

# SENATE STANDING RULES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### I. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Rule No.	1. President .....	<u>1</u>
	2. President pro Tempore and Other Presiding Officers.....	<u>1</u>
	3. Secretary .....	<u>1</u>
	4. Sergeant at Arms.....	<u>2</u>
	5. Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms .....	<u>2</u>
	6. Continuation of Leadership of the Senate During the Interim Between Sessions .....	<u>2</u>

### II. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Rule No.	10. Time of Meeting .....	<u>3</u>
	11. Call of Senate—Moved by Three Members .....	<u>3</u>
	12. Absence—Leave Required .....	<u>3</u>
	13. Open Meetings.....	<u>3</u>

### III. DECORUM AND DEBATE

Rule No.	20. Points of Order.....	<u>3</u>
	21. Breaches of Decorum .....	<u>4</u>
	22. Reserved .....	<u>4</u>
	23. Committee on Ethics; Legislative Ethics.....	<u>4</u>

### IV. QUORUM, VOTING, ELECTIONS

Rule No.	30. Recorded Vote—Three Required to Call For .....	<u>6</u>
	31. President to Decide—Tie Vote .....	<u>6</u>
	32. Manner of Election—Voting.....	<u>7</u>

### V. LEGISLATIVE BODIES

Rule No.	40. Standing and Select Committees .....	<u>7</u>
	41. Appointment of Alternates .....	<u>8</u>
	42. Committee Expenses .....	<u>8</u>
	43. Duties of Committees .....	<u>8</u>
	44. Reserved .....	<u>8</u>
	45. Reserved .....	<u>8</u>
	46. Forming Committee of the Whole.....	<u>8</u>
	47. Rules Applicable to Committee of the Whole.....	<u>8</u>
	48. Motion to Rise Committee of the Whole.....	<u>9</u>
	49. Reference to Committee .....	<u>9</u>
	50. Return From Committee .....	<u>9</u>
	51. Reserved .....	<u>9</u>

## SENATE STANDING RULES

---

### V. LEGISLATIVE BODIES—(*Continued*)

Rule No.	52.	Reserved .....	<u>9</u>
	53.	Committee Rules .....	<u>9</u>
	54.	Review of State Agency Programs .....	<u>10</u>

### VI. RULES GOVERNING MOTIONS

#### A. MOTIONS GENERALLY

Rule No.	60.	Entertaining.....	<u>11</u>
	61.	Precedence of Motions .....	<u>11</u>
	62.	When Not Entertained .....	<u>11</u>

#### B. PARTICULAR MOTIONS

Rule No.	63.	To Adjourn.....	<u>11</u>
	64.	Lay on the Table .....	<u>11</u>
	65.	Reserved .....	<u>11</u>
	66.	To Strike Enacting Clause .....	<u>12</u>
	67.	Division of Proposal .....	<u>12</u>
	68.	To Reconsider—Precedence of .....	<u>12</u>
	69.	Explanation of Motion.....	<u>12</u>

### VII. DEBATE

Rule No.	80.	Speaking on Proposal .....	<u>12</u>
	81.	Previous Question.....	<u>12</u>

### VIII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

#### A. GENERALLY

Rule No.	90.	Mason’s Manual .....	<u>13</u>
	91.	Suspension of Rule .....	<u>13</u>
	92.	Notices of Bills, Topics and Public Hearings .....	<u>13</u>
	93.	Protest .....	<u>13</u>
	94.	Privilege of the Floor .....	<u>13</u>
	95.	Material Placed on Legislators’ Desks .....	<u>14</u>
	96.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	97.	Petitions .....	<u>14</u>
	98.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	99.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	100.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	101.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	102.	Objection to Reading of Paper.....	<u>14</u>
	103.	Questions Relating to Priority of Business.....	<u>14</u>

#### B. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Rule No.	104.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	105.	Reserved .....	<u>14</u>
	106.	Skeleton Bills.....	<u>14</u>
	107.	Information Concerning Bills .....	<u>14</u>

## SENATE STANDING RULES

---

### VIII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS—(Continued)

#### B. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS—(Continued)

Rule No.	108.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">15</a>
	109.	Reading of Bills .....	<a href="#">15</a>
	110.	Second Reading File—Consent Calendar .....	<a href="#">15</a>
	111.	Publications.....	<a href="#">15</a>
	112.	Sponsorship.....	<a href="#">16</a>
	113.	Reading of Bills—General File .....	<a href="#">16</a>
	114.	Referral of Bill With Special Instructions .....	<a href="#">17</a>
	115.	Reconsideration of Vote on Bill .....	<a href="#">17</a>
	116.	Vetoed Bills .....	<a href="#">17</a>
	117.	Different Subject Not Admitted as Amendment .....	<a href="#">17</a>
	118.	Joint Resolutions.....	<a href="#">17</a>
	118.2.	Memorial Resolutions.....	<a href="#">18</a>
	119.	Certain Resolutions Treated as Motions.....	<a href="#">18</a>
	119.2.	Return From the Secretary of State .....	<a href="#">18</a>

#### C. ORDER OF BUSINESS, SPECIAL ORDERS AND OTHER MATTERS

Rule No.	120.	Order of Business .....	<a href="#">18</a>
	121.	Privilege.....	<a href="#">19</a>
	122.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	123.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	124.	Preference to Speak .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	125.	Special Order of Business.....	<a href="#">19</a>
	126.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	127.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	128.	Seniority Among Senators .....	<a href="#">19</a>
	129.	Reserved .....	<a href="#">19</a>

#### D. CONTESTS OF ELECTIONS

Rule No.	130.	Procedure .....	<a href="#">19</a>
----------	------	-----------------	--------------------

#### E. REMOTE-TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Rule No.	131.	Short-Title; Precedence of Rules; Applicability of Rules During the Interim Between Sessions.....	<a href="#">20</a>
Rule No.	132.	Public Purposes and Construction of Rules.....	<a href="#">20</a>
Rule No.	133.	Definitions .....	<a href="#">21</a>
Rule No.	134.	Authorized Use of Remote-Technology Systems to Carry Out Public Purposes .....	<a href="#">21</a>
Rule No.	135.	Authority to Adopt Rules.....	<a href="#">22</a>

### IX. LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Rule No.	140.	Compensation of Witnesses.....	<a href="#">23</a>
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<b>INDEX OF SENATE STANDING RULES.....</b>	<a href="#">25</a>
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# SENATE STANDING RULES

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## I. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### **Rule No. 1. President.**

The President shall take the chair and call the Senate to order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting, and if a quorum is present shall cause the Journal of the preceding day to be read. The President shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the Senate Chamber, shall order the Sergeant at Arms to suppress it, and may order the arrest of any person creating any disturbance within the Senate Chamber. The President may speak to points of order in preference to members, rising from the President's seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate by two members, on which appeal no member may speak more than once without leave of the Senate. The President shall sign all acts, addresses and joint resolutions, and all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate; all of which must be attested by the Secretary. The President has general direction of the Senate Chamber.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1865; A 1977, 1649; 1987, 2330]

#### **Rule No. 2. President pro Tempore and Other Presiding Officers.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:

(a) The President pro Tempore has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President during his or her absence or inability to discharge the duties of his or her office.

(b) If the President is unwilling to discharge the duties of his or her office, the Senate may, by majority vote of the Senate, call upon the President pro Tempore to serve as the President. Upon such call, the President pro Tempore has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President during his or her unwillingness to discharge the duties of his or her office.

(c) In the absence or inability of the President pro Tempore to discharge the duties of the President's office, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections shall serve as the presiding officer. In the absence or inability of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections shall serve as the presiding officer. In the absence or inability of the Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, the Senate shall elect one of its members to serve as the presiding officer. A member who is serving as the presiding officer has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President until the absence or inability which resulted in the member serving as the presiding officer has ended.

2. When the President pro Tempore or another member is serving as the presiding officer, the President pro Tempore or other member may vote on any question for which he or she is otherwise qualified to vote as a member. If the Senate is equally divided on the question, the President pro Tempore or other member may not give an additional deciding vote or casting vote pursuant to [Senate Standing Rule No. 31](#) or Section 17 of Article 5 of the Nevada Constitution.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1865; A 1987, 2331; 2005, 2939; 2007, 3467; 2009, 3107; 2011, 3771; 2013, 3861; 2015, 3978]

#### **Rule No. 3. Secretary.**

1. The Secretary of the Senate is elected by the Senate, and shall:

(a) Recruit, interview, select, train and supervise all staff employed to assist with the work of the Senate.

(b) See that these employees perform their respective duties.

(c) Administer the daily business of the Senate, including the provision of staff to its committees.

(d) Adopt such administrative policies as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the business of the Senate.

(e) Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, transmit at the end of each working day those bills and resolutions upon which the next action is to be taken by the Assembly.

2. The Secretary is responsible to the Majority Leader.

3. The President and the Secretary are authorized to make any necessary corrections and additions to the final Journal, Daily History and committee minutes of the Senate.

4. In the absence of the Secretary and subject to the discretion of the Majority Leader, the Assistant Secretary shall attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and certify as to the passage of bills and resolutions; and in the absence of both officers, the Majority Leader shall designate a signatory.

[Statutes of Nevada 1977, 1649; A 1979, 1925; 1981, 2062; 1987, 2331; 1999, 3817; 2005, 2939; 2007, 3468; 2013, 3862; 2015, 3978; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 4. Sergeant at Arms.**

The Sergeant at Arms shall:

1. Attend the Senate during its sittings, and execute its commands and all process issued by its authority.

2. Keep the secrets of the Senate.

3. Superintend the upkeep of the Senate's Chamber, private lounge and meeting rooms for committees.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1866; A 1979, 1925; 1981, 2062; 1987, 2331; 1999, 3818; 2005, 2939; 2007, 3468; 2015, 3979; 2019, 4562]

**Rule No. 5. Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms.**

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms shall serve as doorkeepers and shall preserve order in the Senate Chamber and shall assist the Sergeant at Arms. The Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms shall keep the secrets of the Senate. In the event that the Sergeant at Arms is incapacitated or absent for any reason, the Deputy Sergeant at Arms shall serve as the Sergeant at Arms until the incapacity or absence has ended.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1866; A 2013, 3862; 2015, 3979]

**Rule No. 6. Continuation of Leadership of the Senate During the Interim Between Sessions.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 3 and 4, the tenure of the President pro Tempore, Majority Leader and Minority Leader extends during the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature.

2. The President pro Tempore, Majority Leader and Minority Leader for the next succeeding regular session shall perform any duty that is required of that officer by the Standing Rules of the Senate and the Nevada Revised Statutes in the period between the time of their designation after the general election and the organization of the next succeeding regular session.

3. The Majority Leader and Minority Leader for the next succeeding regular session shall appoint the regular and alternate members to the Committee on Ethics as set forth in [Senate Standing Rule No. 23](#).

4. The Majority Leader shall:

(a) Determine the start time of the Senate's organizational session.

(b) Refer prefiled bills and resolutions to committee, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Senate once the Senate is organized and ready for business.

(c) Appoint committees during the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature for any proper purpose, including, without limitation, taking testimony, compelling the attendance of witnesses, punishing persons or entities for contempt and reporting findings to the next session of the Legislature.

5. This Rule shall remain in full force and effect throughout the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature and until new Standing Rules of the Senate are adopted as part of the organization of a newly-constituted Senate at the commencement of a session.

[Statutes of Nevada 2013, 3862; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

The next rule is 10.

## II. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

### Rule No. 10. Time of Meeting.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the President shall call the Senate to order each day of sitting at 11:00 o'clock a.m., unless the Senate has adjourned to some other hour.

2. In the event an emergency occurs during a regular or special session of the Legislature which requires a meeting of the Senate, the Majority Leader shall call the members back to order before the hour to which the Senate has adjourned.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1866; A 1983, 2104; 2013, 3863]

### Rule No. 11. Call of Senate—Moved by Three Members.

A Call of the Senate may be moved by three Senators, and if carried by a majority of all present, the Secretary shall call the roll and note the absentees, after which the names of the absentees shall again be called over. The doors shall then be closed and the Sergeant at Arms directed to take into custody all who may be absent without leave, and all Senators so taken into custody shall be presented at the bar of the Senate for such action as to the Senate may seem proper.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1866]

### Rule No. 12. Absence—Leave Required.

No Senator shall absent himself or herself from the service of the Senate without leave, except in case of accident or sickness, and if any Senator or officer shall so absent himself or herself, the per diem of the Senator shall not be allowed to him or her.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1866]

### Rule No. 13. Open Meetings.

1. Except as provided in the Constitution of the State of Nevada and in subsection 2, all meetings of the Senate and its committees must be open to the public.

2. A Senate committee meeting may be closed to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person.

[Statutes of Nevada 1975, 1880; A 1991, 2482; 2013, 3864]

The next rule is 20.

## III. DECORUM AND DEBATE

### Rule No. 20. Points of Order.

1. If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the Senate, the President shall, or any Senator may, call him or her to order. If a Senator is so called to order, he or she shall not proceed without leave of the Senate. If such leave is granted, it must be upon the motion, "That he or she be allowed to proceed in order," and the Senator shall confine himself or herself to the proposal under consideration and avoid personality.

2. Every ruling on points of order made by the President is subject to appeal, and a discussion of a question of order may be allowed only upon the appeal of two Senators. In all cases of appeal, the question must be, "Shall the ruling of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Senate?"

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1867; A 1993, 2932; 1999, 3819; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 21. Breaches of Decorum.**

1. In cases of breaches of decorum or propriety, any Senator, officer or other person is liable to such censure or punishment as the Senate may deem proper.

2. If any Senator is called to order for offensive or indecorous language or conduct, the person calling the Senator to order shall report the offensive or indecorous language or conduct to the presiding officer. No member may be held to answer for any language used on the floor of the Senate if business has intervened before exception to the language was taken.

3. Indecorous conduct or boisterous or unbecoming language is not permitted in the Senate Chamber.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1867; A 1999, 3819]

**Rule No. 22. Reserved.****Rule No. 23. Committee on Ethics; Legislative Ethics.**

1. The Committee on Ethics consists of:

(a) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader from the majority political party;

(b) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader from the minority political party; and

(c) Four qualified electors of the State, two of whom are appointed by the Majority Leader, one who is appointed by the Minority Leader, and one who is appointed by the other members appointed to the Committee, and none of whom is a present member of the Legislature or employed by the State of Nevada.

↳ Not more than four members of the Committee may be members of the same political party.

2. The Majority Leader shall appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall serve as the acting Chair if the Chair is unable to serve for any reason during the consideration of a specific proposal.

3. The Majority Leader shall appoint an alternate member with the qualifications set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 and an alternate member with the qualifications set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 1. The Minority Leader shall appoint an alternate member with the qualifications set forth in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 and an alternate member with the qualifications set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 1. The members of the Committee shall appoint an alternate member with the qualifications set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 1. If a member of the Committee is unable to serve for any reason during the consideration of a specific proposal, the alternate appointed with the qualifications from the same paragraph in subsection 1 by the same appointing authority shall serve as a member of the Committee during the consideration of the specific proposal.

4. A member of the Committee is disqualified to serve during the consideration of a specific proposal if:

(a) The member is the requester of advice concerning the question of ethics or conflict of interest, or the member is the subject of the complaint concerning the specific question; or

(b) A reasonable person in the member's situation could not exercise independent judgment on the matter in question.

5. The members of the Committee shall perform any duty required in the period between the time of their appointment after the general election and the organization of the next succeeding regular session, or until the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader appoint new members to the Committee, whichever occurs first.

6. The tenure of the members of the Committee shall extend during the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature.

7. The Committee:

(a) May hear requests brought by Senators for advice on specific questions of potential breaches of ethics and conflicts of interest; and

(b) Shall hear complaints brought by Senators and others on specific questions of alleged breaches of ethics and conflicts of interest, including, without limitation, alleged breaches of the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules.

8. All proceedings held by the Committee to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of any person on matters of ethics or conflicts of interest and all materials related to those proceedings are confidential, unless the person who is the subject of the proceedings requests a public hearing or discloses the content of the proceedings or materials.

9. An individual may file a complaint which alleges a breach of ethics or a conflict of interest, including, without limitation, an alleged breach of the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules. If the alleged breach of ethics or conflict of interest involves the conduct of more than one person, separate complaints must be filed regarding each person. A complaint must be:

(a) Made in writing on a form provided by the Legislative Counsel;

(b) Signed and verified under penalty of perjury by the individual making the allegation; and

(c) Filed with the Legislative Counsel who shall review the complaint and any other relevant information and consult with the Chair of the Committee or, if the Chair is the subject of the complaint, with the Vice Chair, to evaluate whether the Committee has jurisdiction and whether an investigation is warranted in the matter. If it is determined that the Committee:

(1) Does not have jurisdiction or that an investigation is not warranted in the matter, the Legislative Counsel shall send written notice of the determination to the individual who filed the complaint.

(2) Has jurisdiction and an investigation is warranted in the matter, the Legislative Counsel shall send written notice of the determination and a copy of the complaint to the person who is the subject of the complaint.

10. Each Legislator is subject, at all times, to the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules and, in addition, must determine whether he or she has a conflict of interest upon any matter in question before the Legislator. In determining whether the Legislator has such a conflict of interest, the Legislator should consider whether the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in his or her situation upon the matter in question would be materially affected by the Legislator's:

- (a) Acceptance of a gift or loan;
- (b) Private economic interest; or
- (c) Commitment to a member of his or her household or immediate family.

↪ In interpreting and applying the provisions of this subsection, it must be presumed that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the Legislator's situation would not be materially affected by the Legislator's private economic interest or the Legislator's commitment to a member of his or her household or immediate family where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the Legislator, or if the Legislator has a commitment to a member of his or her household or immediate family, accruing to those other persons, is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group that is affected by the matter.

11. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 12, if a Legislator knows he or she has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 10, the Legislator shall make a disclosure of the conflict of interest on the record in a meeting of a committee or on the floor of the Senate, as applicable. Such a disclosure must be entered:

(a) If the Legislator makes the disclosure in a meeting of a committee, in the minutes for that meeting.

(b) If the Legislator makes the disclosure on the floor of the Senate, in the Journal.

12. If, on one or more prior occasions during the current session of the Legislature, a Legislator has made a general disclosure of a conflict of interest on the record in a meeting of a committee or on the floor of the Senate, the Legislator is not required to make that general

disclosure at length again regarding the same conflict of interest if, when the matter in question arises on subsequent occasions, the Legislator makes a reference on the record to the previous disclosure.

13. In determining whether to abstain from voting upon, advocating or opposing a matter concerning which a Legislator has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 10, the Legislator should consider whether:

- (a) The conflict impedes his or her independence of judgment; and
- (b) His or her interest is greater than the interests of an entire class of persons similarly situated.

14. The provisions of this Rule do not under any circumstances and regardless of any conflict of interest:

- (a) Prohibit a Legislator from requesting or introducing a legislative measure; or
- (b) Require a Legislator to take any particular action before or while requesting or introducing a legislative measure.

15. If a Legislator who is a member of a committee declares on the record when a vote is to be taken by the committee that he or she will abstain from voting because of the requirements of this Rule, the necessary quorum to act upon and the number of votes necessary to act upon the matter is reduced as though the Legislator abstaining were not a member of the committee.

16. The standards and procedures set forth in this Rule which govern whether and to what extent a Senator has a conflict of interest, should disclose a conflict of interest or should abstain from voting upon, advocating or opposing a matter concerning which the Senator has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 10:

(a) Are exclusive and are the only standards and procedures that apply to Senators with regard to such matters; and

(b) Supersede and preempt all other standards and procedures with regard to such matters, ↪ except that this subsection does not exempt any Senators from the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules.

17. For purposes of this Rule, “immediate family” means a person who is related to the Legislator by blood, adoption or marriage within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity.

18. This Rule shall remain in full force and effect throughout the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature and until new Standing Rules of the Senate are adopted as part of a newly-constituted Senate at the commencement of a session.

[Statutes of Nevada 2009, 3110; A 2011, 3773; 2013, 3864; 2019, 4564; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

The next rule is 30.

#### IV. QUORUM, VOTING, ELECTIONS

##### **Rule No. 30. Recorded Vote—Three Required to Call For.**

1. A recorded vote must be taken upon final passage of a bill or joint resolution, and in any other case when called for by three members. Every Senator within the bar of the Senate shall vote “yea” or “nay” or record himself or herself as “not voting,” unless excused by unanimous vote of the Senate. A Senator who records himself or herself as “not voting” must make a full and complete disclosure of a conflict of interest pursuant to [Senate Standing Rule No. 23](#).

2. The votes and names of those absent or recorded as “not voting” and the names of Senators demanding the recorded vote must be entered in the Journal.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1867; A 1979, 1925; 1999, 3819; 2001, 3281; 2007, 3469; 2019, 4567]

##### **Rule No. 31. President to Decide—Tie Vote.**

A question is lost by a tie vote, but when the Senate is equally divided on any question except the passage of a bill or joint resolution, the President may give the deciding vote.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1867; A 1977, 1650; 2015, 4038; 2017, 4488]

**Rule No. 32. Manner of Election—Voting.**

1. In all cases of election by the Senate, the vote must be taken viva voce. In other cases, if a vote is to be recorded, it may be taken by oral roll-call or by electronic recording.
  2. When a recorded vote is taken, no Senator may:
    - (a) Vote except when at his or her seat;
    - (b) Explain his or her vote or discuss the question while the voting is in progress; or
    - (c) Change his or her vote after the result is announced.
  3. The announcement of the result of any vote must not be postponed.
- [Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1867; A 1979, 1926; 1999, 3820; 2009, 3112]

The next rule is 40.

**V. LEGISLATIVE BODIES****Rule No. 40. Standing and Select Committees.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in [Senate Standing Rule No. 23](#), the Majority Leader shall appoint all standing and select committees and shall determine the majority-minority party composition of all standing and select committees. Appointments to committees shall be made by the Majority Leader for the majority party members and by the Minority Leader for the minority party members. The Majority Leader shall designate the Chair and Vice Chair of all standing and select committees.
2. The Majority Leader shall refer prefiled bills and resolutions to committee, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Senate once the Senate is organized and ready for business.
3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the standing and select committees of the Senate and their respective jurisdiction for the reference of bills and resolutions are as follows:
  - (a) Commerce and Labor, seven members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily titles 52-55 of NRS, and chapters 97-100, 118-119, 119B, 461, 461A, 489, 679A-693A, 694A-697, 711 and 712 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.
  - (b) Education, seven members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily chapters 353B, 378-380A, 385-386 and 388-399 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.
  - (c) Finance, nine members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily chapters 1A, 387 and 400 of NRS, appropriations, operating and capital budgets, state and federal budget issues and bonding, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue, and over any measures carrying or requiring appropriations and favorably reported by any other committee.
  - (d) Government Affairs, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily titles 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 36 and 37 of NRS, and chapters 223-228, 232-233I, 234-237, 238-242, 271, 277-280, 286-289, 353, 353A, 353C-358, 381, 384, 472, 474, 477, 693B, 709, 710 and 720 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily the provisions of the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act that govern the adjudication of contested cases, the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, state and local revenue and state and federal budget issues.
  - (e) Growth and Infrastructure, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily title 44 of NRS, and chapters 403-405, 408, 410, 459A, 476, 480-487, 490 and 701-708 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.
  - (f) Health and Human Services, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily titles 38, 39 and 56 of NRS, chapters 439-442 of NRS, NRS 444.002-444.430 and chapters 446-458A, 460 and 583-585 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.
  - (g) Judiciary, eight members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily the provisions of the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act that govern the adjudication of contested cases, titles 2-7, 9, 11-16 and 41 of NRS, and chapters 1, 2-7, 101-104A, 111-117, 119A, 120, 120A, 475, 719, 721 and 722 of NRS, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.

(h) Legislative Operations and Elections, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily titles 17, 24 and 29 of NRS, chapters 281-285 of NRS, and the operation of the legislative session, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.

(i) Natural Resources, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily titles 26 and 45-50 of NRS, chapters 383, 407 and 407A of NRS, NRS 444.435-444.650, chapters 444A-445D, 459, 488, 581, 582 and 586-590 of NRS, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, except measures affecting primarily state and local revenue.

(j) Revenue and Economic Development, five members, with jurisdiction over measures affecting primarily title 32 of NRS, chapters 231, 231A, 237A and 271A-274 of NRS, and state and local revenue.

4. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance may assign any portion of a proposed executive budget to any of the other standing or select committees of the Senate for review. Upon receiving such an assignment the standing or select committee shall complete its review expeditiously and report its findings and any recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance for its independent evaluation.

[Statutes of Nevada 1975, 1855; A 1977, 1682; 1979, 1926; 1981, 2063; 1983, 2104; 1985, 2318, 2327; 1987, 2332, 2341; 1989, 2207, 2209; 1993, 2933; 1999, 3820; 2001, 3282; 2003, 3618, 3728; 2005, 2941; 2007, 3470; 2009, 3112; 2011, 3776; 2013, 3868, 3921; 2015, 3984; 2017, 4488; 2019, 4568, 4589; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 41. Appointment of Alternates.**

If the Chair or any member of a committee is temporarily unable to perform his or her duties, the Majority Leader shall appoint an alternate of the same political party to serve in the Chair's or the member's place for such time as is determined by the Majority Leader.

[Statutes of Nevada 2005, 2943; A 2007, 3471]

**Rule No. 42. Committee Expenses.**

No committee shall employ assistance or incur any expense, except by permission of the Majority Leader previously obtained.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1868; A 2017, 4490]

**Rule No. 43. Duties of Committees.**

The several committees shall acquaint themselves with the interests of the State specially represented by the committee and shall present such bills and reports as in their judgment will advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the State.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1868; A 2005, 2943; 2007, 3471]

**Rule No. 44. Reserved.****Rule No. 45. Reserved.****Rule No. 46. Forming Committee of the Whole.**

In forming the Committee of the Whole, the Senator who has so moved shall name a Chair to preside. All amendments proposed by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair to the Senate.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1869; A 1977, 1651; 2007, 3472]

**Rule No. 47. Rules Applicable to Committee of the Whole.**

The Rules of the Senate shall apply to proceedings in Committee of the Whole, except that the previous question shall not be ordered, nor the yeas and nays demanded, but the Committee may limit the number of times that any member may speak, at any stage of proceedings, during its sitting. Messages may be received by the President while the Committee is sitting; in which case the President shall resume the chair and receive the message. After receiving the message, the President shall vacate the chair in favor of the Chair of the Committee.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1869; A 2007, 3472]

**Rule No. 48. Motion to Rise Committee of the Whole.**

A motion that the Committee rise shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.  
[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1869]

**Rule No. 49. Reference to Committee.**

When a motion is made to refer any subject, and different committees are proposed, the subject may be referred to the committee with jurisdiction over the subject as set forth in [Senate Standing Rule No. 40](#), or to a different committee, upon a majority vote of the members present.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1869; A 1983, 2105; 1999, 3822; 2001, 3283; 2015, 3986]

**Rule No. 50. Return From Committee.**

1. Any bill or other matter referred to a committee of the Senate must not be withdrawn or ordered taken from the committee for consideration by the Senate, for re-referral, or for any other reason without a majority vote of the Senate, and at least one day's notice of the motion therefor.

2. No such motion is in order:

(a) If the bill to be withdrawn or ordered taken from the committee may no longer be considered by the Senate; or

(b) On the last day of the session, or on the day preceding the last day of the session.

3. This Rule does not take from any committee the rights and duties of committees provided for in [Senate Standing Rule No. 43](#).

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1869; A 1999, 3822; 2005, 2944; 2015, 3986]

**Rule No. 51. Reserved.****Rule No. 52. Reserved.****Rule No. 53. Committee Rules.**

1. The rules of the Senate, as far as applicable, are the rules of committees of the Senate. Procedure in committees, where not otherwise provided in this Rule, must follow the procedure of the Senate. For matters not included in the rules of the Senate or these rules, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure must be followed.

2. A majority of any committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. A meeting of a committee may not be opened without a quorum present.

4. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings of a committee or those called by the Chair of the committee, meetings may be set by a written petition of a majority of the committee and filed with the Chair of the committee.

5. A bill may be passed from a committee only by a majority of the committee membership. A simple majority of those present and voting is sufficient to adopt committee amendments.

6. Subcommittees may be appointed by the Chair of a committee to consider subjects specified by the Chair and shall report back to the committee. If a member of a subcommittee is not a member of the standing or select committee for which the subcommittee is created, the approval of the Majority Leader is required for that member's appointment. If a subcommittee is so appointed, the Chair of the committee shall determine whether the subcommittee shall keep minutes of its meetings. Any minutes required to be kept pursuant to this subsection must comply with the provisions of subsection 12.

7. A committee shall act only when together, and all votes must be taken in the presence of the committee. A member shall not be recorded as voting unless the member was actually present in the committee at the time of the vote. The Chair of the committee must be present when the committee votes to take any final actions on bills or resolutions, but the Chair is not required to vote. In addition to the use of remote-technology systems pursuant to the Remote-Technology Rules set forth in [Senate Standing Rules Nos. 131 to 135](#), inclusive, upon approval of the Majority Leader, a committee may meet together by video conference or other appropriate remote-technology systems. A member who is actually present in the committee at a posted video conference or other remote location is present and in attendance at the meeting for all purposes.

A member who is participating in a committee meeting with all committee members participating through the use of a remote-technology system pursuant to the direction of the Majority Leader shall participate in the committee meeting from a location other than a committee meeting room. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit the pre-filing of legislative bills and resolutions on behalf of a committee in the manner prescribed by the Legislative Commission.

8. All committee and subcommittee meetings are open to the public, except as otherwise provided in [Senate Standing Rule No. 13](#).

9. Before a Chair of a committee reports a bill or resolution to the Senate, the committee may reconsider its action. A motion to reconsider must be made by any member who voted on the action.

10. The Chair of a committee shall determine the agenda of each meeting of the committee except that a member of the committee may request an item for the agenda by communicating with the Chair at least 4 days before the meeting. A majority of a committee may, by vote, add an item to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

11. Secretaries to committees shall give notices of hearings on bills to anyone requesting notices of particular bills.

12. All committees shall keep minutes of meetings. The minutes must cover members present and absent, subjects under discussion, witnesses who appear, committee members' statements concerning legislative intent, action taken by the committee, as well as the vote of individual members on all matters on which a vote is taken. Upon approval of the Chair, any member may submit to the secretary additional remarks to be included in the minutes and records of committee meetings. Upon completion of the minutes, the Chair will review for approval. At the conclusion of the legislative session, the Secretary of the Senate shall deliver all minutes and records of committee meetings in his or her possession to the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

13. In addition to the minutes, the committee secretary shall maintain a record of all bills, including:

- (a) Date bill referred;
- (b) Date bill received;
- (c) Date set for hearing the bill;
- (d) Date or dates bill heard and voted upon; and
- (e) Date report prepared.

14. Each committee secretary shall file the minutes of each meeting with the Secretary of the Senate as soon as practicable after the meeting.

15. All committee minutes and any subcommittee minutes required to be kept pursuant to subsection 6 are open to public inspection upon request and during normal business hours. The official record of the committee meeting is the minutes approved by the Chair.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1870; A 1975, 1904; 1977, 1651; 1979, 1928; 1991, 2482; 1995, 2830; 1999, 3822; 2003, 3620; 2005, 2944; 2007, 3473; 2011, 3779; 2013, 3870; 2015, 3987; 2017, 4491; 2019, 4570; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

#### **Rule No. 54. Review of State Agency Programs.**

In addition to or concurrent with committee action taken on specific bills and resolutions during a regular session of the Legislature, each standing committee of the Senate is encouraged to plan and conduct a general review of selected programs of state agencies or other areas of public interest within the committee's jurisdiction.

[Statutes of Nevada 1979, 1977]

The next rule is 60.

**VI. RULES GOVERNING MOTIONS****A. MOTIONS GENERALLY****Rule No. 60. Entertaining.**

1. No motion may be debated until it is announced by the President.
2. By consent of the Senate, a motion may be withdrawn before amendment or decision.  
[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1870; A 1999, 3824]

**Rule No. 61. Precedence of Motions.**

When a proposal is under debate no motion shall be received but the following, which shall have precedence in the order named:

1. To adjourn.
2. For a call of the Senate.
3. To recess.
4. To lay on the table.
5. For the previous question.
6. To postpone to a day certain.
7. To refer to committee.
8. To amend.
9. To postpone indefinitely.

↳ The first three motions shall be decided without debate, and a motion to lay on the table without question or debate.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1870; A 2005, 2946; 2011, 3780; 2015, 3988; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 62. When Not Entertained.**

1. When a motion to postpone indefinitely has been decided, it must not be again entertained on the same day.
2. When a proposal has been postponed indefinitely, it must not again be introduced during the session unless this Rule is suspended by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. There must be no reconsideration or rescission of a vote on a motion to postpone indefinitely.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1993, 2938; 1999, 3824; 2005, 2946; 2015, 4043; 2017, 4493; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**B. PARTICULAR MOTIONS****Rule No. 63. To Adjourn.**

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order unless a motion to reconsider a final vote on a bill or resolution or any other action is pending. The name of the Senator moving to adjourn, and the time when the motion was made, shall be entered in the Journal.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1999, 3824; 2001, 3286; 2017, 4493]

**Rule No. 64. Lay on the Table.**

A motion to lay on or take from the table shall be carried by a majority vote.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871]

**Rule No. 65. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 66. To Strike Enacting Clause.**

A motion to strike out the enacting clause of a bill has precedence over a motion to refer to committee or to amend. If a motion to strike out the enacting clause of a bill is carried, the bill is rejected.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1999, 3825; 2005, 2946; 2015, 3989]

**Rule No. 67. Division of Proposal.**

1. Any Senator may call for a division of a proposal.
2. A proposal must be divided if the Senate determines it embraces subjects so distinct that if one subject is taken away, a substantive proposal remains for the decision of the Senate.
3. A motion to strike out and insert must not be divided.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1999, 3825; 2017, 4493; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 68. To Reconsider—Precedence of.**

A motion to reconsider has precedence over every other motion, including a motion to adjourn. A motion to reconsider a final vote on a bill or resolution or any other action shall be in order only on the day on which the final vote or action is taken and the vote on such a motion to reconsider must be taken on the same day.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1999, 3825; 2009, 3260; 2017, 4494]

**Rule No. 69. Explanation of Motion.**

Whenever a Senator moves to change the usual disposition of a bill or resolution, he or she shall describe the subject of the bill or resolution and state the reasons for requesting the change in the processing of the bill or resolution.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1883; A 1979, 1928; 1999, 3825]

The next rule is 80.

**VII. DEBATE****Rule No. 80. Speaking on Proposal.**

1. Every Senator who speaks shall, in his or her place, address “Mr. or Madam President,” in a courteous manner, and shall confine himself or herself to the proposal before the Senate.
2. No Senator may speak:
  - (a) More than twice during the consideration of any one question on the same day, except for explanation.
  - (b) A second time without leave when others who have not spoken desire the floor.
3. Incidental and subsidiary proposals arising during debate shall not be considered the same proposal.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1871; A 1999, 3825; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 81. Previous Question.**

The previous question shall not be put unless demanded by three Senators, and it shall be in this form: “Shall the main question be put?” When sustained by a majority of Senators present it shall put an end to all debate and bring the Senate to a vote on the proposal or proposals before it, and all incidental proposals arising after the motion was made shall be decided without debate. A person who is speaking on a proposal shall not while he or she has the floor move to put that question.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1872; A 1979, 1928; 2005, 2947; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

The next rule is 90.

**VIII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS****A. GENERALLY****Rule No. 90. Mason's Manual.**

The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Senate in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the Senate, and the Joint Standing Rules of the Senate and Assembly.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1872; A 2013, 3874]

**Rule No. 91. Suspension of Rule.**

No standing rule or order of the Senate shall be rescinded or changed without a majority vote of the Senate and one day's notice of the motion therefor; but a rule or order may be temporarily suspended for a special purpose by a majority vote of the members present. When the suspension of a rule is called for, and after due notice from the President no objection is offered, the President can announce the rule suspended and the Senate may proceed accordingly; but this shall not apply to that portion of [Senate Standing Rule No. 109](#) relating to the third reading of bills, which cannot be suspended.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1872; A 2005, 2948; 2015, 4044]

**Rule No. 92. Notices of Bills, Topics and Public Hearings.**

Adequate notice shall be provided to the Legislators and the public by posting information relative to the bills, topics and public hearings which are to come before committees. Notices shall include the date, time, place and agenda, and shall be posted conspicuously in the Legislative Building and shall be made available to the news media. This requirement of notice may be suspended for an emergency by the affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members appointed.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1872; A 1977, 1677; 2015, 3991, 4045]

**Rule No. 93. Protest.**

Any Senator, or Senators, may protest against the action of the Senate upon any question, and have such protest entered in the Journal.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1872; A 2001, 3288]

**Rule No. 94. Privilege of the Floor.**

1. To preserve decorum and facilitate the business of the Senate, only the following persons may be present on the floor of the Senate during formal sessions:

- (a) State officers;
- (b) Officers and members of the Senate;
- (c) Employees of the Legislative Counsel Bureau;
- (d) Staff of the Senate; and
- (e) Members of the Assembly whose presence is required for the transaction of business.

2. A majority of Senators may authorize the President to have the Senate Chamber cleared of all persons except Senators and officers of the Senate.

3. The Senate Chamber may not be used for any business other than legislative business during a legislative session.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1873; A 1987, 2333; 1999, 3826; 2011, 3783; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 95. Material Placed on Legislators' Desks.**

1. Only the Sergeant at Arms and officers and employees of the Senate may place papers, letters, notes, pamphlets and other written material upon a Senator's desk. Such material must contain the name of the Legislator requesting the placement of the material on the desk or a designation of the origin of the material.

2. This Rule does not apply to books containing the legislative bills and resolutions, the daily histories and daily journals of the Senate or Assembly, or Legislative Counsel Bureau material.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1873; A 1979, 1929; 1999, 3827]

**Rule No. 96. Reserved.****Rule No. 97. Petitions.**

The contents of any petition shall be briefly stated by the President or any Senator presenting it. It shall then lie on the table or be referred, as the President or Senate may direct.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1873; A 2015, 3992]

**Rule No. 98. Reserved.****Rule No. 99. Reserved.****Rule No. 100. Reserved.****Rule No. 101. Reserved.****Rule No. 102. Objection to Reading of Paper.**

Where the reading of any paper is called for, and is objected to by any Senator, it shall be determined by a vote of the Senate, and without debate.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1873]

**Rule No. 103. Questions Relating to Priority of Business.**

All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided without debate.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1873]

**B. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS****Rule No. 104. Reserved.****Rule No. 105. Reserved.****Rule No. 106. Skeleton Bills.**

Skeleton bills may be introduced after the beginning of a session when, in the opinion of the sponsor and the Legislative Counsel, the full drafting of the bill would entail extensive research or be of considerable length. A skeleton bill will be a presentation of ideas or statements of purpose, sufficient in style and expression to enable the Legislature and the committee to which the bill may be referred to consider the substantive merits of the legislation proposed.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1874; A 1999, 3827]

**Rule No. 107. Information Concerning Bills.**

1. Bills introduced may be accompanied by information relative to witnesses and selected persons of departments and agencies who should be considered for committee hearings on the proposed legislation. At the time of or after introduction of a bill, a list of witnesses who are proponents of the bill together with their addresses and telephone numbers may be given to the secretary of the committee to which the bill is referred. This information may be provided by:

- (a) The Senator introducing the bill;
  - (b) The person requesting a committee introduction of the bill; or
  - (c) The Chair of the committee introducing the bill.
2. The secretary of the committee shall deliver this information to the Chair of the committee to which the bill is referred. Members of the committee may suggest additional names for witnesses.
3. The Legislator may provide an analysis which may describe the intent, purpose, justification and effects of the bill, or any of them.
- [Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1874; A 1979, 1929; 1999, 3828; 2007, 3478]

**Rule No. 108. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 109. Reading of Bills.**

1. Every bill must receive three readings before its passage, unless, in case of emergency, this rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The reading of a bill is by number, sponsor and summary.
  2. The first reading of a bill is for information, and if there is opposition to the bill, the question must be, "Shall this bill be rejected?" If there is no opposition to the bill, or if the question to reject is defeated, the bill must then take the usual course.
  3. No bill may be referred to committee until once read, nor amended until twice read.
  4. The third reading of every bill must be by sections.
- [Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1874; A 1999, 3828; 2005, 2950; 2007, 3478; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 110. Second Reading File—Consent Calendar.**

1. All bills reported by committee must be placed on a Second Reading File unless recommended for placement on the Consent Calendar.
  2. A committee shall not recommend a bill for placement on the Consent Calendar if:
    - (a) An amendment of the bill is recommended;
    - (b) It contains an appropriation;
    - (c) It requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate; or
    - (d) It is controversial in nature.
  3. A bill recommended for placement on the Consent Calendar must be included in the Daily File listed in the Daily History of the Senate at least 1 calendar day before it may be considered.
  4. A bill must be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of any Senator, without question or debate. A bill so removed must be immediately placed on the Second Reading File for consideration in the usual order of business.
  5. When the Consent Calendar is called:
    - (a) The bills remaining on the Consent Calendar must be read by number, sponsor and summary, and the vote must be taken on their final passage as a group.
    - (b) No remarks or questions are in order and the bills remaining on the Consent Calendar must be voted upon without debate.
- [Statutes of Nevada 1977, 1652; A 1979, 1979; 1997, 3531; 1999, 3828; 2001, 3289; 2005, 2950; 2015, 3993; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 111. Publications.**

1. An appropriate number of copies of all bills and resolutions of general interest must be printed for the use of the Senate and Assembly. Such other matter must be printed as may be ordered by the Senate.
2. Bill books will not be prepared for legislators unless they qualify for and request the service. The service, if approved, will be limited to the provision of one full set of bills, journals, histories and indexes for the Senator's desk in the Senate chamber. Bill books will not be prepared for a Senator for individual committees.

3. A Senator may request the provision of bill book service pursuant to subsection 1 if either:

- (a) The Senator has served in the Senate for 10 or more years; or
- (b) A physical or medical condition requires the Senator to use the bill books rather than viewing bills on a laptop computer.

4. A request for bill book service must be made to the Majority Leader of the Senate. If the Majority Leader determines that the Senator qualifies for the service, the Majority Leader shall direct the Legislative Counsel Bureau to provide the service.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1875; A 1999, 3829; 2003, 3626; 2011, 3785; 2013, 3877]

**Rule No. 112. Sponsorship.**

1. A Senator may request that his or her name be added as a sponsor of a bill or resolution that is introduced in the Senate if the Senator has submitted to the Secretary of the Senate a statement approving the request signed by the Senator who introduced the bill or resolution, including, without limitation, submission by electronic means. A Senator may make a request to have his or her name added as a sponsor of:

(a) A resolution of the Senate, at any time after the resolution is introduced in the Senate and before the resolution is passed by the Senate.

(b) A bill or a joint or concurrent resolution:

(1) At any time after the bill or resolution is introduced in the Senate and before the bill or resolution is passed out of the Senate to the Assembly; and

(2) At any time after the bill or resolution is returned to the Senate following passage by the Assembly and before the bill or resolution is enrolled.

2. A Senator who is a sponsor of a bill or resolution that is introduced in the Senate may request that his or her name be removed as a sponsor of the bill or resolution. A Senator may make a request to have his or her name removed as a sponsor of:

(a) A resolution of the Senate, at any time after the resolution is introduced in the Senate and before the resolution is passed by the Senate.

(b) A bill or a joint or concurrent resolution:

(1) At any time after the bill or resolution is introduced in the Senate and before the bill or resolution is passed out of the Senate to the Assembly; and

(2) At any time after the bill or resolution is returned to the Senate following passage by the Assembly and before the bill or resolution is enrolled.

↪ In such case, if the Senator is the only sponsor of the bill or resolution, another Senator may request that his or her name be added to the bill or resolution as a sponsor without receiving the approval from the original sponsor.

3. If a Senator makes a request to have his or her name added or removed as a sponsor of a bill or resolution that was introduced in the Senate, the request must be entered in the Journal.

4. If a Senator who is the only sponsor of a bill or resolution that was introduced in the Senate removes his or her name from the bill or resolution while the bill is in the Senate and no other Senator adds his or her name as the sponsor of the bill or resolution at the time of the request for removal, no further action on the bill or resolution is allowed for that legislative session.

[Statutes of Nevada 2005, 2951; A 2007, 3479; 2015, 3994; 2017, 4498; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 113. Reading of Bills—General File.**

1. Upon reading of bills on the Second Reading File, Senate and Assembly bills reported without amendments must be ordered to the General File. Committee amendments reported with bills must be considered upon their second reading and such amendments may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present. Bills so amended must be reprinted, engrossed or reengrossed, and ordered to the General File. The File must be made available to members of the public each day by the Secretary.

2. Any member may move to amend a bill during its reading on the Second Reading File or during its third reading and the motion to amend may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present. Bills so amended on second reading must be treated the same as bills with committee amendments. Any bill so amended upon the General File must be reprinted and engrossed or reengrossed.

3. Committee amendments and all other amendments must be made available to members of the public after the amendments are submitted to the Secretary for processing in order to be considered on the Second Reading File or the General File.

4. An appropriate number of copies of all amended bills must be printed.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1875; A 1977, 1652; 1997, 3532; 1999, 3829; 2003, 3626; 2007, 3480; 2015, 4048; 2019, 4578; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 114. Referral of Bill With Special Instructions.**

A bill may be referred to committee with special instructions to amend at any time before taking the final vote.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1875; A 2005, 2951]

**Rule No. 115. Reconsideration of Vote on Bill.**

1. A vote may be reconsidered on motion of any member.

2. Motions to reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending proposal and upon a final vote on a bill or resolution may be made and decided at once.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1876; A 1999, 3830; 2009, 3260; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 116. Vetoed Bills.**

Bills which have passed the Legislature, and forwarded by letter, to the Senate by the Secretary of State or the Governor and which are accompanied by a message of the Governor's disapproval, or veto of the same, shall become a special order and, at which time, the said message shall be read, together with the bill or bills so disposed or vetoed; and the message and bill shall be read without interruption, consecutively, one following the other, and not upon separate occasions; and no such bill or message shall be referred to any committee, or otherwise acted upon, save as provided by rule, custom and law; that is to say, that immediately following such reading the only questions (except as hereinafter stated) which shall be put by the Chair is, "Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?" It shall not be in order, at any time, to vote upon such vetoed bill without the same having first been read; the merits of the bill itself may be debated and the only motions entertained after the Chair has stated the question are a motion for "The previous question," or a motion for "No further consideration" of the vetoed bill.

[Statutes of Nevada 2017, 4499]

**Rule No. 117. Different Subject Not Admitted as Amendment.**

No subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted as an amendment; and no bill or resolution shall be amended by incorporating any irrelevant subject matter or by association or annexing any other bill or resolution pending in the Senate, but a substitute may be offered at any time so long as the original is open to amendment.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1876]

**Rule No. 118. Joint Resolutions.**

1. Joint resolutions must be used to address Congress, or either House thereof, or the President of the United States, or the heads of any of the national departments, or to propose amendments to the State Constitution. A roll call vote must be taken upon final passage of a joint resolution and entered in the Journal.

2. Upon introduction, the reading of a joint resolution is for informational purposes and referral to committee, unless the joint resolution is rejected or a member moves to immediately

consider the joint resolution for final passage. The motion to immediately consider the joint resolution for final passage may be adopted by a majority vote of the Senate.

3. Committee amendments reported with joint resolutions may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present. Joint resolutions so amended must be reprinted, engrossed or reengrossed, and ordered to the Resolution File.

4. Any member may move to amend a joint resolution and the motion to amend may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present. Joint resolutions so amended must be treated the same as joint resolutions with committee amendments. Any joint resolution so amended must be reprinted and engrossed or reengrossed, and ordered to the Resolution File.

5. Committee amendments and all other amendments must be available to members of the public after the amendments are submitted to the Secretary for processing in order to be considered for the Resolution File.

6. The Secretary shall make the Resolution File available to members of the public each day.

7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the State Constitution must be entered in the Journal in its entirety.

8. An appropriate number of copies of all amended joint resolutions must be printed.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1876; A 1977, 1757; 2009, 3123; 2015, 3995; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 118.2. Memorial Resolutions.**

Once the sponsor has moved for the adoption of a memorial resolution, not more than one member from each caucus, and, upon request of a member of the body and the approval of the Majority Leader, one additional member may speak on the resolution.

[Statutes of Nevada 2011, 3787]

**Rule No. 119. Certain Resolutions Treated as Motions.**

Except as otherwise provided in [Senate Standing Rules Nos. 118](#) and [118.2](#), resolutions must be treated as motions in all proceedings of the Senate.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1876; A 2009, 3123; 2011, 3787]

**Rule No. 119.2. Return From the Secretary of State.**

A Senate resolution may be used to request the return from the Secretary of State of an enrolled Senate resolution for further consideration.

[Statutes of Nevada 2009, 3123]

**C. ORDER OF BUSINESS, SPECIAL ORDERS AND OTHER MATTERS****Rule No. 120. Order of Business.**

1. Roll Call.
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Reading and Approval of the Journal.
4. Reports of Committees.
5. Messages from the Governor.
6. Messages from the Assembly.
7. Communications.
8. Waivers and Exemptions.
9. Motions, Resolutions and Notices.
10. Introduction, First Reading and Reference.
11. Consent Calendar.
12. Second Reading and Amendment.
13. General File and Third Reading.
14. Unfinished Business.
15. Special Orders of the Day.

16. Remarks from the Floor; Introduction of Guests. A Senator may speak under this order of business for a period of not more than 10 minutes.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1876; A 1977, 1653; 1983, 2106; 1985, 2319; 1989, 2208; 2001, 3291; 2003, 3627]

**Rule No. 121. Privilege.**

Any Senator may explain a matter personal to himself or herself by leave of the President, but the Senator shall not discuss any pending proposal in such explanation.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1877; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 122. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 123. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 124. Preference to Speak.**

When two or more Senators request to speak at the same time the President shall name the one who may first speak—giving preference, when practicable, to the mover or introducer of the subject under consideration.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1877; Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 125. Special Order of Business.**

The President shall call the Senate to order on the arrival of the time fixed for the consideration of a special order, and announce that the special order is before the Senate, which shall be considered, unless it be postponed by a majority vote of the Senate, and any business before the Senate at the time of the announcement of the special order shall go to Unfinished Business.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1877; A 2015, 4050]

**Rule No. 126. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 127. Reserved.**

**Rule No. 128. Seniority Among Senators.**

1. The Senate shall determine seniority among the Senators as follows:

- (a) Credit total continuous service in the Senate first;
- (b) Credit total noncontinuous service in the Senate second;
- (c) Credit total continuous service in the Assembly third; and
- (d) Credit total noncontinuous service in the Assembly fourth.

2. In every case where there are ties, those ties are broken by alphabetical order.

[Statutes of Nevada 2013, 3880]

**Rule No. 129. Reserved.**

**D. CONTESTS OF ELECTIONS**

**Rule No. 130. Procedure.**

1. The Senate shall not dismiss a statement of contest for want of form if any ground of contest is alleged with sufficient certainty to inform the defendant of the charges he or she is required to meet. The following grounds are sufficient, but are not exclusive:

- (a) That the election board or any member thereof was guilty of malfeasance.
- (b) That a person who has been declared elected to an office was not at the time of election eligible to that office.
- (c) That illegal votes were cast and counted for the defendant, which, if taken from the defendant, will reduce the number of legal votes below the number necessary to elect him or her.

(d) That the election board, in conducting the election or in canvassing the returns, made errors sufficient to change the result of the election as to any person who has been declared elected.

(e) That the defendant has given, or offered to give, to any person a bribe for the purpose of procuring his or her election.

(f) That there was a possible malfunction of any voting or counting device.

2. The contest must be submitted so far as may be possible upon depositions or by written or oral arguments as the Senate may order. Any party to a contest may take the deposition of any witness at any time after the statement of contest is filed with the Secretary of State and before the contest is finally decided. At least 5 days' notice must be given to the prospective deponent and to the other party. If oral statements are made at any hearing before the Senate or a committee thereof which purport to establish matters of fact, they must be made under oath. Strict rules of evidence do not apply.

3. The contestant has the burden of proving that any irregularities shown were of such nature as to establish the probability that the result of the election was changed thereby. After consideration of all the evidence, the Senate shall declare the defendant elected unless the Senate finds from the evidence that a person other than the defendant received the greatest number of legal votes, in which case the Senate shall declare that person elected.

[Statutes of Nevada 1981, 2145]

#### E. REMOTE-TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

##### **Rule No. 131. Short Title; Precedence of Rules; Applicability of Rules During the Interim Between Sessions.**

1. [Rules Nos. 131](#) to [135](#), inclusive, may be cited as the Remote-Technology Rules.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7 of [Senate Standing Rule No. 53](#), the Remote-Technology Rules supersede, take precedence and control over any other rule, provision or principle of law to the extent of any conflict with the Remote-Technology Rules.

3. The Remote-Technology Rules remain in full force and effect throughout the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature and until new Standing Rules are adopted as part of the organization of a newly constituted Senate at the commencement of a session.

[Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

##### **Rule No. 132. Public Purposes and Construction of Rules.**

1. The Remote-Technology Rules are intended to serve the following public purposes:

(a) To protect the health, safety and welfare of Legislators, members of legislative staff and others who participate in the legislative process amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to authorize necessary protective and safety measures intended to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) To enable the members of the Senate to represent their constituents and carry out their official powers, functions, duties and responsibilities in the legislative process amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to authorize members of the Senate, under certain circumstances, to use remote-technology systems to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in legislative proceedings when determined to be necessary as a protective or safety measure to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c) To safeguard the workings of the Legislative Department of Nevada's State Government and preserve and protect the continuity and efficacy of its legislative operations amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to ensure that the Senate may efficiently and effectively carry out its official

powers, functions, duties and responsibilities which are expressly and exclusively assigned to the Senate by the Nevada Constitution and which cannot be exercised or performed by any other body or branch of Nevada's State Government.

2. Because of the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules must be liberally construed to achieve their intended public purposes, and if there is any uncertainty or doubt regarding the interpretation or application of the Remote-Technology Rules, that uncertainty or doubt must be resolved in favor of carrying out the intended public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules.

[Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

### **Rule No. 133. Definitions.**

As used in the Remote-Technology Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, "remote-technology system" means any system or other means of communication that is:

1. Approved by the Majority Leader and uses any electronic, digital or other similar technology to enable a member of the Senate from a remote location to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the Senate or the Committee of the Whole even though the member is not physically present within the Senate Chambers or at a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

2. Approved by the chair of a committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, and uses any electronic, digital or other similar technology to enable a member of the Senate from a remote location to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the committee even though the member is not physically present at a meeting of the committee.

[Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

### **Rule No. 134. Authorized Use of Remote-Technology Systems to Carry Out Public Purposes.**

1. Upon request by a member of the Senate:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Majority Leader may authorize the member to use a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the Senate or the Committee of the Whole if the Majority Leader determines that such use by the member is necessary as a protective or safety measure to carry out the public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules. If the Majority Leader grants such authorization:

(1) It must be entered in the Journal of the Senate.

(2) A member who uses a remote-technology system to attend or participate in a proceeding of the Senate may not vote on any matter on which a vote is taken in that proceeding unless the member is using the remote-technology system to attend or participate in the proceeding from a location in this State.

(b) The chair of a committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, may authorize the member to use a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the committee if the chair determines that such use by the member is necessary as a protective or safety measure to carry out the public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules. If the chair grants such authorization, it must be entered in the records of the committee.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1, if a member of the Senate uses a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings pursuant to the Remote-Technology Rules, the member shall be deemed to be present and in attendance at the proceedings for all purposes.

3. For the purposes of voting in proceedings of:

(a) The Committee of the Whole, the Secretary of the Senate, or an authorized assistant, shall call the roll of each member who is authorized to use a remote-technology system for the proceedings and, in accordance with the procedures of the Senate, cause the member's vote to be entered into the record for the purposes of the records of the Committee of the Whole, as applicable.

(b) A committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, the committee secretary shall call the roll of each member who is authorized to use a remote-technology system for the proceedings and, in accordance with the procedures of the committee, cause the member's vote to be entered into the record for the purposes of the records of the committee.

[Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

**Rule No. 135. Authority to Adopt Rules.**

1. The Senate hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The Nevada Constitution invests each House of the Legislature with certain plenary and exclusive constitutional powers which may be exercised only by that House and which cannot be usurped, infringed or impaired by the other House or by any other branch of Nevada's State Government. (*Heller v. Legislature*, 120 Nev. 456 (2004); *Commission on Ethics v. Hardy*, 125 Nev. 285 (2009); *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure* §§ 2-3 & 560-564 (2010) (*Mason's Manual*))

(b) Section 6 of Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution invests each House with plenary and exclusive constitutional powers to determine the rules of its proceedings and to govern, control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management, expressly providing that: "Each House shall judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its own members, choose its own officers (except the President of the Senate), determine the rules of its proceedings and may punish its members for disorderly conduct, and with the concurrence of two thirds of all the members elected, expel a member."

(c) In addition to its plenary and exclusive constitutional powers, each House possesses certain inherent powers of institutional self-protection and self-preservation to govern, control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management. (*In re Chapman*, 166 U.S. 661, 668 (1897); *Mason's Manual* § 2; Luther S. Cushing, *Elements of the Law & Practice of Legislative Assemblies* § 533 (1856) (*Cushing's Legislative Assemblies*))

(d) The inherent powers of each House are considered "so essential to the authority of a legislative assembly, that it cannot well exist without them; and they are consequently entitled to be regarded as belonging to every such assembly as a necessary incident." (*Cushing's Legislative Assemblies* § 533)

(e) The inherent powers of each House authorize it to take all necessary and proper institutional actions that are "recognized by the common parliamentary law." (*Cushing's Legislative Assemblies* § 684)

(f) Thus, it is well established that each House is "vested with all the powers and privileges which are necessary and incidental to a free and unobstructed exercise of its appropriate functions. These powers and privileges are derived not from the Constitution; on the contrary, they arise from the very creation of a legislative body, and are founded upon the principle of self-preservation." (*Ex parte McCarthy*, 29 Cal. 395, 403 (1866))

(g) Under the Nevada Constitution, there are no constitutional provisions establishing a particular method for determining whether a member of either House is present at legislative proceedings.

(h) The United States Supreme Court has held that when there are no constitutional provisions establishing a particular method for determining whether a member of a legislative house is present at legislative proceedings, "it is therefore within the competency of the house to prescribe any method which shall be reasonably certain to ascertain the fact." (*United States v. Ballin*, 144 U.S. 1, 6 (1892))

(i) The United States Supreme Court has also held that when a legislative house adopts a rule establishing a reasonable method for determining whether a member is present at legislative proceedings, that rule must be given great deference by the courts because:

Neither do the advantages or disadvantages, the wisdom or folly, of such a rule present any matters for judicial consideration. With the courts the question is only one of power. The constitution empowers each house to determine its rules of proceedings. It may not by its rules ignore constitutional restraints or violate fundamental rights, and there should be a reasonable relation between the mode or method of proceeding established by the rule and

the result which is sought to be attained. But within these limitations all matters of method are open to the determination of the house, and it is no impeachment of the rule to say that some other way would be better, more accurate, or even more just. It is no objection to the validity of a rule that a different one has been prescribed and in force for a length of time. The power to make rules is not one which once exercised is exhausted. It is a continuous power, always subject to be exercised by the house, and, within the limitations suggested, absolute and beyond the challenge of any other body or tribunal.

(*United States v. Ballin*, 144 U.S. 1, 5 (1892))

2. The Senate hereby exercises its constitutional and inherent powers and privileges and adopts the Remote-Technology Rules to:

(a) Govern, control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management;

(b) Ensure its institutional self-protection and self-preservation; and

(c) Establish a reasonable method for determining whether a member of the Senate is present at legislative proceedings amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Senate Resolution No. 1 of the 2021 Session (File No. 1)]

The next rule is 140.

## IX. LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

### **Rule No. 140. Compensation of Witnesses.**

Witnesses summoned to appear before the Senate, or any of its committees, shall be compensated as provided by law for witnesses required to attend in the courts of the State of Nevada.

[Statutes of Nevada 1973, 1877]



## A

**ABSENCE**

- Call of the Senate moved by three members, AWOL Senators taken into custody ([Rule 11](#)), page 3
- Leave required except in case of accident or sickness ([Rule 12](#)), page 3
- Per diem allowance of AWOL Senators to be withheld ([Rule 12](#)), page 3
- President, succession to office ([Rule 2](#)), page 1

**ADJOURN, MOTION TO**

- Always in order, exception ([Rule 63](#)), page 11
- Name of Senator moving and time of motion to be entered in Journal ([Rule 63](#)), page 11
- Precedence of motion to reconsider ([Rule 68](#)), page 12
- Precedence of motion when question under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

**AMENDMENTS**

- Combination with other pending measure prohibited ([Rule 117](#)), page 17
- Committee amendments
  - Adoption by majority ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 113](#), [Rule 118](#)), page 9, page 16, page 17
  - Availability to public ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
  - Consideration on second reading ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Committee of the Whole, report of proposed amendments ([Rule 46](#)), page 8
- Consent Calendar, placement of bill prohibited if amendment recommended ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Constitutional amendments ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
- Different subject, prohibition against admission as amendment ([Rule 117](#)), page 17
- Engrossment ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- General File ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Irrelevant subject matter prohibited ([Rule 117](#)), page 17
- Joint resolutions, procedures ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
- Motion to amend
  - Adoption by majority vote ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
  - Deemed out of order unless proposed amendment approved by Parliamentary Rules and Procedures Committee ([Rule 22](#)), page 4
  - Precedence of motion ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 66](#)), page 11, page 12
  - Second reading or third reading ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Parliamentary Rules and Procedures Committee, receipt and approval of proposed amendment required ([Rule 22](#), [Rule 113](#)), page 4, page 16
- Printing and reprinting of amended bills ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Reconsideration of vote on amendments to pending question proposal ([Rule 115](#)), page 17
- Referral of bill with special instructions to amend ([Rule 114](#)), page 17
- Rules or orders, majority vote required to amend ([Rule 91](#)), page 13
- Second reading
  - Committee amendments ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
  - Required before amendment ([Rule 109](#)), page 15
  - Treatment of bills amended on ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Substitute measure may be offered if original open to amendment ([Rule 117](#)), page 17

**APPEALS**

- Points of order, procedure ([Rule 1](#), [Rule 20](#)), page 1, page 3

**APPROPRIATIONS**

- Consent Calendar, placement of bill containing appropriation prohibited ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

**ARREST**

Disturbance within Senate Chamber ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**ASSISTANT SERGEANTS AT ARMS**

Duties ([Rule 5](#)), page 2

**ATTACHES** (See [STAFF](#))

**B****BILLS**

Action by committee ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Amendments (See [AMENDMENTS](#))

Analysis may be provided by Legislator ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

Books, preparation ([Rule 111](#)), page 15

Consent Calendar ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

Debate (See [DEBATE](#))

Disposition of bill, explanation of motion to change ([Rule 69](#)), page 12

Enacting clause, motion to strike ([Rule 66](#)), page 12

Engrossment ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

Enrolled bills, signatures required ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

First reading ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

General File ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

Information that may accompany ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

Notices ([Rule 92](#)), page 13

Passage from committee only by majority ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Prefiled bills, referral to committee ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 40](#)), page 2, page 7

Printing ([Rule 111](#), [Rule 113](#)), page 15, page 16

Proponents of measure, list may be given to committee secretary ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

Records kept by committee secretaries ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Reference to committee

Jurisdiction of committees ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

Motion ([Rule 49](#)), page 9

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Prefiled bills ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 40](#)), page 2, page 7

Rejection ([Rule 66](#), [Rule 109](#)), page 12, page 15

Second Reading File ([Rule 110](#), [Rule 113](#)), page 15, page 16

Skeleton bills ([Rule 106](#)), page 14

Special instructions, referral with ([Rule 114](#)), page 17

Sponsorship, requests for addition or removal of name ([Rule 112](#)), page 16

Substitute bills ([Rule 117](#)), page 17

Third reading

Amendment of bill allowed ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

Required ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

Sections, bills to be read by ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

Suspension of Rule requiring reading prohibited ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

Transmittal to Assembly by Secretary of Senate ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

Vetoed bills ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

Voting (See [VOTING](#))

**BREACHES OF DECORUM**

Censure or punishment, liability for ([Rule 21](#)), page 4

Offensive or indecorous language or conduct prohibited, report ([Rule 21](#)), page 4

**BUDGETS OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES**

Assignment and review ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**BUSINESS**

Conduct of business generally ([Rule 90-Rule 103](#)), page 13, page 14

Order ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Priority, questions relating to ([Rule 103](#)), page 14

Special orders ([Rule 125](#)), page 19

Unfinished business ([Rule 120](#), [Rule 125](#)), page 18, page 19

**C****CALL OF THE SENATE**

Moved by three members ([Rule 11](#)), page 3

Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

President, duties ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Time of meeting ([Rule 10](#)), page 3

**CHAMBER** (*See* [SENATE CHAMBER](#))**CHANGE OF RULES** (*See* [RESCISSION OR CHANGE OF RULES](#))**COMMERCE AND LABOR, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Amendments proposed, report to Senate ([Rule 46](#)), page 8

Chair, named by Senator making motion to form, duties ([Rule 46](#)), page 8

Formation ([Rule 46](#)), page 8

Messages, President may receive while Committee sitting ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Previous question, prohibition against order ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Remote-technology systems, use ([Rule 133](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 21

Rise, motion to ([Rule 48](#)), page 9

Rules of Senate, applicability ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Speaking by member, limitation ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Yeas and nays, prohibition on demand for ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

**COMMITTEES**

Agency programs, review ([Rule 54](#)), page 10

Agendas ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Amendments, adoption by majority ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Bill records, maintenance ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Budgets assignment and review of executive budgets ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

Chairs

Agenda, determination ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Alternate chairs, temporary appointment ([Rule 41](#)), page 8

Bills, provision of information to committee secretary ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

Final actions on bills or resolutions, presence required ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Remote-technology systems, duties ([Rule 134](#), [Rule 135](#)), page 21, page 22

Subcommittees, appointment ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Duties, generally ([Rule 43](#)), page 8

Employment of assistance ([Rule 42](#)), page 8

Expenses ([Rule 42](#)), page 8

Hearings (*See* [HEARINGS](#))

Interim, appointment of committees during ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

**COMMITTEES**—(*Continued*)

- Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7
- Majority required to pass bill from committee ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Minutes (*See* [MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS](#))
- Public interest, review of subjects relating to ([Rule 54](#)), page 10
- Quorum
  - Conflict of interest of Legislator, effect ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
  - Requirement ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Reconsideration of vote ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Reference of bill or resolution to committee ([Rule 49](#)), page 9
- Remote-technology systems, use ([Rule 133](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 21
- Reports, order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Return from ([Rule 50](#)), page 9
- Rules ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Secretaries
  - Duties generally ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Information concerning bills, duties ([Rule 107](#)), page 14
  - Secretary of the Senate to provide ([Rule 3](#)), page 1
- Skeleton bills, consideration ([Rule 106](#)), page 14
- State agency programs, review ([Rule 54](#)), page 10
- Subcommittees, appointment ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Voting
  - Generally (*See* [VOTING](#))
  - Manner of voting ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Whole, Committee of the (*See* [COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE](#))
- Withdrawal of bill from ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS** (*See* [RESOLUTIONS](#))**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

- Generally ([Rule 90-Rule 103](#)), page 13, page 14

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- Advice to Legislators ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Complaints, hearing ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Determinations regarding conflict of interest and abstention from voting, criteria ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Disclosures, requirements ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- Bills read by number and summary ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Committee recommendations ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Consideration, bill to be included in Daily File at least one calendar day before ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Prohibitions against placement of bill on calendar ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Removal of bill ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Voting, manner of ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

- Journal, amendment entered in entirety ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
- Rules governing course of bills, applicability ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

**CONTESTS OF ELECTION**

Procedure, grounds ([Rule 130](#)), page 19

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Remote-technology systems, use, procedure, authority to adopt rules ([Rule 131-Rule 135](#)),  
page 20-page 22

**D****DEBATE**

Breaches of decorum ([Rule 21](#)), page 4

Committee of the Whole, motion to rise ([Rule 48](#)), page 9

Consent Calendar, voting of bills on ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

Incidental proposals arising after previous proposal ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

**Motions**

Entertaining ([Rule 60](#), [Rule 62](#)), page 11

Precedence of motions ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Objection to reading of paper ([Rule 102](#)), page 14

Personal matter, explanation ([Rule 121](#)), page 19

Points of order ([Rule 20](#)), page 3

Preference to speak ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

Previous question ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Questions relating to priority of business ([Rule 103](#)), page 14

Speaking on proposal ([Rule 80](#)), page 12

Vetoed bills, procedure ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**DECORUM**

Breaches ([Rule 21](#)), page 4

Points of order ([Rule 20](#)), page 3

President, powers ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS**

Duties ([Rule 5](#)), page 2

**DISTURBANCE OR DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

Suppression or arrest of person creating ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**DIVISION OF PROPOSAL**

Generally ([Rule 67](#)), page 12

**DOORKEEPERS**

Assistant Sergeants at Arms and Deputy Sergeant at Arms to serve as ([Rule 5](#)), page 2

**E****EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**ELECTIONS**

Contests of election, procedure ([Rule 130](#)), page 19

President, succession to office ([Rule 2](#)), page 1

Secretary of the Senate ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

Vote taken viva voce ([Rule 32](#)), page 7

**EMERGENCY MEASURES**

- Notice, suspension of Rule regarding ([Rule 92](#)), page 13
- Reading of bills, suspension of Rule regarding ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

**EMPLOYEES** (*See* [STAFF](#))**ENACTING CLAUSE**

- Precedence of motion to strike out ([Rule 66](#)), page 12

**ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

- Return of enrolled resolution from Secretary of State, procedure ([Rule 119.2](#)), page 18
- Signatures required ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**ETHICS**

- Advice to Legislators ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Complaints, hearing ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Voting, duties and considerations regarding conflicts of interest ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

**ETHICS, SELECT COMMITTEE ON**

- Chair and Vice Chair, appointments ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Confidentiality of proceedings ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Disqualifications from service ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Members, appointment, qualifications ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 23](#)), page 2, page 4
- Powers and duties ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Tenure ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

**EXEMPTIONS**

- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**F****FINANCE, COMMITTEE ON**

- Chair, authority to assign portion of executive budget to other standing committee ([Rule 40](#)), page 7
- Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))
- Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**FIRST READING OF BILLS**

- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Purpose ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

**G****GENERAL FILE**

- Availability to public ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Placement of bills after second reading ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, COMMITTEE ON**

- Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))
- Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMITTEE ON**

- Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**GUESTS**

- Introduction, order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**H****HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**HEARINGS**

Contests of election, procedure ([Rule 130](#)), page 19

Notices ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 92](#)), page 9, page 13

Witnesses

Compensation of witnesses summoned to appear ([Rule 140](#)), page 23

Information concerning may accompany bills ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

**I****INTERIM**

Continuation of leadership during ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

Remote-technology systems, applicability of rules ([Rule 131](#)), page 20

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

Information that may accompany bills ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

Joint resolutions ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Preference to speak ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

Skeleton bills ([Rule 106](#)), page 14

**J****JOINT RESOLUTIONS** (*See* [RESOLUTIONS](#))**JOURNAL**

Conflicts of interest, disclosures to be entered in ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

Joint resolution offering amendment to Constitution, entry in entirety ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Motion to adjourn, name of Senator moving and time of motion entered in Journal ([Rule 63](#)),  
page 11

Protest against action to be entered in ([Rule 93](#)), page 13

Reading and approval, order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Reading, duties of President ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Remote-technology systems, certain information to be entered ([Rule 134](#)), page 21

Sponsorship of bill or resolution, request to add or remove name to be entered ([Rule 112](#)),  
page 16

Votes and names of absent or recorded as "not voting" entered in ([Rule 30](#)), page 6

**JUDICIARY, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**JURISDICTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Generally ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**L****LAY ON THE TABLE, MOTION TO**

Majority required to carry ([Rule 64](#)), page 11

Petitions ([Rule 97](#)), page 14

Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU**

- Bill book services, provision ([Rule 111](#)), page 15
- Committee minutes and records delivered to Director ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Employees, privilege of the floor ([Rule 94](#)), page 13

**LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS, COMMITTEE ON**

- Chair, succession to office of President ([Rule 2](#)), page 1
- Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))
- Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7
- Vice Chair, succession to office of President ([Rule 2](#)), page 1

**M****MAJORITY LEADER**

- Assistant Secretary, absence of, duties ([Rule 3](#)), page 1
- Bill book services, requests to ([Rule 111](#)), page 15
- Committees
  - Employees and expenses, approval ([Rule 42](#)), page 8
  - Members and chairs, appointments ([Rule 40](#), [Rule 41](#)), page 7, page 8
  - Subcommittees, approval of appointment of certain members ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Emergency meetings, duties ([Rule 10](#)), page 3
- Ethics, Committee on, appointments ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 23](#)), page 2, page 4
- Interim between regular sessions, duties ([Rule 6](#)), page 2
- Memorial resolutions, duties ([Rule 118.2](#)), page 18
- Parliamentary Rules and Procedures Committee, appointments ([Rule 22](#)), page 4
- Privilege of the floor, authority to specify special occasions ([Rule 94](#)), page 13
- Remote-technology systems, powers and duties ([Rule 133](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 21
- Secretary of the Senate responsible to, procedures when absent ([Rule 3](#)), page 1
- Start of session, duties ([Rule 6](#)), page 2
- Tenure ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

**MASON'S MANUAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE**

- Committees, applicability of rules ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- General applicability of rules ([Rule 90](#)), page 13
- Remote-technology systems, authority of Senate ([Rule 135](#)), page 22

**MEETINGS**

- Agendas ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Closed meetings ([Rule 13](#)), page 3
- Emergency meetings, duties of Majority Leader ([Rule 10](#)), page 3
- Minutes
  - Contents ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Delivery to Director of Legislative Counsel Bureau ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Filing with Secretary of the Senate ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Open to public inspection ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Requirement ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
  - Subcommittee meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Notices ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 92](#)), page 9, page 13
- Open meetings required, exceptions ([Rule 13](#), [Rule 53](#)), page 3, page 9
- Quorum of committee members required to open meeting ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Setting by written petition of majority of committee ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Time of meeting ([Rule 10](#)), page 3
- Video conference, committee meetings by ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Speaking on the resolution ([Rule 118.2](#)), page 18

**MESSAGES**

Committee of the Whole, receipt of messages ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Vetoed bills ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**MINORITY LEADER**

Ethics, Committee on, appointments ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 23](#)), page 2, page 4

Standing committees, appointments ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

Tenure ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Conflicts of interest, disclosures to be entered in ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

Contents ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Delivery to Director of Legislative Counsel Bureau ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Filing with Secretary of the Senate ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Open to public inspection ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Requirement ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Subcommittee meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**MOTIONS**

Adjournment ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 63](#)), page 11

Amend ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 66](#), [Rule 113](#), [Rule 118](#)), page 11, page 12, page 16, page 17

Call of the Senate ([Rule 11](#), [Rule 61](#)), page 3, page 11

Change in usual disposition of bill or resolution, explanation of motion ([Rule 69](#)), page 12

Committee of the Whole

Formation ([Rule 46](#)), page 8

Rise ([Rule 48](#)), page 9

Debate ([Rule 60](#), [Rule 61](#)), page 11

Division of proposal ([Rule 67](#)), page 12

Entertaining ([Rule 60](#), [Rule 62](#)), page 11

Generally ([Rule 60-Rule 62](#)), page 11

Joint resolutions, immediate consideration ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Lay on the table ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 64](#)), page 11

Limit on motions when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Points of order ([Rule 20](#)), page 3

Postpone indefinitely ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 62](#)), page 11

Postpone to a day certain ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Precedence of motions ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 66](#), [Rule 68](#)), page 11, page 12

Preference to speak ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

Previous question ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 81](#)), page 11, page 12

Recess ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Reconsideration of vote ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 68](#), [Rule 115](#)), page 9, page 12, page 17

Reference to committee (*See [REFER, MOTION TO](#)*)

Resolutions treated as ([Rule 119](#)), page 18

Return from committee ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

Strike enacting clause ([Rule 66](#)), page 12

Strike out and insert ([Rule 67](#)), page 12

Withdraw from committee ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

Withdrawal ([Rule 60](#)), page 11

## N

**NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**NO FURTHER CONSIDERATION, MOTION FOR**

Vetoed bills, entertaining motion ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**NOTICES**

Contests of election ([Rule 130](#)), page 19

Hearings ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 92](#)), page 9, page 13

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Rescission or amendment of standing Rule or order ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

Return from committee ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

Suspension of Rule or order, notice from President ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

## O

**OBJECTION TO READING OF PAPER**

Determined by vote of Senate without debate ([Rule 102](#)), page 14

**OPEN MEETINGS**

Requirements, exceptions ([Rule 13](#), [Rule 53](#)), page 3, page 9

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Enumeration ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

## P

**PARLIAMENTARY RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

Amendment of bills, duties ([Rule 22](#), [Rule 113](#)), page 4, page 16

Composition ([Rule 22](#)), page 4

Generally (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))

Meetings ([Rule 22](#)), page 4

**PER DIEM**

Withheld for absence without leave ([Rule 12](#)), page 3

**PERSONAL MATTERS**

Explanation by Senator ([Rule 121](#)), page 19

**PETITIONS**

Presentation ([Rule 97](#)), page 14

**POINTS OF ORDER**

Appeal from decision of President ([Rule 1](#), [Rule 20](#)), page 1, page 3

Powers of President ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Procedure ([Rule 20](#)), page 3

**POSTPONE INDEFINITELY, MOTION TO**

Entertaining ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Proposal indefinitely postponed, reintroduction limited ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

Reconsideration of vote prohibited ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

**POSTPONE TO A DAY CERTAIN, MOTION TO**

Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

**PREFERENCE TO SPEAK**

Generally ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

Absence or inability to act, succession to office ([Rule 2](#)), page 1

Committee of the Whole, receipt of messages ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Motions, entertaining ([Rule 60](#)), page 11

Petitions, duties ([Rule 97](#)), page 14

Points of order ([Rule 1](#), [Rule 20](#)), page 1, page 3

Powers and duties, generally ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Preference to speak, naming of ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

Special orders, duties ([Rule 125](#)), page 19

Tie vote, President may give deciding vote, exception ([Rule 31](#)), page 6

**PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

Powers and duties, generally ([Rule 2](#), [Rule 6](#)), page 1, page 2

Succession to office of President of the Senate ([Rule 2](#)), page 1

Tenure ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

**PREVIOUS QUESTION, MOTION FOR**

Committee of the Whole, prohibition against order ([Rule 47](#)), page 8

Form ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Majority required to sustain ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Person speaking on proposal, prohibition against motion by ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Three Senators to demand ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Vetoed bills, entertaining motion ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**PRINTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Requirements ([Rule 111](#), [Rule 113](#), [Rule 118](#)), page 15, page 16, page 17

**PRIORITY OF BUSINESS**

Questions relating to ([Rule 103](#)), page 14

**PRIVILEGE**

Explanation of personal matter ([Rule 121](#)), page 19

Of the floor ([Rule 94](#)), page 13

**PROPOSALS**

Committee on Ethics, duties ([Rule 23](#)), page 4

Division of proposal ([Rule 67](#)), page 12

Explanation of personal matter, discussion of pending proposal prohibited ([Rule 121](#)),  
page 19

Points of order ([Rule 20](#)), page 3

Postpone indefinitely ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

Precedence of motions when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

Previous question, vote on proposal ([Rule 81](#)), page 12

Reconsideration of vote ([Rule 115](#)), page 17

Speaking on proposal ([Rule 80](#)), page 12

**PROTEST AGAINST ACTION OF THE SENATE**

Generally ([Rule 93](#)), page 13

**PUBLIC RECORDS**

Minutes of committee meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**R****RECESS, MOTION TO**

Precedence of motion ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

**RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE**

Amendments to pending proposals ([Rule 115](#)), page 17

Committee reconsideration of action, motion made by member voting on action ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Motion of any member ([Rule 115](#)), page 17

Postpone indefinitely, motion to, reconsideration prohibited ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

Precedence ([Rule 63](#), [Rule 68](#)), page 11, page 12

**REFER, MOTION TO**

Bill to be once read before referred ([Rule 109](#)), page 15

Jurisdiction of committees ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Petitions ([Rule 97](#)), page 14

Precedence of motion ([Rule 61](#), [Rule 66](#)), page 11, page 12

Prefiled bills, referral ([Rule 6](#), [Rule 40](#)), page 2, page 7

Reference to committee, procedure ([Rule 49](#)), page 9

Special instructions to amend, referral with ([Rule 114](#)), page 17

**REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR**

Debate (*See* [DEBATE](#))

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Preference to speak ([Rule 124](#)), page 19

Privilege of explanation of personal matter ([Rule 121](#)), page 19

Time limit for speaking ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**REMOTE-TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

Adoption of Rules, authority ([Rule 125](#)), page 19

Approval of use ([Rule 133](#)), page 21

Authorized use ([Rule 53](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 9, page 21

Citation ([Rule 131](#)), page 20

Definitions ([Rule 133](#)), page 21

Interim, applicability of rules ([Rule 131](#)), page 20

Member using system to be deemed present and in attendance at proceedings ([Rule 134](#)), page 21

Precedence of rules ([Rule 131](#)), page 20

Public purposes and construction of Rules ([Rule 132](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 20, page 21

Voting, use ([Rule 133](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 21, page 21

**RESCISSION OF VOTE**

Postpone indefinitely, motion to, rescission prohibited ([Rule 62](#)), page 11

**RESCISSION OR CHANGE OF RULES**

Majority vote and one day's notice of motion required ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

Parliamentary Rules and Procedures Committee, duties ([Rule 22](#)), page 4

**RESOLUTIONS**

Action by committee ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

Amendments (*See* [AMENDMENTS](#))

Applicability of rules governing treatment ([Rule 119](#)), page 18

## RESOLUTIONS—(Continued)

Debate (See [DEBATE](#))

Disposition of resolution, explanation of motion to change ([Rule 69](#)), page 12

## Joint resolutions

Constitutional amendments entered in Journal in entirety ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Final passage, roll call vote ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Immediate consideration, procedures ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Reading for informational purposes ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Recorded vote on final passage ([Rule 30](#)), page 6

Referral to committee ([Rule 118](#)), page 17

Signatures required ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Jurisdiction of committees for reference of resolutions ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

Memorial resolutions ([Rule 118.2](#)), page 18

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Prefiled resolutions, referral to committee ([Rule 6](#)), page 2

Printing ([Rule 111](#)), page 15

Return of enrolled resolution from Secretary of State, procedure ([Rule 119.2](#)), page 18

Sponsorship, requests for addition or removal of name ([Rule 112](#)), page 16

Substitute resolutions ([Rule 117](#)), page 17

Transmittal to Assembly by Secretary of the Senate ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

Voting (See [VOTING](#))

**RETURN FROM COMMITTEE, MOTION TO**

Majority vote of Senate and one day's notice of motion required ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

Out of order on last or next to last day of session or if bill may no longer be considered by Senate ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

**REVENUE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMITTEE ON**

Committees generally (See [COMMITTEES](#))

Jurisdiction ([Rule 40](#)), page 7

**RISE, MOTION TO**

Committee of the Whole ([Rule 48](#)), page 9

**ROLL CALL**

Call of the Senate ([Rule 11](#)), page 3

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**RULES OF COMMITTEES**

Generally ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**S****SECOND READING FILE**

Amendments, consideration and adoption ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

Bills reported by committee placed on ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

Placement of bills without amendments ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

Transfer from Consent Calendar ([Rule 110](#)), page 15

**SECRETARY OF THE SENATE**

Absence of Secretary, duties of Assistant Secretary, effect of absence of both officers ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

Attestations of documents ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

Duties, generally ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

Election by Senate ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

General File, duties ([Rule 113](#)), page 16

**SECRETARY OF THE SENATE—***(Continued)*

- Majority Leader, responsible to ([Rule 3](#)), page 1
- Minutes of committee meetings, duties ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Remote-technology systems, duties ([Rule 134](#)), page 21
- Resolution File, duties ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
- Roll call, duties ([Rule 11](#)), page 3

**SECRETS OF THE SENATE**

- Sergeant at Arms, Deputy and Assistant, duty to keep secrets of Senate ([Rule 4](#), [Rule 5](#)), page 2

**SENATE CHAMBER**

- Decorum ([Rule 1](#), [Rule 21](#)), page 1, page 4
- Majority may authorize Chamber cleared of all persons except Senators and officers ([Rule 94](#)), page 13
- Material placed on desks ([Rule 95](#)), page 14
- President of the Senate, powers ([Rule 1](#)), page 1
- Privilege of the floor ([Rule 94](#)), page 13
- Sergeant at Arms, Deputy and Assistant, duties ([Rule 4](#), [Rule 5](#)), page 2
- Use of Chamber ([Rule 94](#)), page 13

**SENIORITY**

- Determination ([Rule 128](#)), page 19

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

- Assistant Sergeant at Arms, duties ([Rule 5](#)), page 2
- AWOL Senators, duties ([Rule 11](#)), page 3
- Deputy Sergeant at Arms, duties ([Rule 5](#)), page 2
- Duties, generally ([Rule 4](#)), page 2
- Incapacity or absence, effect ([Rule 5](#)), page 2
- Legislators' desks, authority to place material on ([Rule 95](#)), page 14
- Suppression of disturbances ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**SESSIONS**

- Time of meeting ([Rule 10](#)), page 3

**SKELETON BILLS**

- Introduction and purpose ([Rule 106](#)), page 14

**SPEAKING ON PROPOSAL**

- Incidental and subsidiary proposals, treatment ([Rule 80](#)), page 12
- Limitations ([Rule 47](#), [Rule 80](#), [Rule 81](#)), page 8, page 12
- Manner ([Rule 80](#)), page 12

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

- Announced by the President at time appointed ([Rule 125](#)), page 19
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Postponed by majority vote ([Rule 125](#)), page 19
- Vetoed bills ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**SPONSORSHIP OF BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS**

- Procedures ([Rule 112](#)), page 16

**STAFF**

- Committees
  - Employment of assistance ([Rule 42](#)), page 8
  - Secretaries (*See* [COMMITTEES](#))
- Employment and supervision ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

**STAFF—(Continued)**

- Legislators' desks, authority to place material on ([Rule 95](#)), page 14
- Privilege of the floor ([Rule 94](#)), page 13

**STANDING COMMITTEES** (See [COMMITTEES](#))**STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS**

- Review by committees ([Rule 54](#)), page 10

**STRIKE ENACTING CLAUSE, MOTION TO**

- Precedence of motion ([Rule 66](#)), page 12

**STRIKE OUT AND INSERT, MOTION TO**

- Prohibition against division ([Rule 67](#)), page 12

**SUBCOMMITTEES** (See also [COMMITTEES](#))

- Appointment to consider specified subjects ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Minutes of meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Open meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Reports ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**SUBPOENAS**

- Assistant Secretary, duties in absence of Secretary ([Rule 3](#)), page 1
- President's signature ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**SUBSTITUTE BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS**

- Offering ([Rule 117](#)), page 17

**SUSPENSION OF RULES**

- Emergency procedures, reading of bills ([Rule 109](#)), page 15
- Majority vote of members present required ([Rule 91](#)), page 13
- Notice of motion ([Rule 91](#)), page 13
- Proposal postponed indefinitely, reintroduction ([Rule 62](#)), page 11
- Third reading of bills, prohibition against suspension ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

**T****TABLE, MOTION TO LAY ON**

- Majority vote to carry ([Rule 64](#)), page 11
- Petitions ([Rule 97](#)), page 14
- Precedence of motion when proposal under debate ([Rule 61](#)), page 11

**THIRD READING OF BILLS**

- Motion to amend during third reading ([Rule 113](#)), page 16
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18
- Required ([Rule 109](#)), page 15
- Sections, bill to be read by ([Rule 109](#)), page 15
- Suspension of Rule prohibited ([Rule 91](#)), page 13

**TIE VOTE** (See also [VOTING](#))

- President may give deciding vote, exception ([Rule 31](#)), page 6
- President Pro Tem or other presiding officer, voting by ([Rule 2](#)), page 1
- Question lost by tie vote ([Rule 31](#)), page 6

**TIME OF MEETING**

- Generally ([Rule 10](#)), page 3

## U

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Business before Senate at time special orders announced ([Rule 125](#)), page 19
- Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

## V

**VETOED BILLS**

- Committee referral prohibited ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Debate on merits of bill ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Governor's message, reading ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Immediate consideration ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Motions limited ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Reading, procedure ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Special orders ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Voting on ([Rule 116](#)), page 17

**VIDEO CONFERENCES**

- Committee meetings ([Rule 53](#)), page 9

**VOTING**

- Announcement of result of vote, postponement prohibited ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
- Change of recorded vote after result announced prohibited ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
- Committees, manner of voting ([Rule 53](#)), page 9
- Conflicts of interest, restrictions on voting ([Rule 23](#)), page 4
- Consent Calendar, voting on final passage as group ([Rule 110](#)), page 15
- Discussion or explanation of recorded vote while voting in progress prohibited ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
- Elections, manner of voting ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
- Final passage of bill or joint resolution, recorded vote required ([Rule 30](#)), page 6
- Joint resolutions, requirements for roll call vote ([Rule 118](#)), page 17
- Journal, votes entered in ([Rule 30](#)), page 6
- President Pro Tem or other presiding officer, voting by ([Rule 2](#)), page 1
- Reconsideration of vote (*See [RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE](#)*)
- Recorded vote
  - Manner of taking ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
  - When required ([Rule 30](#)), page 6
- Remote-technology systems, use ([Rule 133](#), [Rule 134](#)), page 21
- Rescission of vote on motion to postpone indefinitely ([Rule 62](#)), page 11
- Result of vote, postponement of announcement prohibited ([Rule 32](#)), page 7
- Three members required to call for recorded vote ([Rule 30](#)), page 6
- Tie vote
  - President may give deciding vote, exception ([Rule 31](#)), page 6
  - President Pro Tem or other presiding officer, voting by ([Rule 2](#)), page 1
  - Question lost by tie vote ([Rule 31](#)), page 6
- Vetoed bills, procedure ([Rule 116](#)), page 17
- Viva voce ([Rule 32](#)), page 7

## W

**WAIVERS**

Order of business ([Rule 120](#)), page 18

**WARRANTS**

Assistant Secretary, duties in absence of Secretary ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

President's signature ([Rule 1](#)), page 1

**WHOLE, COMMITTEE OF THE** (*See [COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE](#)*)**WITHDRAW FROM COMMITTEE, MOTION TO**

Majority vote of Senate and one day's notice of motion required ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

Out of order on last or next to last day of session or if bill may no longer be considered by Senate ([Rule 50](#)), page 9

**WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION**

Consent of Senate required ([Rule 60](#)), page 11

**WITNESSES**

Compensation of witnesses summoned to appear ([Rule 140](#)), page 23

Contests of election ([Rule 130](#)), page 19

Information concerning may accompany bills ([Rule 107](#)), page 14

**WRITS**

Assistant Secretary, duties in absence of Secretary ([Rule 3](#)), page 1

President's signature ([Rule 1](#)), page 1