

SENATE RESOLUTION

8603

By Senators Riccelli and Short

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rules of the Senate for the 2023 Regular
2 Session of the 68th Legislature, as amended in the 2023 Regular
3 Session and the 2024 Regular Session, be adopted as amended as the
4 Rules of the Senate for the 2025 Regular Session of the 69th
5 Legislature, to read as follows:

6 **PERMANENT RULES**

7 **OF THE**

8 **SENATE**

9 **((~~SIXTY-EIGHTH~~)) SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE**

10 **((~~2023~~)) 2025**

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15 **SECTION I**

16 **OFFICERS-MEMBERS-EMPLOYEES**

17 **Duties of the President**

18 **Rule 1.** 1. The president shall take the chair and call the
 19 senate to order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting,
 20 and, if a quorum be present, shall cause the journal of the
 21 preceding day to be read. (See also Art. 3, Sec. 16, State
 22 Constitution.)

23 2. The president shall preserve order and decorum, and in
 24 case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the
 25 chamber, legislative area, legislative offices or buildings, and
 26 legislative hearing and meeting rooms, shall order the sergeant
 27 at arms to suppress the same, and may order the arrest of any
 28 person creating any disturbance within the senate chamber.
 29 Cellular phone use within the senate chamber during floor
 30 session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing
 31 must be respectful to the members and the public and the phone
 32 must be kept in silent mode within the senate chamber during

1 floor session and within a hearing room during a committee
2 hearing.

3 3. The president shall have charge of and see that all
4 officers and employees perform their respective duties, and
5 shall have general control of the senate chamber and wings. (See
6 also Art. 2, Sec. 10, State Constitution.)

7 4. The president may speak to points of order in preference
8 to members, arising from the president's seat for that purpose,
9 and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to
10 the senate by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak
11 more than once without leave of the senate.

12 5. The president shall, in open session, sign all acts,
13 addresses and joint resolutions. The president shall sign all
14 writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the senate, all
15 of which shall be attested by the secretary. If the senate is
16 operating in a remote format under the authority of Senate Rule
17 70, an electronic or scanned signature is authorized in place of
18 a physical signature. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 32, State
19 Constitution.)

20 6. The president shall appoint all conference, special,
21 joint and hereinafter named standing committees on the part of
22 the senate. The appointment of the conference, special, joint
23 and standing committees shall be confirmed by the senate. In the
24 event the senate refuses to confirm any conference, special,
25 joint or standing committee or committees, such committee or
26 committees shall be elected by the senate.

27 7. The president shall, on each day, announce to the senate
28 the business in order, and no business shall be taken up or
29 considered until the order to which it belongs shall be
30 declared.

31 8. The president shall decide and announce the result of any
32 vote taken.

33 9. When a vote of the senate is equally divided, the
34 lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding

1 vote as provided for in the state Constitution. (See also Art.
2 2, Sec. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

3 **President Pro Tempore**

4 **Rule 2.** 1. Upon the organization of the senate the members
5 shall elect one of their number as president pro tempore who
6 shall have all the powers and authority and who shall discharge
7 all the duties of lieutenant governor acting as president when
8 the secretary of the senate receives notice that the lieutenant
9 governor is unable to preside or is unable to confirm the
10 lieutenant governor's availability within a reasonable time. The
11 president pro tempore shall serve as the vice chair of the
12 committee on rules. The senate shall also elect at least one
13 vice president pro tempore who will serve in the absence of the
14 lieutenant governor and the president pro tempore. (See Art. 2,
15 Sec. 10, State Constitution.)

16 2. In the absence of the president pro tempore, and vice
17 president pro tempore, or with their consent, the president
18 shall have the right to name any senator to perform the duties
19 of the chair, but such substitution shall not extend beyond an
20 adjournment, nor authorize the senator so substituted to sign
21 any documents requiring the signature of the president.

22 **Secretary of the Senate**

23 **Rule 3.** 1. The senate shall elect a secretary, who shall
24 appoint a deputy secretary, both of whom shall be officers of
25 the senate and shall perform the usual duties pertaining to
26 their offices, and they shall hold office until their successors
27 have been elected or appointed.

28 2. The secretary is the Personnel Officer of the senate and
29 shall appoint, subject to the approval of the senate, all other
30 senate employees and the hours of duty and assignments of all
31 senate employees shall be under the secretary's directions and
32 instructions and they may be dismissed at the secretary's
33 discretion.

34 3. The secretary of the senate, prior to the convening of
35 the next regular session, shall prepare the office to receive

1 bills which the holdover members and members-elect may desire to
2 prefile commencing with the first Monday in December preceding
3 any regular session or twenty days prior to any special session
4 of the legislature.

5 **Sergeant at Arms**

6 **Rule 4.** 1. The director of senate security shall perform the
7 functions of the sergeant at arms for the senate.

8 2. The sergeant at arms shall not admit to the floor of the
9 senate during the time the senate is not convened any person
10 other than specifically requested in writing by a senator, the
11 president, or the secretary of the senate, or when personally
12 accompanied by a senator.

13 **Subordinate Officers**

14 **Rule 5.** The subordinate officers of the senate shall perform
15 such duties as usually pertain to their respective positions in
16 legislative bodies under the direction of the president, and
17 such other duties as the senate may impose upon them. Under no
18 circumstances shall the compensation of any employee be
19 increased for past services. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 25, State
20 Constitution.)

21 **Employees**

22 **Rule 6.** 1. No senate employee shall lobby in favor of or
23 against any matter under consideration.

24 2. Senate employees are governed by joint rules and chapters
25 42.17 (the Public Disclosure Act) and 42.52 RCW (the Ethics in
26 Public Service Act).

27 **Conduct of Members and Officers**

28 **Rule 7.** 1. Indecorous conduct, boisterous or unbecoming
29 language will not be permitted in the senate at any time. Food
30 is prohibited within the senate chamber during floor session.
31 Cellular phone use within the senate chamber during floor
32 session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing
33 must be respectful to the members and the public and the phone
34 must be kept in silent mode within the senate chamber during

1 floor session and within a hearing room during a committee
2 hearing.

3 2. In cases of breach of decorum or propriety, any senator,
4 officer or other person shall be liable to such censure or
5 punishment as the senate may deem proper, and if any senator be
6 called to order for offensive or indecorous language or conduct,
7 the person calling the senator to order shall report the
8 language excepted to which shall be taken down or noted at the
9 secretary's desk. No member shall be held to answer for any
10 language used upon the floor of the senate if business has
11 intervened before exception to the language was thus taken and
12 noted.

13 3. If any senator in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses
14 the rules of the senate, the president shall, or any senator
15 may, call that senator to order, and a senator so called to
16 order shall resume the senator's seat and not proceed without
17 leave of the senate, which leave, if granted, shall be upon
18 motion "that the senator be allowed to proceed in order," when,
19 if carried, the senator shall speak to the question under
20 consideration.

21 4. No senator shall be absent from the senate without leave,
22 except in case of accident or sickness, and if any senator or
23 officer shall be absent the senator's per diem shall not be
24 allowed or paid, and no senator or officer shall obtain leave of
25 absence or be excused from attendance without the consent of a
26 majority of the members present.

27 5. Members of the senate are subject to the senate's policy
28 on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct in violation of the
29 policy may result in disciplinary action.

30 6. In the event of a motion or resolution to censure or
31 punish, or any procedural motion thereto involving a senator,
32 that senator shall not vote thereon. The senator shall be
33 allowed to answer to such motion or resolution. An election or
34 vote by the senate on a motion to censure or punish a senator
35 shall require the vote of a majority of all senators elected or
36 appointed to the senate. A vote to expel a member shall require

1 a two-thirds concurrence of all members elected or appointed to
2 the senate. All votes shall be taken by yeas and nays and the
3 votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec.
4 9, State Constitution.)

5 SECTION II

6 OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

7 Facilities and Operations

8 **Rule 8.** 1. After the election of new caucus leadership at
9 the beginning of the first regular session during a legislative
10 biennium, the majority caucus shall designate four members and
11 the minority caucus shall designate three members to serve on
12 the facilities and operations committee. Each caucus may also
13 designate an alternate. The chair of the facilities and
14 operations committee must be selected by a majority vote of the
15 members of the committee. If a different caucus becomes the
16 majority caucus anytime during the legislative biennium, the
17 operation of the senate shall transfer to the newly designated
18 members after the leadership of the new majority caucus is
19 determined.

20 2. All necessary expenses of the senate incurred during the
21 session shall be signed for by the secretary and approved by a
22 majority of the committee on facilities and operations. The
23 committee on facilities and operations shall carefully consider
24 all items of expenditure ordered or contracted on the part of
25 the senate, and report upon the same prior to the voucher being
26 signed by the secretary of the senate authorizing the payment
27 thereof. The committee on facilities and operations shall issue
28 postage only as follows:

29 (a) To elected or appointed members of the senate in an
30 amount sufficient to allow performance of their legislative
31 duties.

32 (b) To the secretary of the senate in an amount sufficient
33 to carry out the business of the senate.

34 3. The facilities and operations committee is authorized to
35 adopt respectful workplace policies.

1 **Printing of Bills**

2 **Rule 11.** The number of bills printed and reprinted shall be
3 at the discretion of the secretary of the senate, with the
4 approval of the facilities and operations committee.

5 **Furnishing Full File of Bills**

6 **Rule 12.** Persons, firms, corporations and organizations
7 within the state, desirous of receiving copies of all printed
8 senate bills, shall make application therefor to the secretary
9 of the senate. The bill clerk shall send copies of all printed
10 senate bills to such persons, firms, corporations and
11 organizations as may be ordered by the secretary of the senate.
12 The secretary of the senate is authorized to recoup costs.

13 **Regulation of Lobbyists**

14 **Rule 13.** All persons who engage in lobbying of any kind as
15 defined in chapter 42.17 RCW are subject to the senate's policy
16 on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct that constitutes
17 prohibited conduct under the policy may result in restrictions,
18 including, but not limited to, prohibitions on unaccompanied
19 movement within the senate.

20 Any person registered as a lobbyist pursuant to chapter
21 42.17 RCW who intervenes in or attempts to influence any
22 personnel decision of the senate regarding any employee may
23 suffer an immediate revocation of all privileges before the
24 senate or such other privileges and for such time as may be
25 deemed appropriate by the senate committee on rules. This
26 restriction shall not prohibit a registered lobbyist from making
27 written recommendations for staff positions.

28 **Security Management**

29 **Rule 14.** The sergeant at arms shall develop security
30 procedures to protect the senate, including its members, staff,
31 and the visiting public.

32 **SECTION III**

33 **RULES AND ORDER**

34 **Time of Convening**

1 **Special Order**

2 **Rule 18.** The president shall call the senate to order at the
3 hour fixed for the consideration of a special order, and
4 announce that the special order is before the senate, which
5 shall then be considered unless it is postponed by a majority
6 vote of the members present, and any business before the senate
7 at the time of the announcement of the special order shall take
8 its regular position in the order of business, except that if a
9 cutoff established by concurrent resolution occurs during the
10 special order, the senate may complete the measure that was
11 before the senate when consideration of the special order was
12 commenced.

13 **Unfinished Business**

14 **Rule 19.** The unfinished business at the preceding
15 adjournment shall have preference over all other matters,
16 excepting special orders, and no motion or any other business
17 shall be received without special leave of the senate until the
18 former is disposed of.

19 **Motions and Senate Floor Resolutions**

20 **(How Presented)**

21 **Rule 20.** 1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until
22 announced by the president and every motion shall be deemed to
23 have been seconded. It shall be reduced to writing and read by
24 the secretary, if desired by the president or any senator,
25 before it shall be debated, and by the consent of the senate may
26 be withdrawn before amendment or action.

27 2. The senate shall consider no more than one floor
28 resolution per day in session: Provided, That this rule shall
29 not apply to floor resolutions essential to the operation of the
30 senate; and further Provided, That there shall be no limit on
31 the number of floor resolutions considered on senate pro forma
32 session days. Senate floor resolutions shall be acted upon in
33 the same manner as motions. All senate floor resolutions shall
34 be on the secretary's desk at least twenty-four hours prior to
35 consideration. Members' names shall be added to the resolution

1 only if the member signs the resolution, except by unanimous
2 consent of the senate. Members shall have until thirty minutes
3 after the senate is convened the following day the senate is in
4 a regular or pro forma session to add or remove their names to
5 the floor resolution. A motion may be made to close the period
6 for signatures at an earlier time. If the senate is operating in
7 a remote format under the authority of Senate Rule 70, an
8 electronic or scanned signature is authorized in place of a
9 physical signature.

10 **Precedence of Motions**

11 **Rule 21.** When a motion has been made and stated by the chair
12 the following motions are in order, in the rank named:

13 PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

14 Adjourn, recess, or go at ease

15 Reconsider

16 Demand for call of the senate

17 Demand for roll call

18 Demand for division

19 Question of privilege

20 Orders of the day

21 INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

22 Points of order and appeal

23 Method of consideration

24 Suspend the rules

25 Reading papers

26 Withdraw a motion

27 Division of a question

28 SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

29 1st Rank: To lay on the table

30 2nd Rank: For the previous question

31 3rd Rank: To postpone to a day certain

32 To commit or recommit

33 To postpone indefinitely

34 4th Rank: To amend

1 No motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to
2 postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed on
3 the same day and at the same stage of the proceedings, and when
4 a question has been postponed indefinitely it shall not again be
5 introduced during the session.

6 A motion to lay an amendment on the table shall not carry
7 the main question with it unless so specified in the motion to
8 table.

9 At no time shall the senate entertain a Question of
10 Consideration.

11 **Voting**

12 **Rule 22.** 1. In all cases of election by the senate, the
13 votes shall be taken by yeas and nays, and no senator or other
14 person shall remain by the secretary's desk while the roll is
15 being called or the votes are being counted. No senator shall be
16 allowed to vote except when within the bar of the senate, or
17 upon any question upon which he or she is in any way personally
18 or directly interested, nor be allowed to explain a vote or
19 discuss the question while the yeas and nays are being called,
20 nor change a vote after the result has been announced. A member
21 of the senate voting remotely is considered in attendance within
22 the bar of the senate if the member is participating in the
23 session through a remote access program established by the
24 secretary of the senate as provided in Senate Rule 70. (See also
25 Art. 2, Secs. 27 and 30, State Constitution.)

26 2. A member not voting by reason of personal or direct
27 interest, or by reason of an excused absence, or a member having
28 inadvertently voted contrary to the member's intent, may explain
29 the reason for not voting or the member's intended vote by a
30 brief statement not to exceed fifty words in the journal.

31 3. The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-
32 sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within the
33 bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous
34 vote of the members present, except as provided for in Senate

1 Rule 7, subsection 4, and the votes shall be entered upon the
2 journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

3 When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any
4 purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also
5 Senate Rule 24.)

6 4. A senator having been absent during roll call may ask to
7 have his or her name called. Such a request must be made before
8 the result of the roll call has been announced by the president.
9 If, during a roll call vote, the vote of a member participating
10 remotely is unable to be taken due to connectivity issues, the
11 member shall be automatically excused. The member may request in
12 writing that their vote be reflected in the senate journal,
13 though it will not count towards the final roll call.

14 5. The passage of a bill or action on a question is lost by
15 a tie vote, but when a vote of the senate is equally divided,
16 the lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding
17 vote on questions as provided for in the state Constitution.
18 (See also Art. 2, Secs. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

19 6. The order of the names on the roll call shall be
20 alphabetical by last name.

21 7. All votes in a committee shall be recorded, and the
22 record shall be preserved as prescribed by the secretary of the
23 senate. One-sixth of the committee may demand an oral roll call.

24 8. If a member of the majority is going to be absent due to
25 a health matter or other emergency, then a member of the
26 minority may publicly announce on the floor of the senate that
27 he or she will cast votes as he or she believes the absent
28 member would have voted in order to avoid results that would
29 only occur because of the unanticipated absence.

30 **Announcement of Vote**

31 **Rule 23.** The announcement of all votes shall be made by the
32 president.

33 **Call of the Senate**

1 **Rule 29.** When any senator is about to speak in debate, or
2 submit any matter to the senate, the senator shall rise, and
3 standing in place, respectfully request recognition by the
4 President, and when recognized shall, in a courteous manner,
5 speak to the question under debate, avoiding personalities;
6 provided that a senator may refer to another member using the
7 title "Senator" and the surname of the other member. With
8 respect to any senators participating remotely under the
9 authority of Senate Rule 8, each caucus shall designate a single
10 member who is charged with seeking recognition on behalf of a
11 senator from that caucus who is participating remotely and
12 wishes to speak. Any senator participating remotely who wishes
13 to speak in debate or submit any matter permitted by Senate Rule
14 8 to the senate, shall notify the designated member of the
15 senator's desire to speak. The designated member shall seek
16 recognition under the provisions of this section on behalf of
17 the senator participating remotely and, upon recognition, the
18 designated member shall defer to the senator participating
19 remotely. No senator shall impeach the motives of any other
20 member or speak more than twice (except for explanation) during
21 the consideration of any one question, on the same day or a
22 second time without leave, when others who have not spoken
23 desire the floor, but incidental and subsidiary questions
24 arising during the debate shall not be considered the same
25 question. A majority of the members present may further limit
26 the number of times a member may speak on any question and may
27 limit the length of time a member may speak but, unless a demand
28 for the previous question has been sustained, a member shall not
29 be denied the right to speak at least once on each question, nor
30 shall a member be limited to less than two minutes on each
31 question. In any event, the senator who presents the motion may
32 open and close debate on the question.

33 **Recognition by the President**

34 **Rule 30.** When two or more senators rise at the same time to
35 address the chair, the president shall name the one who shall
36 speak first, giving preference, when practicable, to the mover

1 or introducer of the subject under consideration. (See also
2 Reed's Rule 214).

3 **Call for Division of a Question**

4 **Rule 31.** Any senator may call for a division of a question,
5 which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that
6 one being taken away a substantive proposition shall remain for
7 the decision of the senate; but a motion to strike out and
8 insert shall not be divided.

9 **Point of Order - Decision Appealable**

10 **Rule 32.** 1. Every decision of points of order by the
11 president shall be subject to appeal by any senator, and
12 discussion of a question of order shall be allowed. In all cases
13 of appeal the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the
14 president stand as the judgment of the senate?"

15 2. When a member appeals the decision of the presiding
16 officer, the presiding officer may not preside over the appeal.

17 3. An appeal from the decision of the presiding officer is
18 timely if brought before the body on the day the decision was
19 made unless the decision affected a measure that is no longer in
20 possession of the senate.

21 **Question of Privilege**

22 **Rule 33.** Any senator may rise to a question of privilege and
23 explain a personal matter by leave of the president, but shall
24 not discuss any pending question in such explanations, nor shall
25 any question of personal privilege permit any senator to
26 introduce any person or persons in the galleries. The president
27 upon notice received may acknowledge the presence of any
28 distinguished person or persons.

29 A question of privilege shall involve only subject matter
30 which affects the particular senator personally and in a manner
31 unique and peculiar to that senator.

32 **Protests**

33 **Rule 34.** Any senator or senators may protest against the
34 action of the senate upon any question. Such protest may be

1 entered upon the journal if it does not exceed 200 words. The
2 senator protesting shall file the protest with the secretary of
3 the senate within 48 hours following the action protested.

4 **Adoption and Suspension of Rules**

5 **Rule 35.** 1. The permanent senate rules adopted at the first
6 regular session during a legislative biennium shall govern any
7 session subsequently convened during the same legislative
8 biennium. Adoption of permanent rules may be by majority of the
9 senate without notice and a majority of the senate may change a
10 permanent rule without notice at the beginning of any session,
11 as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12 of the State
12 Constitution. No permanent rule or order of the senate shall be
13 rescinded or changed without a majority vote of the members of
14 the senate, and one day's notice of the motion.

15 2. A permanent rule or order may be temporarily suspended
16 for a special purpose by a vote of two-thirds of the members
17 present unless otherwise specified herein. When the suspension
18 of a rule is called, and after due notice from the president no
19 objection is offered, the president may announce the rule
20 suspended, and the senate may proceed accordingly. Motion for
21 suspension of the rules shall not be debatable, except, the
22 mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the
23 motion and at the discretion of the president a rebuttal may be
24 allowed.

25 3. For the purposes of this rule, one day's notice means
26 written notice is provided to all members of the Senate by 5:00
27 p.m. the day prior to the amendment to the permanent rules being
28 offered and the notice must include, at a minimum, a description
29 of the change to be offered.

30 **Previous Question**

31 **Rule 36.** The previous question shall not be put unless
32 demanded by three senators, and it shall then be in this form:
33 "Shall the main question be now put?" When sustained by a
34 majority of senators present it shall preclude all debate,
35 except the senator who presents the motion may open and close
36 debate on the question and the vote shall be immediately taken

1 on the question or questions pending before the senate, and all
2 incidental question or questions of order arising after the
3 motion is made shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise
4 without debate.

5 **Reconsideration**

6 **Rule 37.** 1. After the final vote on any measure, before the
7 adjournment of that day's session, any member who voted with the
8 prevailing side may give notice of reconsideration unless a
9 motion to immediately transmit the measure to the house has been
10 decided in the affirmative. Such motion to reconsider shall be
11 in order only under the second order of business the day
12 immediately following the day upon which such notice of
13 reconsideration is given, and may be made by any member who
14 voted with the prevailing side.

15 2. A motion to reconsider shall have precedence over every
16 other motion, except a motion to adjourn; and when the senate
17 adjourns while a motion to reconsider is pending or before
18 passing the order of motions, the right to move a
19 reconsideration shall continue to the next day of sitting. On
20 and after the tenth day prior to adjournment sine die of any
21 session, as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12, or
22 concurrent resolution, or in the event that the measure is
23 subject to a senate rule or resolution or a joint rule or
24 concurrent resolution, which would preclude consideration on the
25 next day of sitting a motion to reconsider shall only be in
26 order on the same day upon which notice of reconsideration is
27 given and may be made at any time that day. Motions to
28 reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending question may be
29 made and decided at once.

30 **Motion to Adjourn**

31 **Rule 38.** Except when under call of the senate, a motion to
32 adjourn shall always be in order. The name of the senator moving
33 to adjourn and the time when the motion was made shall be
34 entered upon the journal.

35 **Yeas and Nays - When Must be Taken**

1 **Rule 39.** The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by
2 one-sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within
3 the bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous
4 vote of the members present, and the votes shall be entered upon
5 the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

6 When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any
7 purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also
8 Senate Rules 22 and 24.)

9 **Reed's Parliamentary Rules**

10 **Rule 40.** The rules of parliamentary practice as contained in
11 Reed's Parliamentary Rules shall govern the senate in all cases
12 to which they are applicable, and in which they are not
13 inconsistent with the rules and orders of this senate and the
14 joint rules of this senate and the house of representatives.

15 **SECTION V**

16 **COMMITTEES**

17 **Committees - Appointment and Confirmation**

18 **Rule 41.** The president shall appoint all conference,
19 special, joint and standing committees on the part of the
20 senate. The appointment of the conference, special, joint and
21 standing committees shall be confirmed by the senate.

22 In the event the senate shall refuse to confirm any
23 conference, special, joint or standing committee, such committee
24 shall be elected by the senate.

25 The following standing committees shall constitute the
26 standing committees of the senate:

Standing Committee	Total Membership
1. Agriculture((7-Water,7)) & Natural Resources ((& Parks))	9
2. Business, Financial Services((7-Gaming)) & Trade.	9
3. Early Learning & K-12 Education.	9
4. Environment, Energy & Technology.	((8)) <u>11</u>
5. Health & Long-Term Care.	((10)) <u>11</u>
6. Higher Education & Workforce Development.	5
7. Housing.	((11)) <u>7</u>
8. Human Services.	((7)) <u>5</u>
9. Labor & Commerce.	9

1 The committees shall acquaint themselves with the interest
2 of the state specially represented by the committee, and from
3 time to time present such bills and reports as in their judgment
4 will advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people
5 of the state: PROVIDED, That no executive action on bills may be
6 taken during an interim.

7 **Committee Rules**

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

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

24 3. During its consideration of or vote on any bill,
25 resolution or memorial, the deliberations of any committee or
26 subcommittee of the senate shall be open to the public. In case
27 of any disturbance or disorderly conduct at any such
28 deliberations, the chair shall order the sergeant at arms to
29 suppress the same and may order the meeting closed to any person
30 or persons creating such disturbance.

31 4. No committee shall amend a measure, adopt a substitute
32 bill, or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A
33 committee may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of
34 any committee shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be
35 considered to have a quorum present unless the question is

1 raised. Any question as to quorum not raised at the time of the
2 committee action is deemed waived.

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

- 9 a. Do pass;
10 b. Do pass as amended;
11 c. That a substitute bill be substituted therefor, and the
12 substitute bill do pass; or
13 d. Without recommendation.

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

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

1 appointment remains in the possession of the committee. The 24-
2 hour hold period does not apply within the five days preceding
3 any cutoff date and does not apply to a biennial or supplemental
4 omnibus operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or omnibus
5 transportation budget.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 circumstances or to accept technical revisions to perfect an
2 amendment.

3 18. A committee chair may choose to allow committee members
4 to participate remotely in committee meetings. The committee
5 chair shall notify the secretary of the senate prior to the
6 first day of the legislative session if the chair will allow
7 committee members to participate remotely. A chair that
8 initially chooses to allow only in-person participation may
9 later choose to allow remote participation but must provide the
10 secretary of the senate with notice of the change at least 24
11 hours prior to the committee hearing in which the change will
12 become effective. Once a chair has chosen to allow members to
13 participate remotely, this choice cannot be changed during the
14 remainder of the session. If a chair allows committee members to
15 participate remotely, those members will be considered "present"
16 for the purposes of this rule and Senate Rule 49. All committee
17 meetings shall be chaired in person. A chair may participate
18 remotely in a committee meeting when another member of the
19 committee is acting as chair. Members participating remotely
20 shall be allowed to participate in committee activities to the
21 same extent as those attending in person.

22 **Committee Meetings During Sessions**

23 **Rule 46.** No committee shall sit during the daily session of
24 the senate unless by special leave.

25 No committee shall sit during any scheduled caucus.

26 **Reading of Reports**

27 **Rule 47.** The majority report, and minority report, if there
28 be one, together with the names of the signers thereof, shall be
29 read by the secretary, unless the reading be dispensed with by
30 the senate, and all committee reports shall be spread upon the
31 journal.

32 **Recalling Bills from Committees**

33 **Rule 48.** Any standing committee of the senate may be
34 relieved of further consideration of any bill, regardless of
35 prior action of the committee, by a majority vote of the

1 senators elected or appointed. The senate may then make such
2 orderly disposition of the bill as they may direct by a majority
3 vote of the members of the senate.

4 **Bills Referred to Rules Committee**

5 **Rule 49.** All bills reported by a committee to the senate
6 shall then be referred to the committee on rules for second
7 reading without action on the report unless otherwise ordered by
8 the senate. (See also Senate Rules 63 and 64.) A bill may not be
9 referred to the committee on rules for second reading unless a
10 standing committee has held a public hearing on the bill. This
11 rule does not apply when the committee is considering a bill
12 whose official companion has already been heard. By a majority
13 vote of the committee members present at any executive session,
14 the public hearing requirement may be dispensed with when the
15 committee is considering a biennial or supplemental omnibus
16 operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or omnibus
17 transportation budget bill and the committee has already had a
18 hearing on a substantially similar omnibus budget bill.

19 **Rules Committee**

20 **Rule 50.** The lieutenant governor shall be a voting member
21 and the chair of the committee on rules. The president pro
22 tempore shall be a voting member and the vice chair of the
23 committee on rules. The committee on rules shall have charge of
24 the daily second and third reading calendar of the senate and
25 shall direct the secretary of the senate the order in which the
26 bills shall appear on the calendars and the committee on rules
27 shall have the authority to directly refer any bill before them
28 to any other standing committee. Such referral shall be reported
29 out to the senate on the next day's business.

30 The order of consideration of bills on the second or third
31 reading calendar will be set by the floor leader of the majority
32 caucus. A majority of members present may vote to change the
33 order.

34 The calendar, except in emergent situations, as determined
35 by the committee on rules, shall be available electronically to

1 senators each day and shall cover the bills for consideration on
2 the next following day.

3 **Employment Committee**

4 **Rule 51.** The employment committee for committee staff shall
5 consist of six members, three from the majority party and three
6 from the minority party. The chair shall be appointed by the
7 majority leader. All decisions shall be determined by majority
8 vote. The committee shall operate within staffing, budget levels
9 and guidelines as authorized and adopted by the facilities and
10 operations committee.

11 **Committee of the Whole**

12 **Rule 52.** At no time shall the senate sit as a committee of
13 the whole.

14 The senate may at any time, by the vote of the majority of
15 the members present, sit as a body for the purpose of taking
16 testimony on any measure before the senate.

17 **Appropriation Budget Bills**

18 **Rule 53.** No biennial or supplemental omnibus operating
19 budget, omnibus capital budget, or omnibus transportation budget
20 bill may be acted upon in second reading until twenty-four hours
21 after the bill has been placed on the second reading calendar by
22 the rules committee. This rule does not apply to conference
23 committee reports of biennial or supplemental omnibus budget
24 bills, which are governed by joint rules. This rule may be
25 suspended with a majority vote of those present within three
26 days of sine die. The rules committee shall establish by
27 separate motion the time at which a bill has been placed on the
28 second reading calendar for purposes of this rule.

29 **SECTION VI**

30 **BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, MEMORIALS AND GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

31 **Definitions**

32 **Rule 54.** "Measure" means a bill, joint memorial, joint
33 resolution, or concurrent resolution.

1 "Bill" when used alone means bill, joint memorial, joint
2 resolution, or concurrent resolution.

3 "Majority" shall mean a majority of those members present
4 unless otherwise stated.

5 **Prefiling**

6 **Rule 55.** Holdover members and members-elect to the senate
7 may prefile bills with the secretary of the senate on any day
8 commencing with the first Monday in December preceding any
9 session year; or twenty days prior to any special session of the
10 legislature. Such bills will be printed, distributed and
11 prepared for introduction on the first legislative day. No bill,
12 joint memorial or joint resolution shall be prefiled by title
13 and/or preamble only. (See also Senate Rule 3, Sub. 3.)

14 **Introduction of Bills**

15 **Rule 56.** 1. All bills, joint resolutions, and joint
16 memorials introduced shall be endorsed with a statement of the
17 title and the name of the member introducing the same. Any
18 member desiring to introduce a bill, joint resolution, or joint
19 memorial shall file the same with the secretary of the senate by
20 noon of the day before the convening of the session at which
21 said bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial is to be
22 introduced. Sponsor sheets shall be available in both physical
23 and electronic formats. A member may introduce a bill
24 electronically by emailing the bill to the office of the code
25 reviser. Only bills that have been emailed by a member or the
26 member's legislative assistant may be considered for electronic
27 introduction.

28 2. For bills introduced electronically, the sponsoring
29 member may designate one cosponsor of the bill by providing the
30 cosponsor's name in the email and by including the cosponsor's
31 name in the cc line of the email. Additional members may add
32 themselves as cosponsors to the bill by emailing the senate
33 workroom by 5:00 p.m. of the day of its introduction. Agency and
34 governor request legislation may follow this process and the

1 sponsoring member or member's legislative assistant must email
2 such legislation to the office of the code reviser.

3 3. Provided that a vote has not been taken on final passage
4 of a bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial, a member may add
5 his or her name as a cosponsor until 5:00 p.m. of the day of its
6 introduction. For any bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial
7 that has been prefiled for a regular session, a member has until
8 5:00 p.m. of the day following introduction to add his or her
9 name as a cosponsor.

10 4. To be considered during a regular session, a bill must be
11 introduced at least ten days before final adjournment of the
12 legislature, unless the legislature directs otherwise by a vote
13 of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said
14 vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal.
15 The time limitation for introduction of bills shall not apply to
16 substitute bills reported by standing committees for bills
17 pending before such committees and general appropriation and
18 revenue bills. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 36, State Constitution.)

19 5. The introduction of title-only bills is prohibited. For
20 the purposes of this subsection, a title-only bill is a bill
21 containing a title or short summary of the intended subject
22 matter, without laying forth the full changes intended to any
23 act or sections of law.

24 **Amendatory Bills**

25 **Rule 57.** Bills introduced in the senate intended to amend
26 existing statutes shall have the words which are amendatory to
27 such existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from
28 the existing statutes shall be indicated by setting such matter
29 forth in full, enclosed by double parentheses, and such deleted
30 matter shall be lined out with hyphens. No bill shall be printed
31 or acted upon until the provisions of this rule shall have been
32 complied with.

33 Sections added by amendatory bill to an existing act, or
34 chapter of the official code, need not be underlined but shall
35 be designated "NEW SECTION" in upper case type and such

1 designation shall be underlined. New enactments need not be
2 underlined.

3 When statutes are being repealed, the Revised Code of
4 Washington section number to be repealed, the section caption
5 and the session law history, from the most current to the
6 original, shall be cited.

7 **Joint Resolutions and Memorials**

8 **Rule 58.** Joint resolutions and joint memorials, up to the
9 signing thereof by the president of the senate, shall be subject
10 to the rules governing the course of bills.

11 **Senate Concurrent Resolutions**

12 **Rule 59.** Concurrent resolutions shall be subject to the
13 rules governing the course of bills and may be adopted without a
14 roll call. Concurrent resolutions authorizing investigations and
15 authorizing the expenditure or allocation of any money must be
16 adopted by roll call and the yeas and nays recorded in the
17 journal. Concurrent resolutions are subject to final passage on
18 the day of the first reading without regard to Senate Rules 62,
19 63, and 64.

20 **Committee Bills**

21 **Rule 60.** Committee bills introduced by a standing committee
22 during a legislative session may be filed with the secretary of
23 the senate and introduced, and the signature of each member of
24 the committee shall be endorsed upon the cover of the original
25 bill.

26 Committee bills shall be read the first time by title,
27 ordered printed, and referred to the committee on rules for
28 second reading.

29 **Committee Reference**

30 **Rule 61.** When a motion is made to refer a subject, and
31 different committees are proposed, the question shall be taken
32 in the following order:

33 **FIRST:** A standing committee.

1 SECOND: A select committee.

2 **Reading of Bills**

3 **Rule 62.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days
4 unless the senate deems it expedient to suspend this rule. On
5 and after the tenth day preceding adjournment sine die of any
6 session, or three days prior to any cut-off date for
7 consideration of bills, as determined pursuant to Article 2,
8 Section 12 of the Constitution or concurrent resolution, or
9 during any special session of the legislature, this rule may be
10 suspended by a majority vote. (See also Senate Rules 59 and 64).

11 **First Reading**

12 **Rule 63.** The first reading of a bill shall be by title only,
13 unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in
14 full.

15 After the first reading, bills shall be referred to an
16 appropriate committee pursuant to Senate Rule 61. Draft bill
17 referrals will be electronically published by 7:00 p.m. the
18 evening before the session in which the referrals will be
19 considered. All objections or requests for rereferral must be
20 communicated in an email by a member to the majority floor
21 leader by 9:00 a.m. the day of convening.

22 Upon being reported back by committee, pursuant to Senate
23 Rule 49, all bills shall be referred to the committee on rules
24 for second reading, unless otherwise ordered by the senate.

25 A bill shall be reported back by the committee chair upon
26 written petition therefor signed by a majority of its members.
27 The petition shall designate the recommendation as provided in
28 Senate Rule 45, Sub. 5.

29 No committee chair shall exercise a pocket veto of any bill.

30 Should there be a two-thirds majority report of the
31 committee membership against the bill, a vote shall be
32 immediately ordered for the indefinite postponement of the bill.

33 **Second Reading/Amendments**

1 any time during consideration of an amendment prior to voting on
2 the amendment.

3 **Matters Related to Disagreement Between the Senate and House**

4 **Rule 67.** When there is a disagreement between the senate and
5 house on a measure before the senate, the senate may act upon
6 the measure with the following motions which have priority in
7 the following order:

8 To concur

9 To non-concur

10 To recede

11 To insist

12 To adhere

13 These motions are in order as to any single amendment or to
14 a series of amendments. (See Reed's Rules 247 through 254.)

15 A senate bill, passed by the house with amendment or
16 amendments which shall change the scope and object of the bill,
17 upon being received in the senate, shall be referred to an
18 appropriate committee and shall take the same course as for
19 original bills, unless a motion to ask the house to recede, to
20 insist or to adhere is made prior to the measure being referred
21 to committee.

22 **Bills Committed for Special Amendment**

23 **Rule 68.** A bill may be committed with or without special
24 instructions to amend at any time before taking the final vote.

25 **Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointees**

26 **Rule 69.** When the names of appointees to state offices are
27 transmitted to the secretary of the senate for senate
28 confirmation, the communication from the governor shall be
29 recorded and referred to the appropriate standing committee.

30 The standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate
31 Rule 42, shall require each appointee referred to the committee
32 for consideration to complete the standard questionnaire to be
33 used to ascertain the appointee's general background and
34 qualifications. The committee may also require the appointee to

1 complete a supplemental questionnaire related specifically to
2 the qualifications for the position to which he has been
3 appointed.

4 Any hearing on a gubernatorial appointment, held by the
5 standing committee, or subcommittees, pursuant to Senate Rule
6 42, shall be a public hearing. The appointee may be required to
7 appear before the committee on request. When appearing, the
8 appointee shall be required to testify under oath or
9 affirmation. The chair of the committee or the presiding member
10 shall administer the oath or affirmation in accordance with RCW
11 44.16. (See also Article 2, Sec. 6 of the State Constitution.)

12 Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prevent a
13 standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate Rule 42,
14 upon a two-thirds vote of its members, from holding executive
15 sessions when considering an appointment.

16 When the committee on rules presents the report of the
17 standing committee before the senate, the question shall be the
18 confirmation of the name proposed, and the roll shall then be
19 called and the yeas and nays entered upon the journal. In the
20 event a message is received from the governor requesting return
21 of an appointment or appointments to the office of the governor
22 prior to confirmation, the senate shall vote upon the governor's
23 request and the appointment or appointments shall be returned to
24 the governor if the request is approved by a majority of the
25 members elected or appointed. (Article 13 of the State
26 Constitution.)

27 **Emergency Resolution Authorized**

28 **Rule 70.** 1. If the Facilities and Operations Committee
29 determines through a majority vote that physically convening all
30 members and staff in a single location presents a danger to the
31 health or safety of the participants or is impractical because
32 of a publicly declared statewide emergency or catastrophic
33 incident under RCW 43.06.010, the senate shall adopt a
34 resolution establishing the rules and procedures governing any
35 special or regular legislative session.

1 2. For purposes of adopting the senate resolution required
2 by this rule, some or all members may vote using a remote access
3 program established by the Secretary of the Senate. The remote
4 access program must provide a mechanism approved by the
5 President of the Senate by which the President can verify a
6 member's remote presence. Members are considered in attendance
7 within the bar of the senate when using the remote access
8 program, including for purposes of establishing quorum. To the
9 extent practicable, a member participating remotely under this
10 rule has the same privileges, rights, and responsibilities under
11 the Senate Rules as if the member were physically present.

12 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
13 do hereby certify that this is a true and
14 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8603,
15 adopted by the Senate
16 January 13, 2025

17 SARAH BANNISTER
18 Secretary of the Senate