remotely as provided in Rule 17 who wishes to
9 distribute materials subject to the speaker's approval may do so
10 electronically. All materials approved for distribution shall be
11 provided electronically to members participating remotely to the
12 extent practicable. This shall not apply to materials normally
13 distributed by the chief clerk.

14 (E) ORDER OF QUESTIONS. All questions, whether in committee or in
15 the house, shall be propounded in the order in which they are named
16 except that in filling blanks, the largest sum and the longest time
17 shall be put first.

18 (F) DIVISION OF POINTS OF DEBATE. Any member may call for a
19 division of a question which shall be divided if it embraces subjects
20 so distinct that one being taken away a substantive proposition shall
21 remain for the decision of the house; but a motion to strike out and
22 to insert shall not be divided. The rejection of a motion to strike
23 out and to insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to
24 strike out and to insert a different proposition.

25 (G) DECORUM OF MEMBERS. While the speaker is putting the
26 question, no member shall walk across or out of the house; nor when a
27 member is speaking shall any member entertain private discourse or
28 pass between the speaking member and the rostrum.

29 (H) REMARKS CONFINED. A member shall confine all remarks to the
30 question under debate and avoid personalities. No member shall impugn
31 the motive of any member's vote or argument.

32 (I) EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. If any member be called
33 to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the member to
34 order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall be taken down
35 in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be held in answer or

1 be subject to the censure of the house for words spoken in debate if
2 any other member has spoken before exception to them shall have been
3 taken.

4 (J) TRANSGRESSION OF RULES - APPEAL. If any member, in speaking
5 or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the house the speaker shall,
6 or any member may, call the member to order, in which case the member
7 so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to
8 explain; and the house shall, if appealed to, decide the case without
9 debate; if there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall
10 prevail.

11 If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, the
12 member shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case
13 shall require it, the member shall be liable to the censure of the
14 house.

15 **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

16 **Rule 20.** The previous question may be ordered by a two-thirds
17 (2/3) vote of the members present on all recognized motions or
18 amendments which are debatable.

19 The previous question is not debatable and cannot be amended.

20 The previous question shall be put in this form: "Representative
21 _____ demands the previous question. As many as are in favor of
22 ordering the previous question will say 'Aye'; as many as are opposed
23 will say 'No'."

24 The results of the motion are as follows: If determined in the
25 negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never been
26 made; if decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of
27 cutting off all debate and bringing the house to a direct vote upon
28 the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered: PROVIDED
29 HOWEVER, That when a bill is on final passage or when the motion to
30 postpone indefinitely is pending, one of the sponsors of the bill or
31 the chair of the committee may have the privilege of closing debate
32 after the previous question has been ordered.

33 If an adjournment is had after the previous question is ordered,
34 the motion or proposition on which the previous question was ordered
35 shall be put to the house immediately following the approval of the

1 journal on the next working day, thus making the main question
2 privileged over all other business, whether new or unfinished.

3 **Voting**

4 **Rule 21.** (A) PUTTING OF QUESTION. The speaker shall put the
5 question in the following form: "The question before the house is
6 (state the question). As many as are in favor say 'Aye'; and after
7 the affirmative vote is expressed, "as many as are opposed say 'No'."

8 (B) ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE. Except as provided in subsection (G),
9 every member who was in the house or participating remotely in house
10 proceedings as provided in Rule 17 when the question was put shall
11 vote unless, for special reasons, excused by the house.

12 All motions to excuse a member shall be made before the house
13 divides or before the call for yeas and nays is commenced; and any
14 member requesting to be excused from voting may make a brief and
15 verbal statement of the reasons for making such request, and the
16 question shall then be taken without further debate.

17 (C) COUNT OF THE HOUSE. Upon a division and count of the house on
18 the question, only members at their desks within the bar of the house
19 or participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17
20 shall be counted.

21 (D) CHANGE OF VOTE. When the electric roll call machine is used,
22 no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the speaker
23 has locked the roll call machine. When an oral roll call is taken, no
24 member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the result has
25 been announced.

26 (E) PRIVATE INTEREST. No member shall vote on any question which
27 affects that member privately and particularly. A member who has a
28 private interest in any bill or measure proposed or pending before
29 the legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a
30 member, and shall not vote thereon. (Article II, section 30)

31 (F) INTERRUPTION OF ROLL CALL. Once begun, the roll call may not
32 be interrupted. No member or other person shall visit or remain at
33 the clerk's desk while the yeas and nays are being called.

34 (G) MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING A RECORDED ROLL CALL VOTE. Members in
35 the house and members participating remotely in house proceedings as

1 provided in Rule 17 may vote on any motion not requiring a recorded
2 roll call vote, including when the house divides. Members
3 participating remotely may vote using the remote floor activity
4 system.

5 (H) INABILITY TO VOTE USING REMOTE VOTING FUNCTION. A member
6 participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17
7 who is unable to vote using the remote voting function on any motion
8 requiring a recorded roll call vote may vote orally. If a member is
9 unable to vote using the remote voting function or orally, the
10 rostrum staff shall contact the member by telephone and the member's
11 vote may be taken by telephone to rostrum staff after the member
12 answers security questions to verify the identity of the member. The
13 rostrum staff will announce the vote of the member, which shall be
14 recorded.

15 (I) YEAS AND NAYS - RECORDED VOTES. Upon the final passage of any
16 bill, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays and shall be recorded
17 by the electric voting system: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That an oral roll
18 call shall be ordered when demanded by one-sixth (1/6) of the members
19 present. (Article II, section 21)

20 The speaker may vote last when the yeas and nays are called.

21 When the vote is by electric voting machine or by oral roll call
22 on any question, it shall be entered upon the journal of the house. A
23 recorded vote may be compelled by one-sixth (1/6) of the members
24 present. A request for a recorded vote must be made before the vote
25 is commenced.

26 (J) TIE VOTE, QUESTION LOSES. In case of an equal division, the
27 question shall be lost.

28 (K) DIVISION. If the speaker is in doubt, or if division is
29 called for by any member, the house shall divide.

30 (L) STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL. A member whose recorded vote does not
31 accurately reflect their intent may submit a written statement for
32 the journal clarifying their intent to vote aye or nay. The statement
33 must be submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the vote is
34 taken. A member who is excused for one or more days of recorded votes
35 may submit a written statement for the journal explaining the reason
36 for their absence. The statement may not exceed 50 words and must be

1 submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the member returns. A
2 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in
3 Rule 17 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function,
4 orally, or by telephone may submit a statement for the journal within
5 48 hours indicating their intent to vote yea or nay.

6 **Reconsideration**

7 **Rule 22.** Notice of a motion for reconsideration on the final
8 passage of bills shall be made on the day the vote to be reconsidered
9 was taken and before the house has voted to transmit the bill to the
10 senate.

11 Reconsideration of the votes on the final passage of bills must
12 be taken on the next working day after such vote was taken: PROVIDED,
13 That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine
14 die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12
15 of the state Constitution, or concurrent resolution, or on and after
16 the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house
17 as established by concurrent resolution, then reconsideration of
18 votes on the final passage of bills must be taken on the same day as
19 the original vote was taken: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any member
20 participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17
21 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function, orally, or
22 by telephone may require reconsideration of the vote on the final
23 passage of bills the same day the vote is taken.

24 A motion to reconsider an amendment may be made at any time the
25 bill remains on second reading.

26 Any member who voted on the prevailing side may move for
27 reconsideration or give notice thereof.

28 A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in
29 the negative.

30 When a motion to reconsider has been carried, its effect shall be
31 to place the original question before the house in the exact position
32 it occupied before it was voted upon.

33 **Call of the House**

34 **Rule 23.** One-sixth (1/6) of the members present may demand a call
35 of the house at any time before the house has divided or the voting
36 has commenced by yeas and nays.

1 (A) DOORS TO BE CLOSED. When call of the house has been ordered,
2 the sergeant at arms shall close and lock the doors, and no member
3 shall be allowed to leave the chamber: PROVIDED, That the rules
4 committee shall be allowed to meet, upon request of the speaker,
5 while the house stands at ease: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the
6 speaker may permit members to use such portions of the fourth floor
7 as may be properly secured.

8 (B) SERGEANT AT ARMS TO BRING IN THE ABSENTEES. The clerk shall
9 immediately call a roll of the members and note the absentees, whose
10 names shall be read and entered upon the journal in such manner as to
11 show who are excused and who are absent without leave. A member
12 authorized to participate remotely in house proceedings as provided
13 in Rule 17 who is visible at the time of the roll call through the
14 remote floor activity system shall not be considered absent or absent
15 without leave.

16 The clerk shall furnish the sergeant at arms with a list of those
17 who are absent without leave, and the sergeant at arms shall proceed
18 to bring in such absentees; but arrests of members for absence shall
19 not be made unless ordered by a majority of the members present.

20 (C) HOUSE UNDER CALL. While the house is under a call, no
21 business shall be transacted except to receive and act on the report
22 of the sergeant at arms; and no other motion shall be in order except
23 a motion to proceed with business under the call of the house, a
24 motion to excuse absentees, or a motion to dispense with the call of
25 the house. The motion to proceed with business under the call of the
26 house and the motion to excuse absent members shall not be adopted
27 unless a majority of the members elected vote in favor thereof. The
28 motion to dispense with the call of the house may be adopted by a
29 majority of the members present.

30 **Appeal from Decision of Chair**

31 **Rule 24.** The decision of the chair may be appealed from by any
32 member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless
33 by leave of the house. In all cases of appeal, the question shall be:
34 "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the house?"

35 **Standing Committees**

1 **Rule 25.** The standing committees of the house and the number of
2 members that shall serve on each committee shall be as follows:

3	1. Agriculture & Natural Resources.	11
4	2. Appropriations.	31
5	3. Capital Budget.	29
6	4. Civil Rights & Judiciary.	11
7	5. Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry.	9
8	6. Consumer Protection & Business.	13
9	7. Education.	15
10	8. Environment & Energy.	15
11	9. Finance.	13
12	10. Health Care & Wellness.	17
13	11. Housing.	13
14	12. Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.	11
15	13. Innovation, Community & Economic Development, &	
16	Veterans.	15
17	14. Labor & Workplace Standards.	9
18	15. Local Government.	7
19	16. Postsecondary Education & Workforce.	15
20	17. Regulated Substances & Gaming.	11
21	18. Rules.	24
22	19. State Government & Tribal Relations.	7
23	20. Transportation.	29

24 Committee members shall be selected by each party's caucus. The
25 majority party caucus shall select all committee chairs. "Committee
26 chair" includes committee cochair.

27 **Duties of Committees**

28 **Rule 26.** House committees shall operate as follows:

29 (A) NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING. The chief clerk shall make
30 public the time, place and subjects to be discussed at committee
31 meetings. All public hearings held by committees shall be scheduled
32 with at least five (5) days' notice, including the day of notice and
33 day of hearing, and shall be given adequate publicity: PROVIDED, That
34 when less than eight (8) days remain for action on a bill, the
35 Speaker may authorize a reduction of the five-day notice period when
36 required by the circumstances, including but not limited to the time

1 remaining for action on the bill, the nature of the subject, and the
2 number of prior hearings on the subject.

3 (B) COMMITTEE QUORUM. A majority of any committee shall
4 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

5 (C) SESSION MEETINGS. No committee shall sit while the house is
6 in session without special leave of the speaker.

7 (D) DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

8 (1) Only such bills as are included on the written notice of a
9 committee meeting may be considered at that meeting.

10 (2) A majority recommendation of a committee must be made by a
11 majority of the entire membership of the committee in a regularly
12 called meeting before a bill, memorial, or resolution may be reported
13 out: PROVIDED, That by motion under the eighth order of business, a
14 majority of the members elected to the house may relieve a committee
15 of a bill and place it on the second reading calendar.

16 Majority recommendations of a committee can only be "do pass,"
17 "do pass as amended," or that "the substitute bill be substituted
18 therefor and that the substitute bill do pass."

19 (3) Members of the committee not concurring in the majority
20 report may make a written minority report containing a recommendation
21 of "do not pass" or "without recommendation," which shall be joined
22 by those members of the committee subscribing thereto, and submitted
23 with the majority report.

24 (4) Every recommendation and report shall be made by members of
25 the committee during the regularly called meeting of the committee.
26 No signatures are required.

27 (5) All committee reports shall be spread upon the journal. The
28 journal of the house shall contain an exact copy of all committee
29 reports, together with the names of the members joining in the
30 majority and minority recommendations contained in such reports.

31 (6) Every vote to report a bill out of committee shall be taken
32 by the yeas and nays, with the nays specifying "do not pass" or
33 "without recommendation," and the names of the members voting for and
34 against, as well as the names of members absent, shall be recorded on
35 the committee report. Any member may call for a recorded vote, which
36 shall include the names of absent members, on any substantive

1 question before the committee. A copy of all recorded committee votes
2 shall be kept by the chief clerk and shall be available for public
3 inspection.

4 (7) A member participating remotely in house proceedings as
5 provided in Rule 17 who is unable to vote on a bill in committee for
6 technical reasons may submit a statement for the bill file indicating
7 their intent to have voted yea, nay-do not pass, or nay-without
8 recommendation. The statement must be submitted to the chief clerk on
9 the same day the vote is taken.

10 (8) All bills having a direct appropriation shall be referred to
11 the appropriate fiscal committee before their final passage.

12 (9) No standing committee shall vote by secret written ballot on
13 any issue.

14 (10) During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution,
15 or memorial, the deliberations of any standing committee of the House
16 of Representatives shall be open to the public.

17 (11) A standing committee to which a bill was originally referred
18 shall, prior to voting the bill out of committee, consider whether
19 the bill authorizes rule-making powers or requires the exercise of
20 rule-making powers and, if so, consider:

21 (a) The nature of the new rule-making powers; and

22 (b) To which agencies the new rule-making powers would be
23 delegated and which agencies, if any, may have related rule-making
24 powers.

25 (12) Insofar as practicable, testimony in public hearings should
26 be balanced between those in support of and in opposition to proposed
27 legislation, with consideration given to providing an opportunity for
28 members of the public to testify within available time.

29 **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

30 **Rule 27.** Regardless of whether the legislature is in session,
31 members of the house may receive from moneys appropriated for the
32 legislature, reimbursement for necessary travel expenses, and
33 payments in lieu of subsistence and lodging for conducting official
34 business of the house.

35 The standing committees of the house may have the powers of
36 subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue
37 commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the

1 provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. Before a standing committee of the
2 house may issue any process, the committee chair shall submit for
3 approval of the executive rules committee a statement of purpose
4 setting forth the name or names of those subject to process. The
5 process shall not be issued prior to approval by the executive rules
6 committee. The process shall be limited to the named individuals.

7 **Vetoed Bills**

8 **Rule 28.** Veto messages of the governor shall be read in the house
9 and entered upon the journal. It shall then be in order to proceed to
10 reconsider the bill, refer it, lay it on the table, or postpone its
11 consideration to a day certain.

12 The merits of the bill may be debated before the vote is taken,
13 but the vote on a vetoed bill cannot be reconsidered.

14 In case of a bill containing several sections or items, one or
15 more of which has been objected to by the governor, each section or
16 item so objected to shall be voted upon separately by the house.
17 Action by the house upon all vetoed bills shall be endorsed upon the
18 bill and certified by the speaker.

19 Vetoed bills originating in the house, which have not been passed
20 notwithstanding the veto of the governor, shall remain in the custody
21 of the officers of the house until the close of the term, after which
22 they shall be filed with the secretary of state.

23 **Suspension of Compensation**

24 **Rule 29.** (1) Any member of the House of Representatives convicted
25 and sentenced for any felony punishable by death or by imprisonment
26 in a Washington state penal institution shall, as of the time of
27 sentencing, be denied the legislative salary for future service and
28 be denied per diem, compensation for expenses, office space
29 facilities, and assistance. Any member convicted of a felony and
30 sentenced therefor under any federal law or the law of any other
31 state shall, as of the time of sentencing, be similarly denied such
32 salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance if either (a)
33 such crime would also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of
34 Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution,
35 or (b) the conduct resulting in the conviction and sentencing would

1 also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of Washington by
2 death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution.

3 (2) At any time, the house may vote by a constitutional majority
4 to restore the salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance
5 denied a member under subsection (1). If the conviction of a member
6 is reversed, then the salary, per diem, and expense amounts denied
7 the member since sentencing shall be forthwith paid, and the member
8 shall thereafter have the rights and privileges of other members.

9 **Smoking and Vaping**

10 **Rule 30.** To provide a safe and healthy environment for all
11 members, employees, and the public, smoking and vaping shall not be
12 permitted at any public meeting of the House of Representatives or
13 within house facilities. Smoking includes the lighting of cigarettes,
14 pipes, or cigars. Vaping includes the use of electronic nicotine
15 delivery systems or electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes,
16 e-pipes, or e-cigars.

17 **Liquor**

18 **Rule 31.** The House of Representatives shall strictly adhere to
19 the liquor laws of the state of Washington, including provisions
20 relating to banquet and special occasion permits. The proper permits
21 must always be obtained before consumption of liquor in any house
22 facility.

23 **Parliamentary Rules**

24 **Rule 32.** The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Reed's
25 Parliamentary Rules shall govern all cases in which they are not
26 inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the house.

27 **Standing Rules Amendment**

28 **Rule 33.** Any standing rule may be rescinded or changed by a
29 majority vote of the members elected: PROVIDED, That the proposed
30 change or changes be submitted at least one day in advance in writing
31 to the members together with notice of the consideration thereof. Any
32 standing rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds (2/3) vote
33 of the members present except as provided in Rule 11.

34 **Rules to Apply for Assembly**

