



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Senate Resolution No. 1**

LCO No. 490



Referred to Committee on NO COMMITTEE

Introduced by:

SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RULES OF THE SENATE.**

Resolved by the Senate:

1 That the following are the Senate Rules for the 2015 and 2016  
2 sessions:

3 1. The President shall take the chair on each session day, at the hour  
4 to which the Senate stands adjourned. The President shall thereupon  
5 call the Senate to order and after prayer and recitation of the pledge of  
6 allegiance, if a quorum is present, proceed to business.

7 2. In the absence of a quorum, the President may adjourn the Senate  
8 to a subsequent time on that day or to the next session day. At all other  
9 times an adjournment shall be pronounced by the President on motion.

10 3. The President shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide  
11 all questions of order, upon which no debate shall be allowed except at  
12 the request of the President; but the decision shall be subject to an  
13 appeal to the Senate which must be seconded and on which no  
14 member shall speak more than once. No other business shall be in  
15 order until such appeal is disposed of.

16       4. The President shall rise to put a question or to address the Senate,  
17 but may read sitting.

18       5. If there is any disturbance, disorderly conduct or other activity in  
19 or about the Senate Chamber which, in the opinion of the presiding  
20 officer, may impede the orderly transaction of the business of the  
21 Senate, the presiding officer may take such action as is deemed  
22 necessary to preserve and restore order.

23       6. If the President while presiding, wishes to leave the chair, the  
24 president pro tempore shall preside, or, in the absence of the president  
25 pro tempore, the president pro tempore's designee shall preside for a  
26 period not exceeding one day.

27       7. Within one week after appointment, the President Pro Tempore  
28 shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains, and if  
29 such nominations are confirmed by the Senate by a majority vote, the  
30 candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the 2015 and  
31 2016 sessions.

32       8. The clerk shall keep a journal of the Senate, and shall enter therein  
33 a record of each day's proceedings and record any amendment that  
34 may be offered to any bill or resolution.

35       9. (a) Upon acceptance of a Senate agenda, the clerk's office shall act  
36 upon the items listed as indicated and shall incorporate the items by  
37 reference in the Senate journal and Senate transcript. The clerk shall  
38 keep a Calendar on which he or she shall enter daily (1) all bills and  
39 joint resolutions received from the House for action except (a) bills and  
40 resolutions which do not have a favorable report of a joint committee  
41 which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be referred without further  
42 action to the appropriate committee, (b) all bills and joint resolutions  
43 received from the House for action by the Senate which have not been  
44 referred by the Senate to any committee, and (2) all bills and  
45 resolutions favorably reported to the Senate from any committee; and  
46 these shall be entered on the Calendar in the order in which they are

47 received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the  
48 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files  
49 and on the Calendar, with a file number for two session days and shall  
50 be starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:

51 (A) A resolution may be acted on in accordance with joint rule 17(b),

52 (B) A bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of  
53 the general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and  
54 acted upon first by the Senate with the consent of the speaker; and if  
55 filed in the Senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the  
56 House with the consent of the president pro tempore,

57 (C) Any bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of  
58 the general statutes, may be acted upon immediately in the first house,  
59 may be transmitted immediately to the second house and may be acted  
60 upon immediately when received by the second house,

61 (D) If the Senate rejects an amendment adopted by the House, the  
62 bill or resolution after final action by the Senate may be transmitted  
63 immediately to the House, or if the House rejects an amendment  
64 adopted by the Senate, the bill or resolution when received from the  
65 House may be placed immediately on the Calendar,

66 (E) During the last five calendar days of the session, if the Senate  
67 rejects an amendment adopted by the House, or adopts a Senate  
68 amendment to a bill or resolution received from the House, or takes  
69 any action on the bill or resolution requiring further action by the  
70 House, the bill or resolution after final action in the Senate, may be  
71 transmitted immediately to the House, or if the House rejects an  
72 amendment adopted by the Senate or adopts a House amendment to a  
73 bill or resolution received from the Senate, or takes any action on the  
74 bill or resolution requiring further action by the Senate, the bill or  
75 resolution when received from the House may be placed immediately  
76 on the calendar and may be acted upon immediately,

77 (F) During the last five calendar days of the session, any bill or  
78 resolution after final action by the Senate may be transmitted  
79 immediately to the House, or

80 (G) During the last five calendar days of the session, any bill or  
81 resolution received by the Senate after final action by the House may  
82 be placed on the calendar immediately.

83 All bills and resolutions starred for action shall be acted upon only  
84 when reached in their regular order, and any bill or resolution passed  
85 over when so reached shall retain its place on the Calendar unless it is  
86 passed temporarily, put on the foot of the Calendar or its consideration  
87 is made the order of the day for some specified time.

88 (b) On any day that is not scheduled as a session day, the President  
89 Pro Tempore and the Minority Leader, or their designees, may call the  
90 Senate into session for purposes of transacting business of a procedural  
91 nature by filing with the clerk or the clerk's designee a written  
92 instruction to conduct a pro forma Senate session with or without the  
93 presence of a senator. Said direction shall include a written motion to  
94 adopt the day's Senate agenda and act on all items as indicated and  
95 incorporate the items by reference into the Senate journal and Senate  
96 transcript. Said motion shall be read into the record and shall have the  
97 same force and effect as if the Senate were convened with a presiding  
98 officer and senator.

99 10. The clerk shall retain all bills, resolutions and other papers, in  
100 reference to which any member has a right to move a reconsideration,  
101 until the right of reconsideration has expired, and no longer.

102 11. The clerk shall also keep a record of all petitions, resolutions,  
103 and bills for all acts which are presented for the consideration of the  
104 Senate, and said record shall be so kept as to show by a single  
105 reference the action of the Senate on each of them to that date.

106 12. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform the

107 same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The bill  
108 clerk and the journal clerk shall perform such duties as are assigned to  
109 them by the clerk.

110 13. The clerk shall cause the journals and calendars to be distributed  
111 on the desks of the members daily, before the opening of the session.

112 14. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question  
113 without leave of the Senate, except to explain.

114 15. No member who is interested in the decision of any question in  
115 such manner that he or she cannot vote thereon may stay in the Senate  
116 when such question is discussed or decided.

117 16. If a member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and  
118 order of the Senate, the president shall, or any member may, call such  
119 member to order; and if speaking, such member shall sit down, unless  
120 permitted to explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the  
121 rules and orders, such member may be required by the Senate, on  
122 motion, to make satisfaction therefor, and until satisfaction has been  
123 made shall not be allowed to vote or speak except by way of excuse.

124 17. If a candidate for the Senate notifies the clerk on or before the  
125 opening day of the session that such candidate contests the results of  
126 the election for his or her district, a committee of three shall be  
127 appointed by the President Pro Tempore within the first two days of  
128 the session. If a candidate for the Senate in a special election notifies  
129 the clerk no later than fourteen days following such election that such  
130 candidate contests the results of the election for his or her district, a  
131 committee of three shall be appointed by the president pro tempore no  
132 later than sixteen days following such election. The committee shall  
133 take into consideration such contested election and report the facts  
134 with its opinion thereon.

135 18. The majority leader shall be elected by the members of the  
136 majority party in the Senate. The other leaders of the majority party in

137 the Senate and the chairperson and vice chairpersons of each standing  
138 committee shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
139 Senate. Chairpersons and vice chairpersons shall serve at the pleasure  
140 of the president pro tempore and the majority leader. The clerks of the  
141 standing committees and the chairpersons of the subcommittees  
142 thereof shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the respective  
143 committees with the approval of the president pro tempore of the  
144 Senate. The minority leader shall be elected by the members of the  
145 minority party in the Senate and the other leaders of the minority  
146 party in the Senate shall be appointed by the minority leader. The  
147 minority leader shall appoint ranking minority members to each  
148 standing committee. Such ranking members shall serve at the pleasure  
149 of the minority leader. All standing committee members shall be  
150 appointed by the president pro tempore by the fifth regular session  
151 day of the first year of the term, except to fill a vacancy caused by  
152 death or incapacity or resignation from the Senate or from a  
153 committee; and except that the president pro tempore may appoint  
154 any member elected after the fifth regular session day of the first year  
155 of the term to any committee within five calendar days after the  
156 member takes the oath of office. Not more than nine senators shall be  
157 appointed to any standing committee, except that the joint standing  
158 committees on Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding  
159 shall consist of not more than eleven senators. The member first named  
160 shall be chairperson. The chairperson of each committee may appoint  
161 one of the members of the committee as clerk thereof. All Senate  
162 leaders, standing committee assignments, chairpersons, vice  
163 chairpersons and clerks and subcommittee chairpersons shall serve for  
164 both the 2015 and the 2016 sessions.

165 19. The order of business shall be as follows:

- 166 1. Reception of petitions.
- 167 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary  
168 of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee

169 reports and reports.

170 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

171 4. Reports of committees.

172 5. Reception of business from the House.

173 6. Business on the calendar.

174 7. Introduction of guests.

175 8. Miscellaneous business.

176 9. Resolutions removed from consent calendar.

177 20. Before any petition or resolution is received, a brief statement of  
178 its object shall be made by the introducer.

179 21. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the Senate by the  
180 president before any debate is had thereon, and every motion shall be  
181 reduced to writing if the president so directs or any member desires it.

182 22. When a motion is stated by the president, or read by the clerk, it  
183 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Senate. It may be  
184 withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment,  
185 but not after amendment, unless the Senate gives leave.

186 23. If the question under debate consists of two or more  
187 independent propositions any member may move to have the question  
188 divided. The president shall rule on the order of voting on the  
189 divisions of a question.

190 24. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all  
191 final action on bills on the regular calendar and on all other questions  
192 at the desire of one-fifth of the members present, expressed at any time  
193 before a declaration of the vote.

194 25. Whenever the result of a vote as stated by the presiding officer is

195 doubted, it shall be taken again by rising.

196       26. When a vote has been taken, it shall be in order for any senator  
197 on the prevailing side to move for a reconsideration thereof on the day  
198 of the vote or on the next succeeding session day, if the bill is still in  
199 the possession of the Senate; provided also that there shall be no  
200 reconsideration of the following motions: To adjourn, for the previous  
201 question or to reconsider, and no question shall be twice reconsidered.

202       27. Pairs may be made by senators whose votes if they were present  
203 would be cast on opposite sides of any question, by filing with the  
204 clerk of the Senate a memorandum, containing the names of the  
205 senators, and their votes, who are thus paired and the subject matter or  
206 matters to which such pairs apply. Senators making any such pairs  
207 shall be excused from voting upon the merits of the matters involved  
208 while the pair continues, but no pairs shall operate while both of the  
209 senators paired are present.

210       28. Persons, other than members of the General Assembly, shall not  
211 be permitted on the floor of the Senate while it is in session. Lobbyists  
212 shall be prohibited from the floor of the Senate on any day during  
213 which the Senate is in session except during a public hearing in the  
214 Senate chamber. This rule shall not apply to the staff of the General  
215 Assembly, to any state or municipal official or member of the media  
216 who has been given permission to be on the Senate floor by the  
217 president of the Senate, president pro tempore, majority leader or  
218 minority leader, or to persons invited to the Senate for purposes of  
219 recognition or ceremony. Other persons who desire to speak with a  
220 member of the Senate while it is in session shall communicate such  
221 desire through one of the messengers and shall not converse with such  
222 member in the chamber while the Senate is in session.

223       29. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received  
224 except:

225               1. To adjourn.



- 226           2. To recess.
- 227           3. For the previous question.
- 228           4. To close the debate at a specified time.
- 229           5. To pass temporarily.
- 230           6. To pass retain.
- 231           7. To postpone to a certain time.
- 232           8. To commit or recommit.
- 233           9. To divide the question.
- 234           10. To amend.
- 235           11. To refer to another committee.
- 236           12. To postpone indefinitely.
- 237           13. To place at foot of calendar.

238           These several motions shall have precedence in the order listed in  
239           this rule, and no motion to commit or recommit, to continue to the next  
240           General Assembly or to postpone indefinitely, having been once  
241           decided, shall be again allowed at the same session and at the same  
242           state of the bill or subject matter.

243           30. Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the Senate before 12  
244           noon on the day the bill is acted upon. Exceptions to this rule shall be  
245           allowed (1) upon approval of any two of the following: The president  
246           pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of  
247           the Senate or (2) in the case of bills or resolutions not starred for action  
248           or bills or resolutions reported in accordance with subparagraph (a) of  
249           paragraph (d) of Rule 15 of the joint rules of the Senate and the House  
250           of Representatives.

251 Any member who offers an amendment, originating in the Senate  
252 which, if adopted, would reduce state revenues or increase state  
253 expenditures by a specified amount or which would involve a  
254 significant fiscal impact, shall make available to the president,  
255 president pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate and the  
256 minority leader of the Senate at the time the amendment is offered, in  
257 addition to a fiscal note, a signed and typewritten explanation, of the  
258 decrease in expenditures or the source of the increased revenues  
259 required to balance the state budget.

260 Whenever a bill or resolution is substantively amended, it may be  
261 referred to the legislative commissioners to be re-examined for the  
262 purposes set forth in Rule 13 of the joint rules of the Senate and the  
263 House of Representatives and to be reprinted as amended. The  
264 legislative commissioners' office shall complete its examination of any  
265 such bill within three calendar days of its receipt. It shall then be  
266 printed in the files with a file number and marked on the calendar  
267 starred for action on the session day on which it appears.

268 31. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such  
269 bills and resolutions as the majority and minority leaders of the  
270 respective house shall designate. All bills and resolutions starred for  
271 action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion without  
272 discussion unless, at any time before voting has commenced, a  
273 member requests removal of a bill or resolution from the consent  
274 calendar in which case such bill or resolution shall be so removed.

275 32. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2010  
276 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the  
277 Senate whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent  
278 with the standing rules and orders of the Senate or the joint rules of the  
279 Senate and House of Representatives.

280 33. The rules of the Senate shall take precedence over the joint rules  
281 of the Senate and House of Representatives or Mason's Manual of  
282 Legislative Procedure in the event of conflict.

283 34. No person shall smoke in the Senate chamber or the gallery. No  
284 person shall operate a wireless telephone or similar device in the  
285 Senate chamber or gallery or use any such device to take photographs  
286 or to make video or sound recordings while the Senate is in session.  
287 The presiding officer shall enforce this rule.

288 35. These rules shall not be altered, amended or suspended except  
289 by vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

290 Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session day.  
291 Suspension of a rule shall be for a specified purpose; after the  
292 accomplishment of such purpose, the rule shall remain in force as  
293 before.

294 36. Every member present in the Senate Chamber when a question  
295 is put by the presiding officer shall vote, unless excused under Rule 15.