



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

House Resolution No. 9

LCO No. 599



Referred to Committee on NO COMMITTEE

Introduced by:

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RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HOUSE RULES.

Resolved by this House:

1 That the following shall be the rules to regulate the proceedings of
2 the House of Representatives for the 2015 and 2016 sessions:

3 THE SPEAKER

4 1. The speaker shall take the chair every day at the hour to which
5 the House has adjourned and shall immediately call the House to
6 order and, after prayer and recitation of the pledge of allegiance,
7 proceed to business if a quorum is present.

8 2. In the absence of a quorum, the speaker may adjourn the House
9 to a later time or to the next session day. At all other times an
10 adjournment shall be pronounced by the speaker on motion.

11 3. The speaker shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide
12 all questions of order and discipline, upon which no debate shall be
13 allowed except at the speaker's request, but the decision shall be
14 subject to an appeal to the House, which must be seconded and on

15 which no member shall speak more than once. No other business shall
16 be in order until the disposition of such appeal.

17 4. The speaker shall rise to put a question or to address the House.

18 5. If there is any disturbance, disorderly conduct or other activity in
19 or about the House chamber which, in the opinion of the speaker, may
20 impede the orderly transaction of the business of the House of
21 representatives, the speaker may take such action as the speaker deems
22 necessary to preserve and restore order.

23 6. If the speaker wishes to leave the chair, a deputy speaker or a
24 member may be designated by the speaker to perform the duties of the
25 chair.

26 7. If the speaker or a deputy speaker or the member named by the
27 speaker in accordance with the preceding rule, is absent at the hour to
28 which the House has adjourned, the clerk shall call the House to order
29 and first business shall be the election of an acting speaker, which shall
30 be done immediately without debate, by ballot or otherwise, as the
31 House shall determine, also without debate; and the person thus
32 elected shall preside in the House and discharge all the duties of the
33 speaker until the speaker's return. In the case of the death, resignation
34 or permanent disability of the speaker, a deputy speaker shall then call
35 the House to order and the first business shall be the election of a
36 speaker, which the House shall immediately proceed to do without
37 debate. The person thus elected shall immediately assume the duties of
38 speaker during the continuance of the General Assembly.

39 DEPUTY SPEAKERS

40 8. There shall be such deputy speakers as determined and appointed
41 by the speaker of the House. The speaker shall designate a deputy
42 speaker to assume the duties of the speaker in the speaker's absence.

43 CHAPLAIN AND DEPUTY CHAPLAINS

44 9. Within one week after the appointment of the speaker, the
45 speaker shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains,
46 and if such nominations are confirmed by the House by a majority
47 vote, the candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the
48 regular sessions and any special sessions during the 2015-2016
49 legislative term.

50 CLERK

51 10. The clerk shall keep a journal of the House, and shall enter
52 therein a record of each day's proceedings, record any amendment that
53 may be offered to any bill or resolution and record the date of filing of
54 an agreement, award or stipulation that is filed in accordance with
55 Joint Rule 31 or 32.

56 11. The clerk shall keep a calendar and shall enter daily on such
57 calendar (1) all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate
58 except (a) bills and resolutions which do not have the favorable report
59 of a joint committee which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be
60 referred without further action to the appropriate committee and (b)
61 all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate which have not
62 been referred by the House to any committee; and (2) all bills and
63 resolutions favorably reported to the House from any committee and
64 these shall be entered on the calendar in the order in which they are
65 received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
66 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files
67 and on the calendar for two session days with a file number and shall
68 be starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:

69 (A) A bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of
70 the general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and
71 acted upon first by the senate with the consent of the speaker; and if
72 filed in the senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the
73 House with the consent of the president pro tempore,

74 (B) Any bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of

75 the general statutes may be acted upon in the House (i) on the same
76 session day that electronic notice of the filing and number of the bill or
77 resolution is provided to the majority leader and the minority leader,
78 who shall be responsible for forwarding such notice to the members of
79 their respective caucuses, except the bill or resolution may not be acted
80 upon less than six hours after the House is called to order or less than
81 six hours after such notice is provided to said leaders, whichever is
82 later, (ii) at any time on the next session day following the day that
83 such notice is provided to said leaders, or (iii) during the last five
84 calendar days of the session, immediately, and in any such case may be
85 transmitted immediately to the senate,

86 (C) If the House refers a bill or resolution to another committee and
87 that committee favorably reports the bill or resolution not as a
88 substitute on the same session day as the House referral, the clerk shall
89 immediately enter the bill or resolution on the calendar and the House
90 may act upon it on the same session day,

91 (D) If the House rejects an amendment adopted by the senate, the
92 bill or resolution after final action in the House, may be transmitted
93 immediately to the senate, or if the senate rejects an amendment
94 adopted by the House, the bill or resolution when received from the
95 senate may be placed immediately on the calendar,

96 (E) During the last ten calendar days of the session, if the House
97 rejects an amendment adopted by the senate, or adopts a House
98 amendment to a bill or resolution received from the senate, or takes
99 any action on the bill or resolution requiring further action by the
100 senate, the bill or resolution after final action in the House, may be
101 transmitted immediately to the senate, or if the senate rejects an
102 amendment adopted by the House or adopts a senate amendment to a
103 bill or resolution received from the House, or takes any action on the
104 bill or resolution requiring further action by the House, the bill or
105 resolution when received from the senate may be placed immediately
106 on the calendar and may be acted upon immediately,

107 (F) During the last ten calendar days of the session, any bill or
108 resolution, after final action in the House, may be transmitted
109 immediately to the Senate,

110 (G) During the last five days of the session, any bill or resolution
111 received by the House after final action by the senate may be placed on
112 the calendar immediately and the bill or resolution may be acted upon
113 after it has appeared on the calendar for two session days, or

114 (H) A report by a joint standing committee of a resolution
115 concerning a judicial or workers' compensation commissioner
116 nomination may be acted upon after it has appeared on the calendar
117 for two days.

118 All bills and resolutions starred for action shall be acted upon only
119 when called and any bill or resolution not acted upon shall retain its
120 place on the calendar unless it is moved to the foot of the calendar or
121 unless its consideration is made the order of the day for some specified
122 time. When a bill or resolution is removed from the foot of the
123 calendar, it shall not be acted upon before the next regular succeeding
124 session day.

125 Prior to the convening of the House on each session day, the
126 speaker shall make available on the floor of the House a list of bills and
127 resolutions intended to be acted upon during that session day. Such
128 list shall set forth the action intended to be taken on each bill or
129 resolution so listed. The list shall be for informational purposes only.

130 12. The clerk shall retain all bills, resolutions and other papers, in
131 reference to which any member has a right to move a reconsideration,
132 until the right of reconsideration has expired, and no longer.

133 13. The clerk shall keep a record of all petitions, resolutions, joint
134 resolutions and bills for all acts presented for consideration of the
135 House, and said record shall be so kept as to show by one and a single
136 reference thereto the action of the House on any specified petition,

137 resolution, joint resolution or bill up to the time of such reference.

138 14. The clerk shall supervise all clerical work to be done for the
139 House and shall supervise all employees subject to the direction of the
140 speaker. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform
141 the same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The
142 bill clerk, the journal clerk and the calendar clerk shall perform such
143 duties as are assigned to them by the clerk.

144 15. Upon the request of any member, the clerk shall provide a
145 calendar to such member on each session day.

146 MEMBERS

147 16. When any member is about to speak in debate or deliver any
148 matter to the House, the member shall rise and address the chair as
149 "Mr. Speaker" or "Madam Speaker," as the case may be.

150 If two or more rise at the same time, the speaker shall name the
151 member entitled to the floor, preferring one who rises in place to one
152 who does not.

153 17. No member shall speak on the same question more than twice
154 without unanimous consent of the members of the House present.

155 18. The speaker shall, or any member may, call to order any member
156 who in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and orders of the
157 House. If speaking, the member shall sit down, unless permitted to
158 explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the rules and
159 orders, the member may be required by the House, on motion, to make
160 satisfaction therefor, and shall not be allowed to vote or speak except
161 by way of excuse until such satisfaction is made.

162 COMMITTEES AND LEADERS

163 19. At the opening of each session a committee on contested
164 elections, consisting of four members, at least two of whom shall be

165 members of the minority party in the House, shall be appointed by the
166 speaker to take into consideration all contested elections of the
167 members of the House and to report the facts, with their opinion
168 thereon in a manner that may be directed by House resolution.

169 20. (a) Majority Election and Appointments. The majority leader
170 shall be elected by the members of the majority party in the House and
171 the deputy majority leaders shall be appointed by the majority leader
172 and shall serve at the pleasure of the majority leader. The assistant
173 deputy speaker, majority caucus chairperson, deputy majority caucus
174 chairperson, assistant majority leaders and majority whips shall be
175 appointed by the speaker in consultation with the majority leader, and
176 shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker.

177 The chairpersons, and where appropriate, vice-chairpersons, of the
178 standing committees shall be appointed by the speaker of the House
179 and shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker, except when a
180 chairperson is designated or appointed by the minority leader
181 pursuant to these rules or the joint rules, in which case, the person so
182 designated or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the minority
183 leader. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during
184 the 2015-2016 biennium (1) the chairperson of the Legislative
185 Regulation Review Committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the
186 House, and (2) the chairperson of the Legislative Program Review and
187 Investigations Committee shall be appointed by the minority leader.

188 (b) Minority Election and Appointments. The minority leader shall
189 be elected by the members of the minority party in the House and the
190 deputy minority leaders, the minority caucus chairperson, the assistant
191 minority leaders, the minority whips and the ranking members of each
192 joint standing committee shall be appointed by the minority leader and
193 shall serve at the pleasure of the minority leader except when a
194 ranking member is designated or appointed by the speaker pursuant
195 to these rules or the joint rules, in which case, the person so designated
196 or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker.

197 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during the
198 2015-2016 biennium (1) the ranking member of the Legislative
199 Regulation Review Committee shall be appointed by the minority
200 leader, and (2) the ranking member of the Legislative Program Review
201 and Investigations Committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the
202 House.

203 (c) Number of Leaders. The number of members appointed to the
204 positions of assistant majority leader and majority whip shall not
205 exceed thirty-three per cent of the total membership of the majority
206 party in the House. The number of members appointed to the positions
207 of assistant minority leader shall not exceed thirty-three per cent of the
208 total membership of the minority party in the House. Notwithstanding
209 the provisions of this subsection, the chairpersons of the bonding
210 subcommittees of the joint standing committee on finance, revenue
211 and bonding may be assistant majority leaders and the ranking
212 members of said subcommittees may be assistant minority leaders.

213 (d) Committees. The staff clerks of the standing committees shall be
214 appointed by the speaker of the House. Chairpersons of sub-
215 committees may be appointed by the chairpersons of the respective
216 standing committees with the approval of the speaker of the House.

217 All standing committee members shall be appointed by the speaker
218 on or before the fifth regular session day of the first year of the term,
219 except to fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity, or resignation or
220 removal from the House or from a committee, and except that the
221 speaker may appoint any member elected after the fifth regular session
222 day of the first year of the term to any committee, within five calendar
223 days after the member takes the oath of office. The member first
224 named shall be chairperson. All members of standing committees shall
225 serve for both sessions of the term, except that: (i) The speaker may
226 accept the resignation, for good cause, of a member of a standing
227 committee prior to the expiration of the term, and (ii) the speaker may
228 remove a member, provided the speaker's removal of a member of the

229 minority party shall require the concurrence of the minority leader.
230 Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and sub-committee chairpersons shall
231 serve for both sessions of the term unless removed by the speaker.

232 (e) Referrals to Committees. (1) The House may refer any matter to a
233 committee either before or after the deadline of that committee (i) at
234 any regular session of the House or (ii) at a technical session of the
235 House provided the majority leader has notified the minority leader or
236 the minority leader's designee in writing, not later than 5 p.m. the day
237 before the technical session, of the majority leader's intent to move for
238 the referral, and received the approval of the minority leader or the
239 minority leader's designee for the referral, and provided further that
240 no matter may be recommitted at a technical session.

241 (2) The House may but need not refer to a committee before or after
242 its deadline a bill or resolution that was favorably or unfavorably
243 reported by another committee, except that every bill and resolution
244 shall be referred to the committees on Legislative Management,
245 Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Government
246 Administration and Elections, or Judiciary if such referral is
247 specifically required under Joint Rule 3 or subsection (e) of Joint Rule
248 15.

249 (f) Meetings in Representatives' Chamber. Committee meetings
250 shall not be held in the representatives' chamber on session days.

251 REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

252 21. The order of business shall be as follows:

253 1. Reception of petitions.

254 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary of the
255 state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee reports and
256 special reports.

257 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

258 4. Reports of committees.

259 5. Reception of business from the senate.

260 6. Business on the calendar.

261 7. Miscellaneous.

262 RULES AND MOTIONS

263 22. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2000
264 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the
265 House whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent
266 with the standing rules and orders of the House or the joint rules of the
267 senate and the House of Representatives.

268 23. The rules of the House shall take precedence over the joint rules
269 of the House and senate or Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure in
270 the event of conflict.

271 24. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the House by the
272 speaker before any debate is had thereon.

273 25. When a motion is stated by the speaker, or read by the clerk, it
274 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the House.

275 It may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or
276 amendment, but not after amendment, unless the House approves by a
277 majority vote.

278 26. The question first moved shall be first put, except as modified in
279 Rule 28.

280 27. If the question under debate consists of two or more
281 independent propositions any member may move to have the question
282 divided. If the House adopts the motion to divide, the speaker shall
283 rule on the order of voting on the divisions of a question.

284 28. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received
285 except:

286 1. To adjourn, which is not debatable

287 2. To recess

288 3. To postpone temporarily retaining position on the calendar

289 4. To pass until next session day retaining position on calendar

290 5. To close the debate at a specified time

291 6. To postpone to a certain time

292 7. To refer or recommit to a committee

293 8. To amend

294 9. To place at foot of calendar.

295 These motions shall have precedence in the order listed in this rule,
296 except that a point of order may be raised at any time.

297 29. When the consideration of a question regularly on the calendar
298 is interrupted by adjournment, the question comes up in its proper
299 place on the next session day's calendar.

300 30. A vote can be reconsidered only on the next regular succeeding
301 session day, provided there shall be no reconsideration of the vote
302 upon the following motions: To adjourn, or to reconsider, and no
303 question shall be twice reconsidered.

304 AMENDMENTS

305 31. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the House before
306 10 a.m. on the day on which the bill or resolution is to be acted upon,
307 except that (1) the following may each sponsor or authorize
308 amendments at any time: The presiding officer, the majority leader or,

309 in the majority leader's absence, the majority leader's designated
310 deputy majority leader, the minority leader or in the minority leader's
311 absence, the minority leader's designated deputy minority leader; (2)
312 the presiding officer may waive the filing requirement upon the
313 request of the majority leader or the minority leader; (3) after any
314 amendment or amendments have been adopted, any member may
315 offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to the
316 amendment or amendments adopted.

317 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this rule, if a bill or resolution
318 has been scheduled for consideration on a date certain pursuant to a
319 special order, all amendments relating to that bill or resolution must be
320 filed with the clerk of the House before 5 p.m. on the last day the
321 clerk's office is open preceding the day on which the bill or resolution
322 has been scheduled for consideration. The only exceptions to this filing
323 requirement shall be: (1) The persons named in subdivision (1) of
324 subsection (a) of this rule may each sponsor an amendment at any
325 time; (2) after any amendment or amendments have been adopted, any
326 member may offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to
327 the amendment or amendments adopted.

328 (c) Members may co-sponsor an amendment that is in the
329 possession of the clerk of the House, or remove their names as co-
330 sponsors, by submitting a written request to the clerk not later than 10
331 a.m. on the day following adoption or rejection of the amendment,
332 excluding weekends and holidays. Co-sponsorship of an amendment
333 does not constitute co-sponsorship of the bill it would amend unless
334 the member so specifies pursuant to Joint Rule 7(f).

335 (d) After a motion for passage of a bill or resolution has been made,
336 a motion to amend the bill or resolution is in order.

337 A pending amendment may not be amended. No substitute
338 amendment may be offered for a pending amendment.

339 (e) No independent new question may be introduced as an

340 amendment.

341 (f) Whenever a bill is amended, the speaker may order that it be
342 returned to the legislative commissioners for the purposes of re-
343 examination pursuant to Joint Rule 13 and for reprinting as amended.

344 SEATS

345 32. Immediately after the adoption of these rules the speaker shall
346 appoint a committee of four, who shall assign seats to all members of
347 the House.

348 33. The seats assigned to members shall be their seats for their term
349 of office.

350 REPRESENTATIVES' CHAMBER

351 34. Use of the representatives' chamber shall not be granted for non-
352 legislative use during a General Assembly session except by a vote of
353 the House, or by a vote of the legislative management committee or
354 with the permission of the speaker. The speaker shall grant use of the
355 chamber for legislative use and between General Assembly sessions.

356 PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

357 35. No debate shall be allowed after a question is put and while it
358 remains undecided.

359 36. In all cases when a voice vote is taken without a division, the
360 speaker shall determine whether it is or is not a vote; and in all
361 doubtful cases the speaker shall state "The chair is in doubt."
362 Whereupon, the speaker shall try the question again by a voice vote or
363 roll call, as the speaker may so order.

364 After the speaker has declared a vote, it shall not be taken again
365 unless by a regular motion for reconsideration, made by a member in
366 the prevailing vote of the House.

367 37. If a division is called for, the House shall divide, those in the
368 affirmative first rising from their seats and standing until counted, and
369 afterwards those in the negative. For the purpose of more conveniently
370 counting upon the division of the House, the floor thereof shall be
371 divided by aisles into four divisions, to be numbered first, second,
372 third and fourth sections, commencing on the right of the chair; for
373 each of which divisions the speaker shall appoint a member whose
374 seat is in said division to be a teller and to count and report to the
375 chair.

376 38. In case of a tie vote or an equal division, the question shall not be
377 passed.

378 39. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all
379 final action on all bills, resolutions proposing amendments to the
380 constitution and all other substantive resolutions, except bills and
381 resolutions on the consent calendar. On all other questions, a roll call
382 vote shall be taken at the request of one-fifth of the members present,
383 expressed at any time before a declaration of the vote. In the event the
384 roll call machine is not functioning properly, the roll may be called by
385 the clerk.

386 40. Every member present in the House chamber, when a question is
387 put by the speaker, shall vote, unless excused by the speaker and no
388 member shall absent herself or himself from the House chamber
389 without leave, unless there is a quorum without such member's
390 presence.

391 Whenever any vote is to be taken, the speaker may order the doors
392 closed and thereupon no member shall leave the House unless by
393 permission of the speaker, or the House, until the vote is declared, but
394 members shall be admitted at any time.

395 When a vote has been taken, if any member raises a question of an
396 excess of votes cast over the number of members present, a count of
397 the House shall be had, and if it appears that such excess of votes

398 exists, the speaker shall order the vote to be again taken.

399 41. No representative may vote or change his or her vote on a roll
400 call after the speaker has requested that the clerk announce the tally.

401 42. While the House is in session, admission to the floor of the
402 House shall be limited to members of the General Assembly,
403 authorized members of the press, authorized staff of the General
404 Assembly, and such other persons as may be authorized by the
405 presiding officer. On any day during which the House is in session,
406 lobbyists shall be prohibited from the floor of the House except during
407 a public hearing on the floor of the House or as may be authorized by
408 the presiding officer for purposes of recognition or ceremony.

409 Electronic media equipment and media personnel shall occupy only
410 those areas designated by the presiding officer.

411 Proper facilities for transmitting messages to members of the House
412 shall be provided by the clerk and administered by the messengers.

413 The sergeant at arms, doorkeepers and messengers shall enforce this
414 rule and shall see that the aisles and the seats of the members are not
415 occupied by persons other than members of the General Assembly,
416 while the House is in session.

417 43. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such
418 bills and resolutions as the majority leader and the minority leader or
419 their designees shall agree, and shall be proposed to the House by the
420 majority leader or the designee of the majority leader in the form of a
421 motion to move to the consent calendar. The consent calendar may be
422 acted upon on the day of such motion or on a subsequent day. At the
423 request of a member made from the floor any bill or resolution shall be
424 removed from those included in the motion. All bills and resolutions
425 starred for action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion
426 without discussion unless, at any time prior to the motion for passage,
427 a member requests from the floor removal of a bill or resolution from

428 the consent calendar in which case such bill or resolution shall be so
429 removed and placed on the regular calendar. Any bill or resolution so
430 removed shall be considered as having appeared on the regular
431 calendar for a period of time equivalent to that during which it
432 appeared on the consent calendar.

433 44. Upon motion made and adopted, the House may schedule
434 consideration of any matter appearing on the calendar for a date
435 certain by special order, but no sooner than the later of (i) the second
436 day, excluding weekends and holidays, after the adoption of the
437 special order or (ii) the day after the matter first appears on the
438 calendar double starred.

439 RESTRICTIONS

440 45. No person shall smoke in the House chamber or the gallery. No
441 person shall conduct a conversation on a wireless telephone or similar
442 device in the House chamber while the House is meeting. No person
443 shall take or possess a sign, banner, placard or other display material
444 in the gallery. The presiding officer and the sergeant at arms shall
445 enforce this rule.

446 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

447 46. These rules shall not be altered, amended or suspended except
448 by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

449 47. Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session
450 day. Suspension of the rules shall be for a specified purpose. Upon
451 accomplishment of that purpose, any rule suspended shall be again in
452 force.