

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.**

- |    |                |  |
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**Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 8 **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

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

#### 12 **Election of Officers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (J) The speaker shall have charge of and see that all officers,  
32 attachés, and clerks perform their respective duties.

33 (K) The speaker pro tempore shall exercise the duties, powers,  
34 and prerogatives of the speaker in the event of the speaker's death,

1 illness, removal, or inability to act until the speaker's successor  
2 shall be elected.

### 3 **Chief Clerk**

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

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

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

### 20 **Executive Rules Committee**

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

### 26 **Duties of Employees**

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

### 32 **Admission to the House**

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

1 (A) The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following  
2 individuals to the wings and adjacent areas of the house chamber for  
3 the period of time beginning one-half hour prior to convening and  
4 ending one-half hour following the adjournment of the house's daily  
5 session:

6 The governor;

7 Members of the senate;

8 State elected officials;

9 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature;

10 Former members of the house who are not advocating any pending or  
11 proposed legislation;

12 Representatives of the press;

13 Other persons with the consent of the speaker.

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

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

## 22 **Absentees and Courtesy**

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

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

27 **Rule 10.** Any member desiring to introduce a bill shall file the  
28 same with the chief clerk. Bills filed by 10:00 a.m. shall be  
29 introduced at the next daily session, in the order filed: PROVIDED,  
30 That if such introduction is within the last ten days of a regular  
31 session, it cannot be considered without a direct vote of two-thirds  
32 (2/3) of all the members elected to each house with such vote  
33 recorded and entered upon the journal. (Article II, section 36)

34 Any returning member or member-elect may prefile a bill with the  
35 chief clerk commencing the first Monday in December preceding any

1 regular session or twenty (20) days before any special session.  
2 Prefiled bills shall be introduced on the first legislative day.

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

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

10 No house bill may be introduced that is identical to any other  
11 pending house bill.

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

#### 15 **Reading of Bills**

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

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

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

1 After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an  
2 appropriate committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (E) SUSPENSION CALENDAR. Bills may be placed on the second  
33 reading suspension calendar by the rules committee if at least two  
34 minority party members of the rules committee join in such motion.  
35 Bills on the second reading suspension calendar shall not be subject  
36 to amendment or substitution except as recommended in the committee



1 report. When a bill is before the house on the suspension calendar,  
2 the question shall be to adopt the committee recommendations and  
3 advance the bill to third reading. If the question fails to receive a  
4 two-thirds vote of the members present, the bill shall be referred to  
5 the rules committee for second reading.

6 (F) HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. House resolutions shall be filed with the  
7 chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If a  
8 rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time  
9 necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority  
10 leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to the  
11 rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by the  
12 house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a sixty  
13 percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a majority  
14 vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar for  
15 consideration by the house. House resolutions are not subject to  
16 debate, except for resolutions necessary for the operation of the  
17 house, and resolutions commemorating Children's Day, Day of  
18 Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Guard Day, and  
19 President's Day.

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

## 22 **Amendments**

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

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

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

34 (C) SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS. A house bill, passed by the  
35 senate with amendment or amendments which shall change the scope and

1 object of the bill, upon being received in the house, shall be  
2 referred to the appropriate committee and shall take the same course  
3 as for original bills unless a motion not to concur is adopted prior  
4 to the bill being referred to committee.

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

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

16 (F) NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE. No act shall ever be revised or  
17 amended without being set forth at full length. (Article II, section  
18 37)

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

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

### 28 **Final Passage**

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

30 (A) BUDGET BILLS. No final passage vote may be taken on an  
31 operating budget, transportation budget, or capital budget bill until  
32 twenty-four (24) hours after the bill is placed on the third reading  
33 calendar. The twenty-four (24) hour requirement does not apply to  
34 conference reports, which are governed by the Joint Rules of the  
35 Senate and the House of Representatives, or to bills placed on the

1 third reading calendar by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members  
2 present.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 32 **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

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

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

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

5 Second: Introduction of visiting dignitaries.

6 Third: Messages from the senate, governor, and other state  
7 officials.

8 Fourth: Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials, joint  
9 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.

10 Fifth: Committee reports.

11 Sixth: Second reading of bills.

12 Seventh: Third reading of bills.

13 Eighth: Floor resolutions and motions.

14 Ninth: Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances  
15 addressed to the Legislature.

16 Tenth: Introduction of visitors and other business to be  
17 considered.

18 Eleventh: Announcements.

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

23 (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as  
24 follows:

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

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

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

### 32 **Motions**

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

34 (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be  
35 entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every

1 motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be  
2 reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker  
3 or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the  
4 house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

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

8 (1) Privileged motions:

- 9 Adjourn
- 10 Adjourn to a time certain
- 11 Recess to a time certain
- 12 Reconsider
- 13 Demand for division
- 14 Question of privilege
- 15 Orders of the day

16  
17 (2) Subsidiary motions:

- 18 First rank: Question of consideration
- 19 Second rank: To lay on the table
- 20 Third rank: For the previous question
- 21 Fourth rank: To postpone to a day certain
- 22 To commit or recommit
- 23 To postpone indefinitely
- 24 Fifth rank: To amend

25  
26 (3) Incidental motions:

- 27 Points of order and appeal
- 28 Method of consideration
- 29 Suspension of the rules
- 30 Reading papers
- 31 Withdraw a motion



1 leader or their designees shall determine when the member's  
2 authorization to participate remotely ends.

### 3 **Members' Right to Debate**

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

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

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

14 (C) LIMITATION OF DEBATE. No member shall speak longer than ten  
15 (10) minutes without consent of the house: PROVIDED, That on and  
16 after 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 fifth day prior to the day any bill must be reported from the house  
20 as established by concurrent resolution, no member shall speak more  
21 than three (3) minutes without the consent of the house. No member  
22 shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the  
23 house: PROVIDED, That one proponent and one opponent of the question  
24 may close debate if it is consistent with Rule 20 (Previous  
25 Question).

### 26 **Rules of Debate**

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

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

32 (B) WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION, BILL, ETC. After a motion is stated by  
33 the speaker or a bill, memorial, resolution, petition, or  
34 remonstrance is read by the clerk, it shall be deemed to be in

1 possession of the house, but may be withdrawn by consent of the house  
2 at any time before decision or amendment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (I) EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. If any member be called  
35 to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the member to



1 order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall be taken down  
2 in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be held in answer or  
3 be subject to the censure of the house for words spoken in debate if  
4 any other member has spoken before exception to them shall have been  
5 taken.

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

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

#### 17 **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

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

20 The previous question may be ordered by a majority vote of the  
21 members present on all recognized motions or amendments which are  
22 debatable.

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

24 The previous question shall be put in this form: "As many as are  
25 in favor of ordering the previous question will say 'Aye'; as many as  
26 are opposed will say 'No'."

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

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

## 6 **Voting**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (G) MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING A RECORDED ROLL CALL VOTE. Members in  
2 the house and members participating remotely in house proceedings as  
3 provided in Rule 17 may vote on any motion not requiring a recorded  
4 roll call vote, including when the house divides. Members  
5 participating remotely may vote using the remote floor activity  
6 system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 may submit a written statement for the journal explaining the reason  
2 for their absence. The statement may not exceed 50 words and must be  
3 submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the member returns. A  
4 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in  
5 Rule 17 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function,  
6 orally, or by telephone may submit a statement for the journal within  
7 48 hours indicating their intent to vote yea or nay.

### 8 **Reconsideration**

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

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

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

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

30 A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in  
31 the negative.

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

### 35 **Call of the House**

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

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

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

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

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

33                                   **Appeal from Decision of Chair**

34       **Rule 24.** The decision of the chair may be appealed from by any  
35 member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless

1 by leave of the house. In all cases of appeal, the question shall be:  
2 "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the house?"

3 **Standing Committees**

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

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

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

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

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

1 shall include the names of absent members, on any substantive  
2 question before the committee. A copy of all recorded committee votes  
3 shall be kept by the chief clerk and shall be available for public  
4 inspection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

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

36 The standing committees of the house may have the powers of  
37 subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue



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

### 8 **Vetoed Bills**

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

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

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

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

### 24 **Suspension of Compensation**

25 **Rule 29.** (1) Any member of the House of Representatives convicted  
26 and sentenced for any felony punishable by death or by imprisonment  
27 in a Washington state penal institution shall, as of the time of  
28 sentencing, be denied the legislative salary for future service and  
29 be denied per diem, compensation for expenses, office space  
30 facilities, and assistance. Any member convicted of a felony and  
31 sentenced therefor under any federal law or the law of any other  
32 state shall, as of the time of sentencing, be similarly denied such  
33 salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance if either (a)  
34 such crime would also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of  
35 Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution,  
36 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**

