

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4607, by Representative Fitzgibbon

1       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That permanent House rules for  
2 the Sixty-ninth Legislature be adopted as follows:

3                   PERMANENT RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4                   SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE 2025-2026

5       **HOUSE RULE NO.**

6	<b>Rule 1</b>	Definitions
7	<b>Rule 2</b>	Chief Clerk to Call to Order
8	<b>Rule 3</b>	Election of Officers
9	<b>Rule 4</b>	Powers and Duties of the Speaker
10	<b>Rule 5</b>	Chief Clerk
11	<b>Rule 6</b>	Executive Rules Committee
12	<b>Rule 7</b>	Duties of Employees
13	<b>Rule 8</b>	Admission to the House
14	<b>Rule 9</b>	Absentees and Courtesy
15	<b>Rule 10</b>	Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions
16	<b>Rule 11</b>	Reading of Bills
17	<b>Rule 12</b>	Amendments
18	<b>Rule 13</b>	Final Passage

1	<b>Rule 14</b>	Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum
2	<b>Rule 15</b>	Daily Calendar and Order of Business
3	<b>Rule 16</b>	Motions
4	<b>Rule 17</b>	Remote Participation and Voting Permitted Upon Authorization
5	<b>Rule 18</b>	Members' Right to Debate
6	<b>Rule 19</b>	Rules of Debate
7	<b>Rule 20</b>	Ending of Debate - Previous Question
8	<b>Rule 21</b>	Voting
9	<b>Rule 22</b>	Reconsideration
10	<b>Rule 23</b>	Call of the House
11	<b>Rule 24</b>	Appeal from Decision of Chair
12	<b>Rule 25</b>	Standing Committees
13	<b>Rule 26</b>	Duties of Committees
14	<b>Rule 27</b>	Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power
15	<b>Rule 28</b>	Vetoed Bills
16	<b>Rule 29</b>	Suspension of Compensation
17	<b>Rule 30</b>	Smoking
18	<b>Rule 31</b>	Liquor
19	<b>Rule 32</b>	Parliamentary Rules
20	<b>Rule 33</b>	Standing Rules Amendment
21	<b>Rule 34</b>	Rules to Apply for Assembly
22	<b>Rule 35</b>	Legislative Publications
23	<b>Rule 36</b>	Emergency Resolution Authorized

## Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 5 **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

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

#### 9 **Election of Officers**

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

#### 25 **Powers and Duties of the Speaker**

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

27 (A) The speaker shall take the chair and call the house to order  
28 precisely at the hour appointed for meeting and if a quorum be  
29 present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read and  
30 shall proceed with the order of business.

31 (B) The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of  
32 any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber or  
33 legislative area, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the  
34 same and may order the sergeant at arms to remove any person creating  
35 any disturbance within the house chamber or legislative area.

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

6 (D) The speaker may authorize members who are not elected as  
7 officers as provided in Rule 3 to perform the powers and duties of  
8 the speaker described in subsections (A) through (C) of this rule.

9 (E) The speaker shall sign all bills in open session. (Article  
10 II, section 32)

11 (F) The speaker shall sign all writs, warrants, and subpoenas  
12 issued by order of the house, all of which shall be attested to by  
13 the chief clerk.

14 (G) The speaker shall have the right to name any member to  
15 perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall neither  
16 extend beyond adjournment nor authorize the representative so  
17 substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the  
18 speaker.

19 (H) The speaker, in open session, shall appoint committee chairs  
20 as selected by the majority party caucus, and shall appoint members  
21 to committees in the same ratio as the membership of the respective  
22 parties of the house, unless otherwise provided by law or house  
23 rules.

24 (I) The speaker shall serve as chair of the rules committee and  
25 the executive rules committee.

26 (J) The speaker shall have charge of and see that all officers,  
27 attaches, and clerks perform their respective duties.

28 (K) The speaker pro tempore shall exercise the duties, powers,  
29 and prerogatives of the speaker in the event of the speaker's death,  
30 illness, removal, or inability to act until the speaker's successor  
31 shall be elected.

### 32 **Chief Clerk**

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

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

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

#### 14 **Executive Rules Committee**

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

#### 20 **Duties of Employees**

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

#### 26 **Admission to the House**

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

29 (A) The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following  
30 individuals to the wings and adjacent areas of the house chamber for  
31 the period of time beginning one-half hour prior to convening and  
32 ending one-half hour following the adjournment of the house's daily  
33 session:

34 The governor (~~(or designees, or both)~~);

35 Members of the senate;

36 State elected officials;

37 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature;

1 Former members of the house who are not advocating any pending or  
2 proposed legislation;

3 Representatives of the press;

4 Other persons with the consent of the speaker.

5 (B) Only members of the house, pages, sergeants at arms, the  
6 speaker's attorney, the leadership counsel to the minority caucus,  
7 and clerks are permitted on the floor while the house is in session.

8 (C) Lobbying in the house chamber or in any committee room or  
9 lounge room is prohibited when the house or committee is in session  
10 unless expressly permitted by the house or committee. Anyone  
11 violating this rule will forfeit their right to be admitted to the  
12 house chamber or any of its committee rooms.

### 13 **Absentees and Courtesy**

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

### 17 **Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions**

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

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

29 All bills shall be endorsed with a statement of the title and the  
30 name of the member or members introducing the same. The chief clerk  
31 shall attach to all bills a substantial cover bearing the title and  
32 sponsors and shall number each bill in the order filed. All bills  
33 shall be printed unless otherwise ordered by the house.

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

36 No house bill may be introduced that is identical to any other  
37 pending house bill.

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

#### 4 **Reading of Bills**

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

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

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

26 After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an  
27 appropriate committee.

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

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

34 (B) SECOND READING. Upon second reading, the bill number and  
35 short title and the last line of the bill shall be read unless a  
36 majority of the members present shall demand its reading in full. The  
37 bill shall be subject to amendment section by section. No amendment  
38 shall be considered by the house until it has been sent to the chief

1 clerk's desk in writing or electronically, distributed to the desk of  
2 each member or made available to each member electronically, and read  
3 by the clerk. All amendments adopted during second reading shall be  
4 securely fastened to the original bill. All amendments rejected by  
5 the house shall be passed to the minute clerk, and the journal shall  
6 show the disposition of such amendments.

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

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

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

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

29 (F) HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. House resolutions shall be filed with the  
30 chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If a  
31 rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time  
32 necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority  
33 leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to the  
34 rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by the  
35 house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a sixty  
36 percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a majority  
37 vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar for  
38 consideration by the house. House resolutions are not subject to



1 debate, except for resolutions necessary for the operation of the  
2 house, and resolutions commemorating Children's Day, Day of  
3 Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Guard Day, and  
4 President's Day.

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

7 **Amendments**

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

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

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

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

25 (D) AMENDMENTS TO BE GERMANE. No motion or proposition on a  
26 subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted  
27 under color of amendment; and no bill or resolution shall at any time  
28 be amended by annexing thereto or incorporating therein any other  
29 bill or resolution pending before the house.

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

1 (F) NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE. No act shall ever be revised or  
2 amended without being set forth at full length. (Article II, section  
3 37)

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

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

### 13 **Final Passage**

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

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

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

25 (C) FINAL PASSAGE. No bill shall become a law unless on its final  
26 passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the members  
27 voting for and against the same be entered on the journal of each  
28 house, and a majority of the members elected to each house be  
29 recorded thereon as voting in its favor. (Article II, section 22)

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

### 33 **Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum**

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

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

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

16 **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

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

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

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

23 Second: Introduction of visiting dignitaries.

24 Third: Messages from the senate, governor, and other state  
25 officials.

26 Fourth: Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials, joint  
27 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.

28 Fifth: Committee reports.

29 Sixth: Second reading of bills.

30 Seventh: Third reading of bills.

31 Eighth: Floor resolutions and motions.

32 Ninth: Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances  
33 addressed to the Legislature.

34 Tenth: Introduction of visitors and other business to be  
35 considered.

36 Eleventh: Announcements.

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

5 (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as  
6 follows:

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

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

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

#### 14 Motions

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

16 (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be  
17 entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every  
18 motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be  
19 reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker  
20 or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the  
21 house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

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

25 (1) Privileged motions:

26 Adjourn

27 Adjourn to a time certain

28 Recess to a time certain

29 Reconsider

30 Demand for division

31 Question of privilege

32 Orders of the day

33  
34 (2) Subsidiary motions:

35 First rank: Question of consideration

1	Second rank:	To lay on the table
2	Third rank:	For the previous question
3	Fourth rank:	To postpone to a day certain
4		To commit or recommit
5		To postpone indefinitely
6	Fifth rank:	To amend

7

8 (3) Incidental motions:

9 Points of order and appeal

10 Method of consideration

11 Suspension of the rules

12 Reading papers

13 Withdraw a motion

14 Division of a question

15 (C) THE EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT - MOTIONS TO POSTPONE OR COMMIT.  
 16 Once decided, no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or  
 17 to postpone indefinitely shall again be allowed on the same day and  
 18 at the same stage of the proceedings. When a question has been  
 19 postponed indefinitely, it shall not again be introduced during the  
 20 session. The motion to postpone indefinitely may be made at any stage  
 21 of the bill except when on first reading.

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

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

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

30 A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable  
 31 except that the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose  
 32 of the motion and one member may briefly state the opposition to the  
 33 motion.

34 (E) MOTION TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn shall always be in  
 35 order, except when the house is voting or is working under the call

1 of the house; but this rule shall not authorize any member to move  
2 for adjournment when another member has the floor.

### 3 **Remote Participation and Voting Permitted Upon Authorization**

4 **Rule 17.** The majority leader and minority leader or their  
5 designees may authorize members of their respective caucuses to  
6 participate remotely in official house proceedings, including  
7 committee meetings and floor sessions, upon the request of a member  
8 who is experiencing a medical condition or illness that prevents in-  
9 person participation. Once authorized, any member participating  
10 remotely shall be considered present for purposes of a quorum and  
11 voting. Members participating remotely shall use the computer and  
12 virtual background provided by the house during all committee  
13 meetings and floor proceedings. The majority leader and minority  
14 leader or their designees shall determine when the member's  
15 authorization to participate remotely ends.

### 16 **Members' Right to Debate**

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

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

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

27 (C) LIMITATION OF DEBATE. No member shall speak longer than ten  
28 (10) minutes without consent of the house: PROVIDED, That on and  
29 after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any  
30 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the  
31 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the  
32 fifth day prior to the day any bill must be reported from the house  
33 as established by concurrent resolution, no member shall speak more  
34 than three (3) minutes without the consent of the house. No member  
35 shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the  
36 house: PROVIDED, That the chair of the committee or the mover of the

1 question may close debate if it is consistent with Rule 20 (Previous  
2 Question).

3 **Rules of Debate**

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

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

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

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

17 (D) DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS. Any materials of any nature  
18 distributed to the members' desks on the floor shall be subject to  
19 approval by the speaker and shall bear the name of at least one  
20 member granted permission for the distribution. Any member  
21 participating remotely as provided in Rule 17 who wishes to  
22 distribute materials subject to the speaker's approval may do so  
23 electronically. All materials approved for distribution shall be  
24 provided electronically to members participating remotely to the  
25 extent practicable. This shall not apply to materials normally  
26 distributed by the chief clerk.

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

31 (F) DIVISION OF POINTS OF DEBATE. Any member may call for a  
32 division of a question which shall be divided if it embraces subjects  
33 so distinct that one being taken away a substantive proposition shall  
34 remain for the decision of the house; but a motion to strike out and  
35 to insert shall not be divided. The rejection of a motion to strike  
36 out and to insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to  
37 strike out and to insert a different proposition.

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

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

8 (I) EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. If any member be called  
9 to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the member to  
10 order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall be taken down  
11 in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be held in answer or  
12 be subject to the censure of the house for words spoken in debate if  
13 any other member has spoken before exception to them shall have been  
14 taken.

15 (J) TRANSGRESSION OF RULES - APPEAL. If any member, in speaking  
16 or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the house the speaker shall,  
17 or any member may, call the member to order, in which case the member  
18 so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to  
19 explain; and the house shall, if appealed to, decide the case without  
20 debate; if there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall  
21 prevail.

22 If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, the  
23 member shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case  
24 shall require it, the member shall be liable to the censure of the  
25 house.

26 **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

27 **Rule 20.** The previous question shall not be put unless demanded  
28 by one-sixth (1/6) of the members present.

29 The previous question may be ordered by a (~~two-thirds (2/3)~~)  
30 majority vote of the members present on all recognized motions or  
31 amendments which are debatable.

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

33 The previous question shall be put in this form:  
34 "~~(Representative \_\_\_\_\_ demands the previous question.)~~ As many  
35 as are in favor of ordering the previous question will say 'Aye'; as  
36 many as are opposed will say 'No'."



1       The results of the motion are as follows: If determined in the  
2 negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never been  
3 made; if decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of  
4 cutting off all debate and bringing the house to a direct vote upon  
5 the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered: PROVIDED  
6 HOWEVER, That when a bill is on final passage or when the motion to  
7 postpone indefinitely is pending, (~~one of the sponsors of the bill~~  
8 ~~or the chair of the committee~~) one proponent and one opponent may  
9 have the privilege of closing debate for up to three minutes after  
10 the previous question has been ordered.

11       If an adjournment is had after the previous question is ordered,  
12 the motion or proposition on which the previous question was ordered  
13 shall be put to the house immediately following the approval of the  
14 journal on the next working day, thus making the main question  
15 privileged over all other business, whether new or unfinished.

16

### Voting

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

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

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

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

34       (D) CHANGE OF VOTE. When the electric roll call machine is used,  
35 no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the speaker  
36 has locked the roll call machine. When an oral roll call is taken, no  
37 member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the result has  
38 been announced.

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

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

9 (G) MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING A RECORDED ROLL CALL VOTE. Members in  
10 the house and members participating remotely in house proceedings as  
11 provided in Rule 17 may vote on any motion not requiring a recorded  
12 roll call vote, including when the house divides. Members  
13 participating remotely may vote using the remote floor activity  
14 system.

15 (H) INABILITY TO VOTE USING REMOTE VOTING FUNCTION. A member  
16 participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17  
17 who is unable to vote using the remote voting function on any motion  
18 requiring a recorded roll call vote may vote orally. If a member is  
19 unable to vote using the remote voting function or orally, the  
20 rostrum staff shall contact the member by telephone and the member's  
21 vote may be taken by telephone to rostrum staff after the member  
22 answers security questions to verify the identity of the member. The  
23 rostrum staff will announce the vote of the member, which shall be  
24 recorded.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (L) STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL. A member whose recorded vote does not  
4 accurately reflect their intent may submit a written statement for  
5 the journal clarifying their intent to vote aye or nay. The statement  
6 must be submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the vote is  
7 taken. A member who is excused for one or more days of recorded votes  
8 may submit a written statement for the journal explaining the reason  
9 for their absence. The statement may not exceed 50 words and must be  
10 submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the member returns. A  
11 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in  
12 Rule 17 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function,  
13 orally, or by telephone may submit a statement for the journal within  
14 48 hours indicating their intent to vote yea or nay.

### 15 **Reconsideration**

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

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

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

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

37 A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in  
38 the negative.



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

5 **Standing Committees**

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

8	1. Agriculture & Natural Resources. . . . .	11
9	2. Appropriations. . . . .	31
10	3. Capital Budget. . . . .	19
11	4. Civil Rights & Judiciary. . . . .	13
12	5. Community Safety. . . . .	9
13	6. Consumer Protection & Business. . . . .	15
14	7. Early Learning & Human Services. . . . .	11
15	8. Education. . . . .	19
16	9. Environment & Energy. . . . .	21
17	10. Finance. . . . .	15
18	11. Health Care & Wellness. . . . .	19
19	12. Housing. . . . .	17
20	13. Labor & Workplace Standards. . . . .	9
21	14. Local Government. . . . .	7
22	15. Postsecondary Education & Workforce. . . . .	17
23	16. Rules. . . . .	24
24	17. State Government & Tribal Relations. . . . .	7
25	18. Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans. . . . .	13
26	19. Transportation. . . . .	27

27 Committee members shall be selected by each party's caucus. The  
28 majority party caucus shall select all committee chairs.

29 **Duties of Committees**

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

31 (A) NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING. The chief clerk shall make  
32 public the time, place and subjects to be discussed at committee  
33 meetings. All public hearings held by committees shall be scheduled  
34 with at least five (5) days' notice, including the day of notice and  
35 day of hearing, and shall be given adequate publicity: PROVIDED, That  
36 when less than eight (8) days remain for action on a bill, the  
37 Speaker may authorize a reduction of the five-day notice period when

1 required by the circumstances, including but not limited to the time  
2 remaining for action on the bill, the nature of the subject, and the  
3 number of prior hearings on the subject.

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

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

8 (D) DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 shall be kept by the chief clerk and shall be available for public  
2 inspection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 28 **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

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

34 The standing committees of the house may have the powers of  
35 subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue  
36 commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the  
37 provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. Before a standing committee of the  
38 house may issue any process, the committee chair shall submit for  
39 approval of the executive rules committee a statement of purpose

1 setting forth the name or names of those subject to process. The  
2 process shall not be issued prior to approval by the executive rules  
3 committee. The process shall be limited to the named individuals.

#### 4 **Vetoed Bills**

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

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

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

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

#### 20 **Suspension of Compensation**

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

35 (2) At any time, the house may vote by a constitutional majority  
36 to restore the salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance  
37 denied a member under subsection (1). If the conviction of a member  
38 is reversed, then the salary, per diem, and expense amounts denied



1 the member since sentencing shall be forthwith paid, and the member  
2 shall thereafter have the rights and privileges of other members.

### 3 **Smoking and Vaping**

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

### 11 **Liquor**

12 **Rule 31.** The House of Representatives shall strictly adhere to  
13 the liquor laws of the state of Washington, including provisions  
14 relating to banquet and special occasion permits. The proper permits  
15 must always be obtained before consumption of liquor in any house  
16 facility.

### 17 **Parliamentary Rules**

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

### 21 **Standing Rules Amendment**

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

### 28 **Rules to Apply for Assembly**

29 **Rule 34.** The permanent house rules adopted at the beginning of  
30 the term are to govern all acts of the house during the course of the  
31 term unless amended or repealed.

### 32 **Legislative Publications**

33 **Rule 35.** The House of Representatives directs the house executive  
34 rules committee to adopt procedures and guidelines to ensure that all  
35 legislative publications at public expense are for legitimate  
36 legislative purposes.

1 **Emergency Resolution Authorized**

2 **Rule 36.** If the executive rules committee determines through a  
3 majority vote that physically convening all members and staff in a  
4 single location presents a danger to the health or safety of members,  
5 staff, and the public or is impractical because of an emergency,  
6 disaster, or catastrophic incident under RCW 42.14.010, the house  
7 shall adopt a resolution establishing the rules and procedures  
8 governing any special or regular legislative session. For purposes of  
9 adopting the house resolution required by this rule, some or all  
10 members may vote using the remote voting function or other process  
11 established by the chief clerk. Members are considered in attendance  
12 within the bar of the house when using the remote floor activity  
13 system or following the established process, including for purposes  
14 of establishing quorum. To the extent practicable, a member  
15 participating remotely or otherwise under this rule has the same  
16 privileges, rights, and responsibilities under the house rules as if  
17 the member were physically present.

--- END ---