

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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12 **SECTION I**

13 **OFFICERS-MEMBERS-EMPLOYEES**

14 **Duties of the President**

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

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

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

34 4. The president may speak to points of order in preference to  
 35 members, arising from the president's seat for that purpose, and  
 36 shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the

1 senate by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than  
2 once without leave of the senate.

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

10 6. The president shall appoint all conference, special, joint and  
11 hereinafter named standing committees on the part of the senate. The  
12 appointment of the conference, special, joint and standing committees  
13 shall be confirmed by the senate. In the event the senate refuses to  
14 confirm any conference, special, joint or standing committee or  
15 committees, such committee or committees shall be elected by the  
16 senate.

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

20 8. The president shall decide and announce the result of any vote  
21 taken.

22 9. When a vote of the senate is equally divided, the lieutenant  
23 governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding vote as provided  
24 for in the state Constitution. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 10 and 22,  
25 State Constitution.)

26 **President Pro Tempore**

27 **Rule 2.** 1. Upon the organization of the senate the members shall  
28 elect one of their number as president pro tempore who shall have all  
29 the powers and authority and who shall discharge all the duties of  
30 lieutenant governor acting as president when the secretary of the  
31 senate receives notice that the lieutenant governor is unable to  
32 preside or is unable to confirm the lieutenant governor's  
33 availability within a reasonable time. The president pro tempore  
34 shall serve as the vice chair of the committee on rules. The senate  
35 shall also elect at least one vice president pro tempore who will  
36 serve in the absence of the lieutenant governor and the president pro  
37 tempore. (See Art. 2, Sec. 10, State Constitution.)



1 circumstances shall the compensation of any employee be increased for  
2 past services. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 25, State Constitution.)

### 3 **Employees**

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

6 2. Senate employees are governed by joint rules and chapters  
7 42.17 (the Public Disclosure Act) and 42.52 RCW (the Ethics in Public  
8 Service Act).

### 9 **Conduct of Members and Officers**

10 **Rule 7.** 1. Indecorous conduct, boisterous or unbecoming language  
11 will not be permitted in the senate at any time. Food is prohibited  
12 within the senate chamber during floor session. Cellular phone use  
13 within the senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing  
14 room during a committee hearing must be respectful to the members and  
15 the public and the phone must be kept in silent mode within the  
16 senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing room during  
17 a committee hearing.

18 2. In cases of breach of decorum or propriety, any senator,  
19 officer or other person shall be liable to such censure or punishment  
20 as the senate may deem proper, and if any senator be called to order  
21 for offensive or indecorous language or conduct, the person calling  
22 the senator to order shall report the language excepted to which  
23 shall be taken down or noted at the secretary's desk. No member shall  
24 be held to answer for any language used upon the floor of the senate  
25 if business has intervened before exception to the language was thus  
26 taken and noted.

27 3. If any senator in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses the  
28 rules of the senate, the president shall, or any senator may, call  
29 that senator to order, and a senator so called to order shall resume  
30 the senator's seat and not proceed without leave of the senate, which  
31 leave, if granted, shall be upon motion "that the senator be allowed  
32 to proceed in order," when, if carried, the senator shall speak to  
33 the question under consideration.

34 4. No senator shall be absent from the senate without leave,  
35 except in case of accident or sickness, and if any senator or officer  
36 shall be absent the senator's per diem shall not be allowed or paid,  
37 and no senator or officer shall obtain leave of absence or be excused

1 from attendance without the consent of a majority of the members  
2 present.

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

6 6. In the event of a motion or resolution to censure or punish,  
7 or any procedural motion thereto involving a senator, that senator  
8 shall not vote thereon. The senator shall be allowed to answer to  
9 such motion or resolution. An election or vote by the senate on a  
10 motion to censure or punish a senator shall require the vote of a  
11 majority of all senators elected or appointed to the senate. A vote  
12 to expel a member shall require a two-thirds concurrence of all  
13 members elected or appointed to the senate. All votes shall be taken  
14 by yeas and nays and the votes shall be entered upon the journal.  
15 (See also Art. 2, Sec. 9, State Constitution.)

16 **SECTION II**

17 **OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

18 **Facilities and Operations**

19 **Rule 8.** 1. After the election of new caucus leadership at the  
20 beginning of the first regular session during a legislative biennium,  
21 the majority caucus shall designate four members and the minority  
22 caucus shall designate three members to serve on the facilities and  
23 operations committee. Each caucus may also designate an alternate.  
24 The chair of the facilities and operations committee must be selected  
25 by a majority vote of the members of the committee. If a different  
26 caucus becomes the majority caucus anytime during the legislative  
27 biennium, the operation of the senate shall transfer to the newly  
28 designated members after the leadership of the new majority caucus is  
29 determined.

30 2. All necessary expenses of the senate incurred during the  
31 session shall be signed for by the secretary and approved by a  
32 majority of the committee on facilities and operations. The committee  
33 on facilities and operations shall carefully consider all items of  
34 expenditure ordered or contracted on the part of the senate, and  
35 report upon the same prior to the voucher being signed by the  
36 secretary of the senate authorizing the payment thereof. The  
37 committee on facilities and operations shall issue postage only as  
38 follows:



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

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

5 3. The facilities and operations committee is authorized to adopt  
6 respectful workplace policies.

7 4. The facilities and operations committee may determine the  
8 rules by which an individual senator may vote on the floor using a  
9 remote access program established by the secretary of the senate. A  
10 maximum of six members, three from each caucus, are permitted to vote  
11 remotely under this rule during any single day of floor action in the  
12 event of illness or emergency. The leader of each caucus may approve  
13 up to three members from his or her respective caucus and must give  
14 notice to the secretary of the senate of which members are authorized  
15 to participate remotely at least two hours prior to the convening of  
16 the floor action. Members authorized to participate remotely under  
17 this rule may participate in debate according to the provisions of  
18 Senate Rule 29 but may not make motions or points of order during  
19 floor action. The remote access program must meet the requirements of  
20 Senate Rule 70.

#### 21 **Use of Senate Chambers**

22 **Rule 9.** The senate chamber and its facilities shall not be used  
23 for any but legislative business, except by permission of the senate  
24 while in session, or by the facilities and operations committee when  
25 not in session.

#### 26 **Admission to the Senate**

27 **Rule 10.** The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following  
28 individuals to the floor and adjacent areas of the senate for the  
29 period of time beginning one-half hour before convening and ending  
30 when the senate has adjourned or recessed for an hour or more:

31 The governor and/or designees,  
32 Members of the house of representatives,  
33 State elected officials,  
34 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature,  
35 Honored guests being presented to the senate,  
36 Former members of the senate who are not registered lobbyists  
37 pursuant to chapter 42.17 RCW,

1 Representatives of the press,  
2 Persons specifically requested by a senator to the president in  
3 writing or only as long as accompanied by a senator.

#### 4 **Printing of Bills**

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

#### 8 **Furnishing Full File of Bills**

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

#### 16 **Regulation of Lobbyists**

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

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

#### 30 **Security Management**

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

### 34 **SECTION III**

#### 35 **RULES AND ORDER**

##### 36 **Time of Convening**



1 special order is before the senate, which shall then be considered  
2 unless it is postponed by a majority vote of the members present, and  
3 any business before the senate at the time of the announcement of the  
4 special order shall take its regular position in the order of  
5 business, except that if a cutoff established by concurrent  
6 resolution occurs during the special order, the senate may complete  
7 the measure that was before the senate when consideration of the  
8 special order was commenced.

### 9 **Unfinished Business**

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

### 14 **Motions and Senate Floor Resolutions**

#### 15 **(How Presented)**

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

22 2. The senate shall consider no more than one floor resolution  
23 per day in session: Provided, That this rule shall not apply to floor  
24 resolutions essential to the operation of the senate; and further  
25 Provided, That there shall be no limit on the number of floor  
26 resolutions considered on senate pro forma session days. Senate floor  
27 resolutions shall be acted upon in the same manner as motions. All  
28 senate floor resolutions shall be on the secretary's desk at least  
29 twenty-four hours prior to consideration. Members' names shall be  
30 added to the resolution only if the member signs the resolution,  
31 except by unanimous consent of the senate. Members shall have until  
32 thirty minutes after the senate is convened the following day the  
33 senate is in a regular or pro forma session to add or remove their  
34 names to the floor resolution. A motion may be made to close the  
35 period for signatures at an earlier time. If the senate is operating  
36 in a remote format under the authority of Senate Rule 70, an  
37 electronic or scanned signature is authorized in place of a physical  
38 signature.

1 **Precedence of Motions**

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

4 PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

5 Adjourn, recess, or go at ease

6 Reconsider

7 Demand for call of the senate

8 Demand for roll call

9 Demand for division

10 Question of privilege

11 Orders of the day

12 INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

13 Points of order and appeal

14 Method of consideration

15 Suspend the rules

16 Reading papers

17 Withdraw a motion

18 Division of a question

19 SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

20 1st Rank: To lay on the table

21 2nd Rank: For the previous question

22 3rd Rank: To postpone to a day certain

23 To commit or recommit

24 To postpone indefinitely

25 4th Rank: To amend

26 No motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone  
27 indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed on the same day  
28 and at the same stage of the proceedings, and when a question has  
29 been postponed indefinitely it shall not again be introduced during  
30 the session.

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

33 At no time shall the senate entertain a Question of  
34 Consideration.

35 **Voting**

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

14           2. A member not voting by reason of personal or direct interest,  
15 or by reason of an excused absence, or a member having inadvertently  
16 voted contrary to the member's intent, may explain the reason for not  
17 voting or the member's intended vote by a brief statement not to  
18 exceed fifty words in the journal.

19           3. The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-sixth  
20 of all the senators present, and every senator within the bar of the  
21 senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous vote of the members  
22 present, except as provided for in Senate Rule 7, subsection 4, and  
23 the votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec.  
24 21, State Constitution.)

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

28           4. A senator having been absent during roll call may ask to have  
29 his or her name called. Such a request must be made before the result  
30 of the roll call has been announced by the president. If, during a  
31 roll call vote, the vote of a member participating remotely is unable  
32 to be taken due to connectivity issues, the member shall be  
33 automatically excused. The member may request in writing that their  
34 vote be reflected in the senate journal, though it will not count  
35 towards the final roll call.

36           5. The passage of a bill or action on a question is lost by a tie  
37 vote, but when a vote of the senate is equally divided, the  
38 lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding vote on

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

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

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

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

14 **Announcement of Vote**

15 **Rule 23.** The announcement of all votes shall be made by the  
16 president.

17 **Call of the Senate**

18 **Rule 24.** Although a roll call is in progress, a call of the  
19 senate may be moved by three senators, and if carried by a majority  
20 of all present the secretary shall call the roll, after which the  
21 names of the absentees shall again be called. The doors shall then be  
22 locked and the sergeant at arms directed to take into custody all who  
23 may be absent without leave, and all the senators so taken into  
24 custody shall be presented at the bar of the senate for such action  
25 as the senate may deem proper.

26 **One Subject in a Bill**

27 **Rule 25.** No bill shall embrace more than one subject and that  
28 shall be expressed in the title. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 19, State  
29 Constitution.)

30 **No Amendment by Mere Reference to Title of Act**

31 **Rule 26.** No act shall ever be revised or amended by mere  
32 reference to its title, but the act revised or the section amended  
33 shall be set forth at full length. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 37, State  
34 Constitution.)

35 **Reading of Papers**

1       **Rule 27.** When the reading of any paper is called for, and is  
2 objected to by any senator, it shall be determined by a vote of the  
3 senate, without debate.

4       Any and all copies of reproductions of newspaper or magazine  
5 editorials, articles or cartoons or publications or material of any  
6 nature distributed to senators' desks must bear the name of at least  
7 one senator granting permission for the distribution. This shall not  
8 apply to materials normally distributed by the secretary of the  
9 senate or the majority or minority caucuses.

#### 10                               **Comparing Enrolled and Engrossed Bills**

11       **Rule 28.** Any senator shall have the right to compare an enrolled  
12 bill with the engrossed bill and may note any objections in the  
13 Journal.

### 14   **SECTION IV**

#### 15   **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

#### 16   **Rules of Debate**

17       **Rule 29.** When any senator is about to speak in debate, or submit  
18 any matter to the senate, the senator shall rise, and standing in  
19 place, respectfully request recognition by the President, and when  
20 recognized shall, in a courteous manner, speak to the question under  
21 debate, avoiding personalities; provided that a senator may refer to  
22 another member using the title "Senator" and the surname of the other  
23 member. With respect to any senators participating remotely under the  
24 authority of Senate Rule 8, each caucus shall designate a single  
25 member who is charged with seeking recognition on behalf of a senator  
26 from that caucus who is participating remotely and wishes to speak.  
27 Any senator participating remotely who wishes to speak in debate or  
28 submit any matter permitted by Senate Rule 8 to the senate, shall  
29 notify the designated member of the senator's desire to speak. The  
30 designated member shall seek recognition under the provisions of this  
31 section on behalf of the senator participating remotely and, upon  
32 recognition, the designated member shall defer to the senator  
33 participating remotely. No senator shall impeach the motives of any  
34 other member or speak more than twice (except for explanation) during  
35 the consideration of any one question, on the same day or a second  
36 time without leave, when others who have not spoken desire the floor,  
37 but incidental and subsidiary questions arising during the debate  
38 shall not be considered the same question. A majority of the members



1 present may further limit the number of times a member may speak on  
2 any question and may limit the length of time a member may speak but,  
3 unless a demand for the previous question has been sustained, a  
4 member shall not be denied the right to speak at least once on each  
5 question, nor shall a member be limited to less than two minutes on  
6 each question. In any event, the senator who presents the motion may  
7 open and close debate on the question.

#### 8 **Recognition by the President**

9 **Rule 30.** When two or more senators rise at the same time to  
10 address the chair, the president shall name the one who shall speak  
11 first, giving preference, when practicable, to the mover or  
12 introducer of the subject under consideration. (See also Reed's Rule  
13 214).

#### 14 **Call for Division of a Question**

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

#### 20 **Point of Order - Decision Appealable**

21 **Rule 32.** 1. Every decision of points of order by the president  
22 shall be subject to appeal by any senator, and discussion of a  
23 question of order shall be allowed. In all cases of appeal the  
24 question shall be: "Shall the decision of the president stand as the  
25 judgment of the senate?"

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

28 3. An appeal from the decision of the presiding officer is timely  
29 if brought before the body on the day the decision was made unless  
30 the decision affected a measure that is no longer in possession of  
31 the senate.

#### 32 **Question of Privilege**

33 **Rule 33.** Any senator may rise to a question of privilege and  
34 explain a personal matter by leave of the president, but shall not  
35 discuss any pending question in such explanations, nor shall any  
36 question of personal privilege permit any senator to introduce any

1 person or persons in the galleries. The president upon notice  
2 received may acknowledge the presence of any distinguished person or  
3 persons.

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

### 7 **Protests**

8 **Rule 34.** Any senator or senators may protest against the action  
9 of the senate upon any question. Such protest may be entered upon the  
10 journal if it does not exceed 200 words. The senator protesting shall  
11 file the protest with the secretary of the senate within 48 hours  
12 following the action protested.

### 13 **Adoption and Suspension of Rules**

14 **Rule 35.** 1. The permanent senate rules adopted at the first  
15 regular session during a legislative biennium shall govern any  
16 session subsequently convened during the same legislative biennium.  
17 Adoption of permanent rules may be by majority of the senate without  
18 notice and a majority of the senate may change a permanent rule  
19 without notice at the beginning of any session, as determined  
20 pursuant to Article 2, Section 12 of the State Constitution. No  
21 permanent rule or order of the senate shall be rescinded or changed  
22 without a majority vote of the members of the senate, and one day's  
23 notice of the motion.

24 2. A permanent rule or order may be temporarily suspended for a  
25 special purpose by a vote of two-thirds of the members present unless  
26 otherwise specified herein. When the suspension of a rule is called,  
27 and after due notice from the president no objection is offered, the  
28 president may announce the rule suspended, and the senate may proceed  
29 accordingly. Motion for suspension of the rules shall not be  
30 debatable, except, the mover of the motion may briefly explain the  
31 purpose of the motion and at the discretion of the president a  
32 rebuttal may be allowed.

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

1 **Previous Question**

2 **Rule 36.** The previous question shall not be put unless demanded  
3 by three senators, and it shall then be in this form: "Shall the main  
4 question be now put?" When sustained by a majority of senators  
5 present it shall preclude all debate, except the senator who presents  
6 the motion may open and close debate on the question and the vote  
7 shall be immediately taken on the question or questions pending  
8 before the senate, and all incidental question or questions of order  
9 arising after the motion is made shall be decided whether on appeal  
10 or otherwise without debate.

11 **Reconsideration**

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

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

33 **Motion to Adjourn**

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

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

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

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

10 **Reed's Parliamentary Rules**

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

16 **SECTION V**  
17 **COMMITTEES**

18 **Committees - Appointment and Confirmation**

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

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

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

<b>Standing Committee</b>	<b>Total Membership</b>
1. Agriculture( <del>(7-Water,7)</del> ) & Natural Resources ( <del>(8-Parks)</del> ) . . .	9
2. Business, Financial Services( <del>(7-Gaming)</del> ) & 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 PROVIDED, That no executive action on bills may be taken during an  
2 interim.

3 **Committee Rules**

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

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

18 3. During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution or  
19 memorial, the deliberations of any committee or subcommittee of the  
20 senate shall be open to the public. In case of any disturbance or  
21 disorderly conduct at any such deliberations, the chair shall order  
22 the sergeant at arms to suppress the same and may order the meeting  
23 closed to any person or persons creating such disturbance.

24 4. No committee shall amend a measure, adopt a substitute bill,  
25 or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A committee  
26 may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of any committee  
27 shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be considered to have  
28 a quorum present unless the question is raised. Any question as to  
29 quorum not raised at the time of the committee action is deemed  
30 waived.

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

37 a. Do pass;

1 b. Do pass as amended;

2 c. That a substitute bill be substituted therefor, and the  
3 substitute bill do pass; or

4 d. Without recommendation.

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

7 6. A majority report of a committee must carry the signatures of  
8 a majority of the members of the committee. In the event a committee  
9 has a quorum pursuant to subsection 4 of this rule, a majority of the  
10 members present may act on a measure, subject to obtaining the  
11 signatures of a majority of the members of the committee on the  
12 majority report. If, after executive action on a measure, the  
13 signatures of all members are not included on either a majority or  
14 minority report, the committee shall hold the signature sheets for  
15 the measure for 24 hours, not counting Saturdays or Sundays, from  
16 adjournment of the committee hearing at which executive action was  
17 taken on the measure. This 24-hour hold period applies even if a  
18 majority of the members of the committee has signed the majority  
19 report. After the 24-hour hold period, the signature sheets must be  
20 submitted to the workroom if there is a majority of signatures on the  
21 majority report. Once signature sheets have been submitted to the  
22 senate workroom by committee staff, a member may not sign or remove  
23 his or her signature from a majority or minority signature sheet. If  
24 a majority of members of the committee have not signed the majority  
25 report, the measure or appointment remains in the possession of the  
26 committee. The 24-hour hold period does not apply within the five  
27 days preceding any cutoff date and does not apply to a biennial or  
28 supplemental omnibus operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or  
29 omnibus transportation budget.

30 7. Any measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment still  
31 within a committee's possession before it has been reported out to  
32 the full senate may be reconsidered to correct an error, change  
33 language, or otherwise accurately reflect the will of the committee  
34 in its majority and minority reports to the full senate. Any such  
35 reconsideration may be made at any time, by any member of the  
36 committee, provided that the committee has not yet reported the  
37 measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out to the full  
38 senate. Any such reconsideration made after a vote has been taken or  
39 signatures obtained will require a new vote and signature sheet. Any

1 measure which does not receive a majority vote of the members present  
2 may be reconsidered at that meeting and may again be considered upon  
3 motion of any committee member if one day's notice of said motion is  
4 provided to all committee members.

5 8. Any member of the committee not concurring in the majority  
6 report may sign a minority report containing a recommendation of "do  
7 not pass" or "without recommendation," which shall be signed by those  
8 members of the committee subscribing thereto, and submitted with the  
9 majority report. Unless the signatory of a minority report expressly  
10 indicates a "do not pass" recommendation, the member's vote shall be  
11 deemed to be "without recommendation." In every case where a majority  
12 report form is circulated for signature, a minority report form shall  
13 also be circulated.

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

18 A motion for the substitution of the substitute bill for the  
19 original bill shall not be in order until the committee on rules  
20 places the original bill on the second reading calendar.

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

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

32 12. For purposes of this rule, a committee is deemed to have  
33 reported a measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out  
34 when it has delivered its majority and minority reports to the senate  
35 workroom. After such delivery, the committee no longer has possession  
36 of the measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment and no  
37 further committee action, including reconsideration or a member



1 adding or removing his or her signature to a majority or minority  
2 report, may be taken.

3 13. All committees will rely upon and use the Electronic Bill  
4 Book. Committee staff should add all materials relating to hearings,  
5 work sessions, or executive sessions to the Electronic Bill Book as  
6 early as possible or when the material has been made public. Paper  
7 copies will not be provided to members. All materials submitted by  
8 the public shall be submitted electronically.

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

15 15. With the exception of the ways and means and transportation  
16 committees, the chairs of standing committees must publish the list  
17 of measures and appointments that may be considered for executive  
18 session by 4:00 p.m. two days preceding executive session. The chairs  
19 of the ways and means committee and the transportation committee must  
20 publish the list of measures and appointments that may be considered  
21 for executive session by 7:00 p.m. two days preceding executive  
22 session. A chair, with the consent of the ranking member, has  
23 discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary circumstances. A  
24 published measure or appointment may be rescheduled for executive  
25 action at the committee's next meeting without additional notice,  
26 provided no additional amendments are considered.

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

35 17. All amendments, including substitutes, must be sponsored by a  
36 committee member. All amendments and effect statements must be either  
37 drafted or reviewed, or both, by nonpartisan committee staff. To be  
38 eligible for consideration at an executive session in a committee

1 meeting scheduled to begin prior to 12:00 p.m., amendments must be  
2 released from confidentiality and posted to the Electronic Bill Book  
3 for committee members and the public by 4:00 p.m. the day before the  
4 executive session or the amendments will be considered out of order.  
5 To be eligible for consideration at an executive session in a  
6 committee meeting scheduled to begin on or after 12:00 p.m.,  
7 amendments must be released from confidentiality and posted to the  
8 Electronic Bill Book for committee members and the public by 7:00  
9 p.m. the day before the executive session or the amendments will be  
10 considered out of order. A chair with the consent of the ranking  
11 member has discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary  
12 circumstances or to accept technical revisions to perfect an  
13 amendment.

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

### 32 **Committee Meetings During Sessions**

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

35 No committee shall sit during any scheduled caucus.

### 36 **Reading of Reports**

37 **Rule 47.** The majority report, and minority report, if there be  
38 one, together with the names of the signers thereof, shall be read by

1 the secretary, unless the reading be dispensed with by the senate,  
2 and all committee reports shall be spread upon the journal.

### 3 **Recalling Bills from Committees**

4 **Rule 48.** Any standing committee of the senate may be relieved of  
5 further consideration of any bill, regardless of prior action of the  
6 committee, by a majority vote of the senators elected or appointed.  
7 The senate may then make such orderly disposition of the bill as they  
8 may direct by a majority vote of the members of the senate.

### 9 **Bills Referred to Rules Committee**

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

### 23 **Rules Committee**

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

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

36 The calendar, except in emergent situations, as determined by the  
37 committee on rules, shall be available electronically to senators

1 each day and shall cover the bills for consideration on the next  
2 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 from  
6 the minority party. The chair shall be appointed by the majority  
7 leader. All decisions shall be determined by majority vote. The  
8 committee shall operate within staffing, budget levels and guidelines  
9 as authorized and adopted by the facilities and operations committee.

### 10 **Committee of the Whole**

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

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

### 16 **Appropriation Budget Bills**

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

## 27 **SECTION VI**

### 28 **BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, MEMORIALS AND GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

#### 29 **Definitions**

30 **Rule 54.** "Measure" means a bill, joint memorial, joint  
31 resolution, or concurrent resolution.

32 "Bill" when used alone means bill, joint memorial, joint  
33 resolution, or concurrent resolution.

34 "Majority" shall mean a majority of those members present unless  
35 otherwise stated.

### 36 **Prefiling**



1 legislature, unless the legislature directs otherwise by a vote of  
2 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said vote to be  
3 taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal. The time  
4 limitation for introduction of bills shall not apply to substitute  
5 bills reported by standing committees for bills pending before such  
6 committees and general appropriation and revenue bills. (See also  
7 Art. 2, Sec. 36, State Constitution.)

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

### 12 **Amendatory Bills**

13 **Rule 57.** Bills introduced in the senate intended to amend  
14 existing statutes shall have the words which are amendatory to such  
15 existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from the  
16 existing statutes shall be indicated by setting such matter forth in  
17 full, enclosed by double parentheses, and such deleted matter shall  
18 be lined out with hyphens. No bill shall be printed or acted upon  
19 until the provisions of this rule shall have been complied with.

20 Sections added by amendatory bill to an existing act, or chapter  
21 of the official code, need not be underlined but shall be designated  
22 "NEW SECTION" in upper case type and such designation shall be  
23 underlined. New enactments need not be underlined.

24 When statutes are being repealed, the Revised Code of Washington  
25 section number to be repealed, the section caption and the session  
26 law history, from the most current to the original, shall be cited.

### 27 **Joint Resolutions and Memorials**

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

### 31 **Senate Concurrent Resolutions**

32 **Rule 59.** Concurrent resolutions shall be subject to the rules  
33 governing the course of bills and may be adopted without a roll call.  
34 Concurrent resolutions authorizing investigations and authorizing the  
35 expenditure or allocation of any money must be adopted by roll call  
36 and the yeas and nays recorded in the journal. Concurrent resolutions

1 are subject to final passage on the day of the first reading without  
2 regard to Senate Rules 62, 63, and 64.

### 3 **Committee Bills**

4 **Rule 60.** Committee bills introduced by a standing committee  
5 during a legislative session may be filed with the secretary of the  
6 senate and introduced, and the signature of each member of the  
7 committee shall be endorsed upon the cover of the original bill.

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

### 10 **Committee Reference**

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

14 **FIRST:** A standing committee.

15 **SECOND:** A select committee.

### 16 **Reading of Bills**

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

### 25 **First Reading**

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

28 After the first reading, bills shall be referred to an  
29 appropriate committee pursuant to Senate Rule 61. Draft bill  
30 referrals will be electronically published by 7:00 p.m. the evening  
31 before the session in which the referrals will be considered. All  
32 objections or requests for rereferral must be communicated in an  
33 email by a member to the majority floor leader by 9:00 a.m. the day  
34 of convening.

1       Upon being reported back by committee, pursuant to Senate Rule  
2 49, all bills shall be referred to the committee on rules for second  
3 reading, unless otherwise ordered by the senate.

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

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

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

### 12                                       **Second Reading/Amendments**

13       **Rule 64.** Upon second reading, the bill shall be read section by  
14 section, in full, and be subject to amendment.

15       Any member may, if sustained by three members, remove a bill from  
16 the consent calendar as constituted by the committee on rules. A bill  
17 removed from the consent calendar shall take its place as the last  
18 bill on the second reading calendar.

19       No amendment shall be considered by the senate until it shall  
20 have been sent to the secretary's desk in writing and read by the  
21 secretary.

22       All amendments adopted on the second reading shall then be  
23 securely fastened to the original bill.

24       All amendments rejected by the senate shall be spread upon the  
25 journal, and the journal shall show the disposition of all  
26 amendments.

27       When no further amendments shall be offered, the president shall  
28 declare the bill has passed its second reading, and shall be referred  
29 to the committee on rules for third reading.

### 30                                       **Third Reading**

31       **Rule 65.** Bills on third reading shall be read in full by  
32 sections, and no amendment shall be entertained.

33       When a bill shall pass, it shall be certified to by the  
34 secretary, together with the vote upon final passage, noting the day  
35 of its passage thereon.



1 The vote must be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the  
2 senators voting for and against the same to be entered upon the  
3 journal and the majority of the members elected to the senate must be  
4 recorded thereon as voting in its favor to secure its passage by the  
5 senate.

#### 6 **Scope and Object of Bill Not to be Changed**

7 **Rule 66.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which shall  
8 change the scope and object of the bill. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 38,  
9 State Constitution.) Substitute bills shall be considered amendments  
10 for the purposes of this rule. A point of order raising the question  
11 of scope and object may be raised at any time during consideration of  
12 an amendment prior to voting on the amendment.

#### 13 **Matters Related to Disagreement Between the Senate and House**

14 **Rule 67.** When there is a disagreement between the senate and  
15 house on a measure before the senate, the senate may act upon the  
16 measure with the following motions which have priority in the  
17 following order:

18 To concur

19 To non-concur

20 To recede

21 To insist

22 To adhere

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

25 A senate bill, passed by the house with amendment or amendments  
26 which shall change the scope and object of the bill, upon being  
27 received in the senate, shall be referred to an appropriate committee  
28 and shall take the same course as for original bills, unless a motion  
29 to ask the house to recede, to insist or to adhere is made prior to  
30 the measure being referred to committee.

#### 31 **Bills Committed for Special Amendment**

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

#### 34 **Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointees**

35 **Rule 69.** When the names of appointees to state offices are  
36 transmitted to the secretary of the senate for senate confirmation,

1 the communication from the governor shall be recorded and referred to  
2 the appropriate standing committee.

3 The standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate Rule  
4 42, shall require each appointee referred to the committee for  
5 consideration to complete the standard questionnaire to be used to  
6 ascertain the appointee's general background and qualifications. The  
7 committee may also require the appointee to complete a supplemental  
8 questionnaire related specifically to the qualifications for the  
9 position to which he has been appointed.

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

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

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

32 **Emergency Resolution Authorized**

33 **Rule 70.** 1. If the Facilities and Operations Committee determines  
34 through a majority vote that physically convening all members and  
35 staff in a single location presents a danger to the health or safety  
36 of the participants or is impractical because of a publicly declared  
37 statewide emergency or catastrophic incident under RCW 43.06.010, the

1 senate shall adopt a resolution establishing the rules and procedures  
2 governing any special or regular legislative session.

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

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