

SENATE RESOLUTION

8606

By Senator Pedersen

1 WHEREAS, The Senate adopted permanent rules for the 2023-2025
2 biennium under Senate Resolution 8601; and

3 WHEREAS, The notice requirements set forth in Senate Rule 35 have
4 been satisfied;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Rule 45 is amended as
6 follows:

7 **"Rule 45.** 1. At least five days' notice shall be given of all
8 public hearings held by any committee other than the rules committee.
9 Such notice shall contain the date, time and place of such hearing
10 together with the title and number of each bill, or identification of
11 the subject matter, to be considered at such hearing. By a majority
12 vote of the committee members present at any committee meeting such
13 notice may be dispensed with. The reason for such action shall be set
14 forth in a written statement preserved in the records of the meeting.

15 2. No committee may hold a public hearing during a regular or
16 extraordinary session on a proposal identified as a draft unless the
17 draft has been made available to the public at least twenty-four
18 hours prior to the hearing. This rule does not apply during the five
19 days prior to any cutoff established by concurrent resolution nor
20 does it apply to any measure exempted from the resolution.

21 3. During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution or
22 memorial, the deliberations of any committee or subcommittee of the

1 senate shall be open to the public. In case of any disturbance or
2 disorderly conduct at any such deliberations, the chair shall order
3 the sergeant at arms to suppress the same and may order the meeting
4 closed to any person or persons creating such disturbance.

5 4. No committee shall amend a measure, adopt a substitute bill,
6 or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A committee
7 may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of any committee
8 shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be considered to have
9 a quorum present unless the question is raised. Any question as to
10 quorum not raised at the time of the committee action is deemed
11 waived.

12 5. Bills reported to the senate from a standing committee must
13 have a majority report, which shall be prepared upon a printed
14 standing committee report form; shall be adopted at a regularly or
15 specially called meeting during a legislative session and shall be
16 signed by a majority of the committee; and shall carry only one of
17 the following recommendations:

- 18 a. Do pass;
- 19 b. Do pass as amended;
- 20 c. That a substitute bill be substituted therefor, and the
21 substitute bill do pass; or
- 22 d. Without recommendation.

23 In addition to one of the above-listed recommendations, a report
24 may also recommend that a bill be referred to another committee.

25 6. A majority report of a committee must carry the signatures of
26 a majority of the members of the committee. In the event a committee
27 has a quorum pursuant to subsection 4 of this rule, a majority of the
28 members present may act on a measure, subject to obtaining the
29 signatures of a majority of the members of the committee on the
30 majority report. If, after executive action on a measure, the
31 signatures of all members are not included on either a majority or
32 minority report, the committee shall hold the signature sheets for
33 the measure for 24 hours, not counting Saturdays or Sundays, from
34 adjournment of the committee hearing at which executive action was
35 taken on the measure. This 24-hour hold period applies even if a
36 majority of the members of the committee has signed the majority
37 report. After the 24-hour hold period, the signature sheets must be
38 submitted to the workroom if there is a majority of signatures on the

1 majority report. Once signature sheets have been submitted to the
2 senate workroom by committee staff, a member may not sign or remove
3 his or her signature from a majority or minority signature sheet. If
4 a majority of members of the committee have not signed the majority
5 report, the measure or appointment remains in the possession of the
6 committee. The 24-hour hold period does not apply within the five
7 days preceding any cutoff date and does not apply to a biennial or
8 supplemental omnibus operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or
9 omnibus transportation budget.

10 7. Any measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment still
11 within a committee's possession before it has been reported out to
12 the full senate may be reconsidered to correct an error, change
13 language, or otherwise accurately reflect the will of the committee
14 in its majority and minority reports to the full senate. Any such
15 reconsideration may be made at any time, by any member of the
16 committee, provided that the committee has not yet reported the
17 measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out to the full
18 senate. Any such reconsideration made after a vote has been taken or
19 signatures obtained will require a new vote and signature sheet. Any
20 measure which does not receive a majority vote of the members present
21 may be reconsidered at that meeting and may again be considered upon
22 motion of any committee member if one day's notice of said motion is
23 provided to all committee members.

24 8. Any member of the committee not concurring in the majority
25 report may sign a minority report containing a recommendation of "do
26 not pass" or "without recommendation," which shall be signed by those
27 members of the committee subscribing thereto, and submitted with the
28 majority report. Unless the signatory of a minority report expressly
29 indicates a "do not pass" recommendation, the member's vote shall be
30 deemed to be "without recommendation." In every case where a majority
31 report form is circulated for signature, a minority report form shall
32 also be circulated.

33 9. When a committee reports a substitute for an original bill
34 with the recommendation that the substitute bill do pass, it shall be
35 in order to read the substitute bill the first time and have the same
36 ordered printed.

1 A motion for the substitution of the substitute bill for the
2 original bill shall not be in order until the committee on rules
3 places the original bill on the second reading calendar.

4 10. No vote in any committee shall be taken by secret ballot nor
5 shall any committee have a policy of secrecy as to any vote on action
6 taken in such committee.

7 11. All reports of standing committees must be on the secretary's
8 desk one hour prior to convening of the session in order to be read
9 at said session. During any special session of the legislature or
10 within the three days preceding any cut-off date or sine die, this
11 rule may be suspended by a majority vote of those present. This rule
12 does not apply to reports of biennial or supplemental omnibus
13 operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or omnibus transportation
14 budget bill.

15 12. For purposes of this rule, a committee is deemed to have
16 reported a measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out
17 when it has delivered its majority and minority reports to the senate
18 workroom. After such delivery, the committee no longer has possession
19 of the measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment and no
20 further committee action, including reconsideration or a member
21 adding or removing his or her signature to a majority or minority
22 report, may be taken.

23 13. All committees will rely upon and use the Electronic Bill
24 Book. Committee staff should add all materials relating to hearings,
25 work sessions, or executive sessions to the Electronic Bill Book as
26 early as possible or when the material has been made public. Paper
27 copies will not be provided to members. All materials submitted by
28 the public shall be submitted electronically.

29 14. All committees will use the online Committee Sign-In system.
30 All committee members will be able to view the list of individuals
31 who have signed in to testify on each measure or appointment. Members
32 of the public wishing to testify in-person or remotely may sign up
33 remotely no later than one hour before the committee is scheduled to
34 meet.

35 15. With the exception of the ways and means and transportation
36 committees, the chairs of standing committees must publish the list
37 of measures and appointments that may be considered for executive

1 session by 4:00 p.m. two days preceding executive session. The chairs
2 of the ways and means committee and the transportation committee must
3 publish the list of measures and appointments that may be considered
4 for executive session by 7:00 p.m. two days preceding executive
5 session. A chair, with the consent of the ranking member, has
6 discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary circumstances. A
7 published measure or appointment may be rescheduled for executive
8 action at the committee's next meeting without additional notice,
9 provided no additional amendments are considered.

10 16. Members must have amendment requests to nonpartisan committee
11 staff by 12:00 p.m. the day before scheduled executive action. A
12 chair, with the consent of the ranking member, has discretion to
13 waive this deadline in extraordinary circumstances or to accept
14 technical revisions to perfect an amendment. Members should be
15 considerate of staff and turn in amendment requests earlier if they
16 are long or complex, keeping in mind the final deadline for
17 consideration of amendments.

18 17. All amendments, including substitutes, must be sponsored by a
19 committee member. All amendments and effect statements must be either
20 drafted or reviewed, or both, by nonpartisan committee staff. To be
21 eligible for consideration at an executive session in a committee
22 meeting scheduled to begin prior to 12:00 p.m., amendments must be
23 released from confidentiality and posted to the Electronic Bill Book
24 for committee members and the public by 4:00 p.m. the day before the
25 executive session or the amendments will be considered out of order.
26 To be eligible for consideration at an executive session in a
27 committee meeting scheduled to begin on or after 12:00 p.m.,
28 amendments must be released from confidentiality and posted to the
29 Electronic Bill Book for committee members and the public by 7:00
30 p.m. the day before the executive session or the amendments will be
31 considered out of order. A chair with the consent of the ranking
32 member has discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary
33 circumstances or to accept technical revisions to perfect an
34 amendment.

35 18. A committee chair may choose to allow (~~either~~) committee
36 members to participate remotely in committee meetings. The committee
37 chair shall notify the secretary of the senate prior to the first day
38 of the legislative session if the chair will allow committee members
39 to participate remotely. A chair that initially chooses to allow only

1 in-person participation may later choose to allow remote
2 participation but must provide the secretary of the senate with
3 notice of the change at least 24 hours prior to the committee hearing
4 in which the change will become effective. Once a chair has chosen to
5 allow members to participate remotely, this choice cannot be changed
6 during the remainder of the session. If a chair allows committee
7 members to participate remotely, those members will be considered
8 "present" for the purposes of this rule and Senate Rule 49. All
9 committee meetings shall be chaired in person. A chair may (~~not~~)
10 participate remotely in a committee meeting when another member of
11 the committee is acting as chair. Members participating remotely
12 shall be allowed to participate in committee activities to the same
13 extent as those attending in person."

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