

2017 -- S 0531 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED
And
2018 -- S 2967

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE FOR YEARS 2017-2018

Introduced By: Senator Erin P. Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: March 07, 2017

Referred To: Senate Rules

1 RESOLVED, That the following rules be and the same are hereby adopted as the rules of
2 the Senate for the years 2017-2018.

SECTION 1.

DEFINITIONS

5 As used in these rules, the following terms are defined as follows:

6 **1.1 "Bill"** shall include any act, resolve, resolution or petition which comes before the
7 senate for consideration.

8 **1.2 "Day"** as used in these rules is intended and shall be construed to mean one full
9 legislative day of the same session.

10 **1.3 "Legislative Day"** is a period of time which begins when the senate meets after an
11 adjournment and ends when the senate next adjourns. A legislative day is not defined by, or
12 confined to, a calendar day.

13 **1.4 "Public Bill"** shall include all bills except: those which pertain to a particular city or
14 town; those which relate to an individual's pension and retirement; those which pertain to
15 restoration of corporation charters, and to amendments to authorized holdings by nonprofit
16 organizations of a charitable, civic, library or like nature; resolutions memorializing congress, or
17 of congratulations, or expressing sympathy or condolences, and all resolutions requesting the
18 several departments of state government to grant some privilege, consideration or relief.

1 **1.5 "Prime Sponsor"** shall be that senator whose signature first appears upon the bill.

2 **1.6 "President Pro Tempore"** is a member of the senate elected to that position, who
3 presides over the senate in the absence of the president of the senate.

4 **1.7 "Deputy President Pro Tempore"** is a member of the senate appointed by the
5 president of the senate, who may preside over the senate in the absence of the president of the
6 senate and the president pro tempore.

7 **1.8 "Reading Clerk"** is the person elected to that position under provisions of section 22-
8 3-2 of the general laws who shall, at the direction of the presiding officer, read to the chamber any
9 communication to the senate, resolution, bill or other document and who shall, at the direction of
10 the presiding officer, ~~except as provided in section 4.4 hereof,~~ date the bills and other documents
11 before the senate, date recording thereon the action taken and/or the disposition thereof. The
12 reading clerk also shall, at the direction of the senate, amend any bill and transmit any bill to the
13 house of representatives and perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by
14 the president of the senate.

15 **1.9 "Secretary of the Senate"** is the person elected to that position under provisions of
16 section 22-3-2 of the general laws who shall, at the direction of the presiding officer, record the
17 proceedings of the senate in a journal, signing said journal as secretary of the senate, and who shall,
18 upon their referral, deliver bills and other documents to their respective committees, hold and
19 maintain in good order any bill assigned to the calendar or the consent calendar, and transmit any
20 bill or document to the governor. The secretary of the senate also shall perform those duties
21 prescribed in other sections hereof and those which may from time to time be prescribed by the
22 president of the senate.

23 **1.10 "The Rise of the Senate"** occurs upon the conclusion of senate floor business and the
24 exact time varies by the amount of business to be conducted on a particular legislative day.

25 **1.11 "The Senate Chamber"** or "**Chamber**" shall include the floor, the corridor behind
26 the floor, the cloak room and the senate lounge.

27 **1.12 "Calendar Day"** is that period of 24 hours between 12:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.

28 **1.13 "Vote"** or "**Majority Vote**" as used herein shall mean a majority of members present
29 and voting unless specifically stated otherwise.

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 **PRESIDING OFFICER**

32 **2.1 Presiding Officer.**

33 The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer
34 of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro

1 tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to
2 temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the
3 legislative day on which it is made. In case of a vacancy in the offices of president, president pro
4 tempore and the deputy president pro tempore, or in case all said officers are absent at the hour to
5 which the senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall preside
6 until a president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.

7 **2.2 Duties of the Presiding Officer.**

8 The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum in and about the senate chamber
9 during the senate session in order to prevent interference with the senate's business and
10 deliberations. The presiding officer may speak in preference to the senators, shall decide all
11 questions of order without debate and shall declare all votes. The assignment of bills to committee
12 shall be at the discretion of the president of the senate subject to ~~rule 4.5~~ [section 4.4](#); provided,
13 however, that the president of the senate may delegate such authority to the majority leader of the
14 senate.

15 **2.3 Appealing the Ruling of Presiding Officer.**

16 Any senator may appeal the ruling of the presiding officer by rising as soon as the ruling
17 is made, even though another has the floor and, without waiting to be recognized by the chair,
18 stating, "I appeal the ruling of the chair," and upon such appeal being seconded, the presiding
19 officer shall immediately and without debate put the question, "Shall the ruling of the chair be
20 sustained?", which question shall be decided by majority vote of the senators present and voting.
21 Once sustained, the ruling shall not be subject to another appeal on the same point.

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 **ORDER OF BUSINESS ON THE SENATE FLOOR**

24 **3.1 Commencement of Daily Session.**

25 The presiding officer shall take the chair at the hour to which the senate shall have
26 ~~adjourned~~ [convened](#), call the senators to order, and record attendance by electronic roll call. A
27 quorum shall consist of 20 members. Upon late arrival, at any time prior to the adjournment of the
28 senate, a senator may report his or her presence to the secretary of the senate who shall record the
29 senator's attendance in the journal.

30 **3.2 Reading the Journal.**

31 The reading clerk of the senate shall, at the commencement of the session of each
32 legislative day, read the proceedings of the previous legislative day, unless such reading is
33 dispensed with by a majority of the senators present and voting.

34 **3.3 Daily Business.**

1 After the reading of the proceedings of the previous legislative day the order of business
2 shall be as follows unless otherwise ordered by the President of the Senate:

3 (1) Introduction of guests

4 (2) Communications

5 (3) Reports of committees

6 (4) Introduction and reference of new business

7 (5) Unfinished business

8 (6) Consideration of house transmittals

9 (7) Consent calendar

10 (8) Calendar

11 (9) Introduction of guests

12 (10) Personal privilege

13 (11) Address of important matters

14 (12) Daily adjournment

15 **3.4 Final Adjournment.**

16 The last order of business of the annual session of the senate shall be the vote in conformity
17 with the resolution of final adjournment or recess which must be carried by a majority vote of the
18 senators present and voting.

19 **3.5 Time for Sessions.**

20 Unless otherwise provided for by agreement of president of the senate, the majority leader
21 and minority leader, sessions of the senate shall convene at 4:00 p.m. All sessions must adjourn at
22 or before 11:00 p.m.

23 **SECTION 4.**

24 **ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

25 **4.1 Form of Bills.**

26 Every bill offered which is intended to amend any part or parts of an existing statute, any
27 part or parts intended to be stricken shall be contained in the bill and by appropriate mechanical
28 mark, struck through. All new matter contained in the bill shall be underlined, underscored or
29 printed in italics so that the new matter shall be easily discerned. If the bill contains all new matter
30 constituting a totally new law or a totally new section, and the bill itself so indicates, no underlining,
31 underscoring or italics shall be required. Every bill containing a commission to which appointments
32 shall be made shall be indicated in the title of such bill.

33 No bill without a body or substantive content shall be introduced at any time, nor shall a
34 substitute bill be accepted which is not consistent with the title and substance of the original bill.

1 All bills introduced on behalf of any general officer, branch, department or division of state
2 government shall state on the face sheet thereof with the title of the general officer or the name of
3 the branch, department or division on whose behalf the bill is introduced.

4 A prime sponsor may withdraw a bill or resolution previously introduced at any time prior
5 to its consideration by a committee, upon written request to the secretary of the senate.

6 Other than the prime sponsor of a bill, a senator may elect in writing to the secretary of the
7 senate to have ~~his/her~~ his or her name disassociated from the bill and the secretary of the senate
8 shall immediately notify the committee clerk to which the bill is assigned.

9 All bills shall be processed through legislative council.

10 **4.2 Explanation of Bills.**

11 There shall be attached to each bill a brief explanation thereof and the explanation of such
12 bill shall indicate the proposed changes, and/or the statute or existing law which such bill purports
13 to amend.

14 **4.3 Copies of Bills.**

15 Each bill introduced shall be accompanied by not less than eight (8) copies thereof, with
16 said copies delivered by the secretary of the senate to the office of the president of the senate for
17 subsequent distribution as determined by the president of the senate. Nothing in this section shall
18 prevent a senator from obtaining a preliminary draft of legislation for ~~his/her~~ his or her review prior
19 to introduction.

20 **4.4 Prefiling**

21 ~~A bill or resolution may be filed by delivery to the secretary of the senate at any time from~~
22 ~~November 15 to the day prior to the commencement of the annual session. The secretary of the~~
23 ~~senate shall order it printed by Legislative Council and make said bill or resolution available for~~
24 ~~first reading on the second legislative day of the succeeding session.~~

25 **4.5 4.4 Filing with Secretary of the Senate**

26 All senators desiring to introduce a bill shall file the bill with the secretary of the senate
27 not later than the time at which the presiding officer calls the senate to order. The secretary of the
28 senate shall transmit to the office of the president of the senate all bills on the legislative day of
29 their introduction. On the day of introduction, the president shall, upon adjournment, assign bills
30 to committee. The secretary of the senate shall cause all bills introduced to be published in the
31 senate journal for that legislative day. Any senator may object to the committee assignment of any
32 bill on the first or second legislative day following the bill's introduction. Upon objection being
33 made, the presiding officer shall assign the bill to the committee requested by the senator making
34 the objection; provided, however, that if another senator objects to any assignment or proposed

1 assignment of the bill, then the presiding officer shall call for a vote of the senate on any motion
2 for assignment which has been made and seconded, such motion requiring a majority vote of those
3 Senators present and voting for assignment to a particular committee. First reading of all such bills
4 and resolutions shall be by acceptance of the bill and the committee assignment.

5 **4.6 4.5 Deadline for Introductions.**

6 No public bill shall be introduced in the senate after ~~Thursday, February 12, 2015 for the~~
7 ~~year 2015 and February 11, 2016~~ the second Thursday in February of each session, except with the
8 consent of the President of the Senate. Except as otherwise expressly directed by the president of
9 the senate, all requests for the preparation of public bills shall be submitted to the offices of
10 Legislative Council no later than the close of business on the Friday next preceding the bill-
11 introduction deadline set forth herein.

12 **4.7 4.6 Omnibus Claims Against the State.**

13 Claims against the state in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less shall not be
14 presented in bill or resolution form, but shall be submitted to the clerk of the joint committee on
15 accounts and claims in writing upon a form approved by the chairperson of the joint committee on
16 accounts and claims. Any claims approved by the joint committee shall be submitted in the form
17 of an omnibus bill which will be placed upon the consent calendar.

18 **4.8 4.7 Resolutions of Congratulations and Condolences.**

19 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, all resolutions of congratulations or
20 expressing sympathy or condolences except with respect to former and present members of the
21 general assembly, general officers, members of the judiciary and elected state or federal officials,
22 shall be placed on the consent calendar, unless otherwise ordered by the president of the senate.
23 Said resolution of congratulations and condolences shall not require concurrent action; upon
24 passage, shall be forthwith transmitted to the secretary of state, and an appropriate notice of the
25 action of the senate thereon shall be forwarded, as requested in the resolution, by the secretary of
26 state. One formal resolution may include all the expressions of sympathy or congratulations of the
27 several senators.

28 **4.9 4.8 Enactment of Laws.**

29 The concurrence of the two houses in the same session shall be necessary for the enactment
30 of all bills except for senate resolutions.

31 **4.10 4.9 Electronic Availability of Public Bills--Requirements.**

32 **4.10-1 4.9-1 Public Bills.**

33 No public bill shall be considered upon its merits unless it has been electronically available
34 to the members at least two (2) calendar days prior to its consideration on the merits, except any

1 public bill passed by the senate and amended by the house, provided that the amended public bill
2 shall be electronically available to the senators before consideration.

3 ~~4.10-2~~ 4.9-2 Committee Amendments.

4 Except by majority vote, no public bill amended in a committee of the senate shall be
5 considered upon the senate floor unless it has been electronically available to the senators.

6 ~~4.10-3.~~ 4.9-3 Materially Altered Bills.

7 Whenever a committee shall have determined to report a bill which has been materially
8 altered by the committee, the committee chair shall forthwith provide for printing and electronic
9 reproduction of the same. In the event that a bill is not deemed to have been materially altered,
10 which determination shall be made by the committee chair, a bill shall be printed only upon the
11 request of the president of the senate, the majority leader or the minority leader. Nothing in these
12 rules shall preclude the committee chair, with a majority of the committee, to change an act to a
13 resolution or a resolution to an act on a substitute bill.

14 ~~4.11~~ 4.10 Copies of Bills and Voting Records.

15 The secretary of the senate shall retain in the files of the senate as many copies of each bill
16 as the secretary of the senate deems necessary and the voting records on each question.

17 ~~4.12~~ 4.11 Requests for Funding of Community Service Objectives.

18 Requests for the funding of community service objectives grants shall not be presented in
19 bill or resolution form, but shall be submitted to the senate fiscal advisor in writing upon a form
20 approved by the chairperson of the senate committee on finance.

21 ~~4.13~~ 4.12 Death of a Member.

22 In the event that any member or member-elect shall die after filing and before consideration
23 by committee, the death of said member or member-elect shall constitute automatic withdrawal of
24 said bill or resolution and automatic withdrawal of the number of said bill or resolution and said
25 number shall not be used again during the legislative session; provided, however, that where a bill
26 or resolution shall have had more than one sponsor, said bill or resolution and number shall not be
27 withdrawn and the member whose name appears second on said bill or resolution shall become the
28 prime sponsor.

29 ~~4.14~~ 4.13 Limitation on Number of Bills Introduced.

30 No Senator shall introduce more than twenty-five (25) public bills during the annual
31 session except with the permission of the President of the Senate.

32 SECTION 5.

33 COMMITTEES

34 5.1 Standing Committees.

1 The senate shall have the following standing committees:

- 2 • Committee on Judiciary
- 3 • Committee on Finance
- 4 • Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
- 5 • Committee on Labor
- 6 • Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs
- 7 • Committee on Health and Human Services
- 8 • Committee on Education
- 9 • Committee on Commerce
- 10 • Committee on Environment and Agriculture
- 11 • Committee on [Rules](#), Government [Ethics and](#) Oversight

12 • ~~Committee on Rules~~

13 **5.1-1 [Committee on Judiciary.](#)**

14 It shall be the duty of the committee on judiciary to consider the appointments of the
15 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all
16 legislation and matters which affect the penal code, judicial system, ethics, open meetings, access
17 to public records and election laws of the state, to maintain oversight over the application, execution
18 and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction, [expulsion of a member](#), and to consider such other
19 matters as may be referred to it by the senate. In the matters of judicial appointments, [expulsion of](#)
20 [a member](#), and those public hearings designated by the committee chair, all testimony shall be
21 under oath and preserved by stenographic record which shall be transcribed upon the order of the
22 chair.

23 **5.1-2 [Committee on Finance.](#)**

24 It shall be the duty of the committee on finance to consider the appointments of the
25 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all
26 legislation and matters relative to revenue, appropriations and taxes, to inquire into the state of the
27 public debt, to report from time to time its opinion thereon and such propositions relative thereto
28 as it shall deem expedient, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of
29 the laws within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the
30 senate. The chair of the committee shall be authorized to appoint as many sub- committees as he
31 or she deems necessary, including, but not limited to, a sub-committee on veterans affairs.

32 **5.1-3 [Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.](#)**

33 It shall be the duty of the committee on housing and municipal government to consider the
34 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of

1 the senate and all legislation and matters affecting housing, municipal government, transportation,
2 to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its
3 jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

4 **5.1-4 Committee on Labor.**

5 It shall be the duty of the committee on labor to consider the appointments of the governor
6 referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all legislation
7 and matters relating to the workers' compensation and labor laws of the state, to maintain oversight
8 over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction and to consider such
9 other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

10 **5.1-5 Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs.**

11 It shall be the duty of the committee on special legislation and veterans' affairs to consider
12 the appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent
13 of the senate and all legislation and matters relating to constitutional amendments, liquor laws,
14 gaming issues, license plates, veterans' affairs, domestic animals, commissions and resolutions, to
15 maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction
16 and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

17 **5.1-6 Committee on Health and Human Services.**

18 It shall be the duty of the committee on health and human services to consider the
19 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of
20 the senate and to consider all reports of the departments of health, of human services, of ~~mental~~
21 ~~health, retardation and hospitals, of children and their families~~ behavioral healthcare,
22 developmental disabilities and hospitals, of children, youth and families, and of elderly affairs; to
23 consider all legislation and matters expanding or defining further areas of responsibility of the
24 foregoing and to consider all legislation and matters relative to public health and welfare; health
25 care and human service access and quality; health and human service professional standards of
26 practice, and facility standards of care; to maintain oversight over the application, execution and
27 operation of the laws within its jurisdiction; and to consider such other matters as may be referred
28 to it by the senate.

29 **5.1-7 Committee on Education.**

30 It shall be the duty of the committee on education to consider the appointments of the
31 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all
32 legislation and matters relating to student performance, governance, programming, teacher
33 preparation and planning, as well as the work and operation of all state agencies regarding all levels
34 of education, make findings, and recommend policy initiatives and other actions to the general

1 assembly. The commission shall also exercise oversight in relation to the implementation of all
2 legislation and grants of authority relating to all levels of public education in the state by all
3 agencies, state and local, charged and empowered by the general assembly in relating to all levels
4 of public education, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws
5 within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

6 **5.1-8 Committee on Commerce.**

7 It shall be the duty of the committee on commerce to consider the appointments of the
8 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all
9 legislation and matters relating to financial institutions, business regulation, property and casualty
10 insurance, technology and telecommunications, for profit as well as not-for-profit business entities,
11 to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its
12 jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

13 **5.1-9 Committee on Environment and Agriculture.**

14 It shall be the duty of the committee on environment and agriculture to consider the
15 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of
16 the senate and all legislation and matters relating to the conservation of the air, land, water, plant,
17 animal, mineral and other natural resources of the state, and to adopt all means necessary and proper
18 by law to protect the natural environment of the people of the state by providing adequate resource
19 planning for the control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and for the
20 preservation, regeneration, and restoration of the natural environment of the state, to maintain
21 oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction and to
22 consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

23 **5.1-10 Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight**

24 It shall be the duty of the committee on rules, government ethics and oversight consider
25 the appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent
26 of the senate, and (1) Consider all matters relating to the rules of the senate; (2) to ensure that the
27 members of the Senate and its staff, through education, monitoring and disseminating the opinions
28 of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, respect
29 the public trust and the rights of all persons, be open, accountable and responsive, avoid the
30 appearance of impropriety, and not use their position for private gain or advantage; (3) to monitor
31 and evaluate past, current and prospective performance of public bodies and statutory entities,
32 including quasi-public agencies that exercise executive governmental functions (except public
33 bodies and statutory entities of the legislative and judiciary branches of the state) and any other
34 public or private person, including any agencies, partnerships, corporation or business entity insofar

1 as such person is acting on behalf of and/or in place of any public agency; ~~(2)~~(4) to consider the
2 organization, reorganization, creation or termination of such public bodies, statutory entities,
3 including quasi-public agencies and public or private persons; ~~(3)~~(5) to review and consider the
4 reports of the auditor general; ~~(4)~~(6) to report its opinion and/or recommendation of legislation or
5 action regarding the foregoing matters; ~~(5)~~(7) to consider any bill referred to it by the senate,
6 including, but not limited to any act, resolve, resolution or petition; and ~~(6)~~(8) to consider such
7 other matters that are referred to it by the senate.

8 ~~5.1-11~~ Committee on Rules.

9 ~~It shall be the duty of the committee on senate rules to consider all matters relating to the~~
10 ~~rules of the senate.~~

11 5.2 Committee Membership.

12 Each of the standing committees of the senate shall consist of the president of the senate,
13 ex officio with voting rights, and the majority and minority leaders of the senate, ex officio, with
14 voting rights, and senators appointed by the president of the senate, each to serve until ~~January 3,~~
15 ~~2017~~ January 1, 2019. Provided, however, that the president of the senate may change the
16 committee assignment of a member with the member's consent; and provided further, however, that
17 each senator other than the president and the majority and minority leaders, shall serve as a member
18 of one of the following standing committees: committee on ~~housing and municipal government~~
19 health and human services; committee on commerce; committee on finance; committee on the
20 judiciary. In addition to the committees appointed by the president of the senate, the majority and
21 minority whips of the senate shall serve ex officio, with voting rights on all standing committees
22 of the senate.

23 5.3 Vacancies on Committees.

24 All vacancies occurring in any committee of the senate shall be filled by the president of
25 the senate.

26 5.4 Officers of Committees.

27 The president of the senate shall appoint from the membership of each committee a chair,
28 vice chair and secretary and such other committee officers as the president of the senate deems
29 appropriate.

30 5.5 Select Committees.

31 The senate may, from time to time, by resolution, provide for the establishment of select
32 committees upon such subjects as it may deem proper, and upon the adoption of such resolution,
33 the president of the senate shall appoint the chair and members thereof, and shall provide for
34 minority party representation. Any committee created pursuant to this rule shall be deemed a

1 standing committee for all purposes of law, including the applicability of section 22-6-2.1 of the
2 general laws.

3 **5.6 Referral to Committee.**

4 No bill shall be considered or acted upon by the senate unless the same has been considered
5 by, reported, or recalled from a committee thereof, or from a joint committee, except as otherwise
6 provided in these rules. All acts seeking to vacate the forfeiture of a charter previously granted
7 under the laws of this state shall not be referred to committee but rather directly assigned to the
8 calendar.

9 **5.7 Committees of Conference.**

10 There shall be appointed from time to time committees of conference to which are referred
11 matters of difference with the house with respect to bills or resolutions. Such committees shall be
12 appointed by the speaker and the president of the senate, and shall be comprised of five (5) members
13 from the house and five (5) members from the senate. At least one (1) member in each chamber
14 shall be a member of the minority party. When possible, one (1) member shall be the prime sponsor
15 of the bill or resolution being considered before the committee of conference and one (1) member
16 shall be from the committee that shall have considered the bill or resolution. The committee may
17 propose any changes within the scope of the bill or resolution, but any action, including changes,
18 taken by committee shall be by a majority vote of the members of each chamber on the committee.
19 The committee report shall be made to both chambers at the same time. Each chamber shall vote
20 to accept or reject the report. A vote by either chamber to accept the report of the committee shall
21 be the final action by that chamber on the bill or resolution. If both chambers vote to accept the
22 report of the committee, the bill is passed or the resolution adopted as of the time the last chamber
23 votes to accept the report. If either chamber rejects the report of the committee, the bill or resolution
24 is defeated and the second chamber shall not be required to consider the committee report. The
25 report of the committee may be accepted or rejected, but it may not be amended. The committee
26 report shall contain the following information: the bill number and title, the members of the
27 committee, the action of the committee, and the signature of the members of the committee
28 accepting or rejecting the report.

29 The conferees shall confine themselves to the differences which exist within bills or
30 resolutions between the house and senate. The presentation of reports of committees of conference
31 shall be in order after having been signed by a majority of the members of the committee of each
32 chamber. Consideration of a report of a committee of conference by the senate shall be in order
33 when it has been made electronically available to all members and listed on the calendar for the
34 required period of time according to these rules.

1 SECTION 6.

2 PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE

3 **6.1 Time for Committee Meetings.**

4 The president of the senate, in consultation with the chairs, shall establish regular calendar
5 days and times for the meetings of all standing committees. The committee chair may call such
6 other meetings as may be required to conduct the business of the committee.

7 **6.2 Committee Agenda – Posting.**

8 At least forty-eight (48) hours before any standing committee meeting, a committee agenda
9 containing the number, title and a short explanation of each bill to be considered ~~must~~ will be placed
10 on the ~~bulletin boards provided for such agenda. The rule shall not apply to bills previously passed~~
11 ~~by the senate and amended by the house. There shall be at least two (2)~~ official general assembly
12 website, as well as on a bulletin ~~boards~~ board ~~for such posting, at least one (1)~~ of which shall be
13 for the public's use and shall be ~~under the control of and~~ situated at the main entrance to the state
14 library. ~~There shall also be at least one (1) bulletin board for the exclusive use of the senators which~~
15 ~~shall be situated in a convenient location.~~ The rule shall not apply to bills previously passed by the
16 senate and amended by the house.

17 **6.3 Convening of Meeting.**

18 The chair of the committee or, in the chair's absence, the vice chair, shall call all regular
19 sessions of the committee, set agenda and proceed with the order of business.

20 **6.4 Public Participation.**

21 **6.4-1 Open Meetings.**

22 Every standing committee meeting, except executive sessions, shall be open to the public
23 during the consideration of all matters coming before it. At such open meetings, persons other than
24 members of the committee may testify at the discretion of the committee chair.

25 **6.4-2 Executive Sessions.**

26 Any standing committee may be called into executive session by the chair or upon motion
27 of one of the committee members if the matter under consideration is deemed by the chair to comply
28 with those provisions of the "Open Meetings" law (chapter 42-46) which provides for closed
29 meetings; provided, however, when the chair of any standing committee calls the committee into
30 executive session, the majority of those members present in the executive session may vote not to
31 meet in executive session after having heard the reasons for such executive session but no other
32 votes shall be permitted in executive sessions. The chair of the committee which may be called into
33 executive session shall provide a general description to the public of the reason for calling such
34 committee into executive session.

1 **6.4-3 Public Hearings.**

2 In the discretion of the chair, public hearings may be advertised in newspapers,
3 stenographic records kept and hearings held at locations other than the state house. The purpose of
4 the public hearing shall be to solicit the comments of the public on the matter being considered. At
5 the public hearing all persons shall be permitted to testify; provided, however, the committee chair
6 may limit the amount of time allotted to speakers except that the prime sponsor shall not have a
7 time limit to speak and shall upon request be the first speaker at the hearing. After the public hearing
8 has been held for a reasonable period and if there are still persons wishing to speak, the committee
9 chair may continue the hearing until another date.

10 **6.5 Hearing and Consideration of Bills.**

11 Upon a written request by the prime sponsor of any public bill received by the secretary of
12 the senate before the closing of the next legislative day after the deadline for introduction as
13 specified in section ~~4.6~~ 4.5 that a committee hearing be held with respect to such bill, the committee
14 chair shall schedule a committee hearing within eight (8) legislative days of such request unless a
15 later date is agreed to by the prime sponsor. "Received" as used herein shall mean receipt in hand
16 by the secretary of the senate or ~~his/her~~ his or her designee. The secretary shall note the date and
17 time of receipt on the request and such notation shall be dispositive. On the same day, the sponsor
18 shall hand deliver copies of the request to the president of the senate and to the committee chair or
19 their designees. The committee shall consider said bill not more than eight (8) legislative days after
20 the committee hearing, unless a later date is agreed to by the prime sponsor. If the committee does
21 not consider the bill then the committee shall be discharged of its responsibility to consider such
22 bill and such bill shall be placed on the senate calendar pursuant to section 7.6 hereof. Consideration
23 by a committee shall mean any one of the following actions: recommendation of passage,
24 recommendation of passage as amended, transfer to another committee, indefinite postponement,
25 hold for further study or defeat of the bill. Provided further, the minority leader may request in
26 writing within twenty-four (24) hours after the deadline for introductions specified in section ~~4.6~~
27 4.5 a hearing on any senate bill in committee. In the event a request is made pursuant to this rule at
28 a time less than sixteen (16) days before the deadline for committee consideration set forth in
29 section 6.9, then such request shall not be proper and shall be automatically denied.

30 **6.6 Quorum.**

31 A committee shall not vote upon any bill in the absence of a quorum which shall consist of
32 a majority of the committee's members; provided, however, that at the discretion of the chair, less
33 than a quorum may conduct any hearing including public hearings.

34 **6.7 Minority Representation.**

1 When there is no minority member present and the committee is to consider a bill, the
2 committee chair shall notify the office of the minority leader. Unless waived by the minority leader,
3 the committee shall not conduct business for a reasonable time not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes
4 or until a minority member of the committee is present. Once a minority member is present, his or
5 her subsequent absence will not require further notice to the minority leader. For purposes of this
6 rule, an independent senator shall be considered to be a minority member.

7 **6.8 Committee Votes.**

8 All votes in committee on public bills shall be a recorded roll call vote. The vote upon all
9 motions or bills not considered a "public bill" shall, upon the request of any member of the
10 committee, be a recorded roll call vote. Otherwise all votes shall be put by yeas and nays.
11 Committee chairs shall submit all bills approved by committee to the floor forthwith, with a record
12 of the committee vote.

13 **6.9 Deadline for Consideration.**

14 After ~~April 9, 2013 for the year 2015 for the year 2015 and April 14, 2016 for the year~~
15 ~~2016~~ the Thursday preceding the spring recess week of each session, committees shall consider
16 only those public bills which have been acted upon and transmitted to the senate by the house of
17 representatives; provided, however, that the president of the senate may request a senate committee
18 to immediately consider a senate bill then in committee and said bill shall be considered by the
19 committee.

20 **6.10 Discharge from Committee.**

21 No bill shall be taken or called from any such committee, or the committee discharged
22 from the consideration thereof, except:

23 Any senator may present a petition, in writing, to discharge a committee from further
24 consideration of a bill which has been in the possession of the committee for thirty (30) legislative
25 days without having been considered, but only one petition on a particular bill may be presented
26 during the course of a session. Prior to presenting the petition, the senator must introduce a
27 resolution of intent to discharge such committee. Such resolution of intent shall contain the bill
28 number and the committee to be discharged. The presiding officer shall cause the resolution of
29 intent to be printed in the journal of the senate. The petition shall be placed in the custody of the
30 presiding officer who shall arrange some convenient place for the signatures of the senators to be
31 placed thereon in the presence of the reading clerk during the hours in which the senate is in session.
32 A signature may be withdrawn by a senator at any time before the petition shall become effective.

33 On the first day of each week, there shall be printed in the journal of the senate the petitions
34 pending under these rules, together with the signatures thereto; provided, however, that as soon as

1 a majority of all the senators elected to the senate shall have affixed their signatures to any such
2 petition to discharge a committee under this rule, the presiding officer shall cause notice thereof to
3 be given to chair and clerk of the committee to which such bill was referred, and such notice shall,
4 thereupon, automatically discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill and the bill
5 shall be placed upon the calendar in accordance with section 7.6 hereof.

6 Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change the deadline for
7 consideration as specified in section 6.9.

8 **6.11 Compelling Committee Action.**

9 If a committee to which a bill has been referred fails to consider such bill within sixteen
10 (16) legislative days of its referral, the prime sponsor of such bill, or a majority of the appointed
11 members, but not less than four (4) committee members, may, in writing, request the chair of the
12 committee, through the presiding officer of the senate, that such bill be considered. The request
13 shall be printed in the journal of the senate. The committee shall consider such bill at its first
14 meeting held at least ~~two (2)~~ three (3) legislative days after such request is made. If the committee
15 does not consider the bill within ~~eight (8)~~ nine (9) legislative days of receipt of the request then the
16 committee shall be discharged of its responsibility to consider such bill and such bill shall be placed
17 on the senate calendar pursuant to section 7.6 hereof. Consideration by a committee shall be
18 interpreted to mean any one of the following actions: recommendation of passage, recommendation
19 of passage as amended, transfer to another committee, indefinite postponement, hold for further
20 study or defeat of the bill. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change the
21 deadline for consideration as specified in section 6.9.

22 **6.12 Defeat of a Bill.**

23 Once a bill is defeated in committee, the same shall not be acted upon or considered again
24 during the same legislative year.

25 **6.13 Indefinite Postponement.**

26 Whenever any bill is postponed indefinitely in committee, the same shall not be acted upon
27 or considered again during the same legislative year.

28 **6.14 Transfer of Bills.**

29 In the event the chair of any standing committee determines that any bill then pending
30 before the committee would more properly be pending before another standing committee of the
31 senate, the chair shall transfer such bill to such other standing committee as is deemed appropriate
32 during the reports of committees.

33 **6.15 Committee Records.**

34 All recorded votes of committees, all written testimony submitted to a committee, and the

1 transcripts of any recorded testimony shall be retained by the clerk of each committee, shall
2 constitute public records, and shall be available for inspection to any senator and to any person
3 upon request. All committee votes, transcripts and testimony shall be transmitted to the secretary
4 of state pursuant to state law and senate policy following final adjournment in even numbered years.

5 **6.16 Attribution of Bills.**

6 Upon presentation of testimony before a committee, the prime sponsor of the bill shall
7 provide to the committee the name of any individual, group or organization responsible for the
8 substantive basis or text of the bill.

9 **SECTION 7.**

10 **PROCEEDINGS ON THE SENATE FLOOR**

11 **7.1 Right to the Floor.**

12 No senator shall address another except through the presiding officer. A senator shall rise
13 to put a question, may state it or read a paper sitting. When any senator wishes to speak or to deliver
14 any matter to the senate, the senator shall press his or her recognition control and the presiding
15 officer shall recognize the senator who so requests recognition and the order of recognition shall
16 be determined by the presiding officer. The senator so recognized shall not be interrupted while
17 speaking except by a call to order or a motion to suspend section 3.5. The senator shall then
18 immediately be seated unless permitted by the senate to proceed, which shall be determined upon
19 motion without debate. No senator shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave
20 of the senate which shall be determined without debate, nor more than once until the other senators
21 who have not spoken shall speak if they so desire, provided, however that a senator may yield his
22 or her right to the floor to another senator.

23 **7.2 Personal Privilege.**

24 Only at the time provided for in section 3.3, a senator may claim the floor to address the
25 senate on personal privilege. Personal privilege shall include the right to reply to criticism, or to
26 discuss anything clearly derogatory to the member or which reflects upon his or her character that
27 appears in the press or other public medium but shall not include the right to discuss favorable
28 references to the senator, nor to reply to generalized criticism of the senate which does not refer to
29 him or to her specifically, nor to attack another member of the senate personally. Whether a
30 member's remarks constitute personal privilege shall be determined by the presiding officer.

31 **7.3 Addressing the Senate on Important Matters.**

32 Only at the time provided for in section 3.3, a senator may request unanimous consent of
33 the senators present to address the senate on a topic or matter of importance to the welfare of the
34 state. A senator granted the right to so address the senate may be interrupted at any time by another

1 senator who wishes to object to the first senator's right to continue to address the senate and upon
2 such objection the first senator's right to address the senate shall terminate.

3 **7.4 Objectionable Language.**

4 No senator shall use profane, insulting, or abusive language or act in any manner that is
5 disruptive to the course of public debate on the senate floor, or in testimony before any committee
6 of the general assembly.

7 **7.5 Priority of Business.**

8 All questions relating to priority of business to be acted upon shall be decided by the
9 presiding officer without debate.

10 **7.6 Calendar.**

11 There shall be a calendar kept by the secretary of the senate upon which shall be placed the
12 bills reported by all committees, and all other matters ordered placed thereon by the senate. Matters
13 on the calendar shall be arranged by the secretary of the senate in numerical order by committee
14 unless otherwise ordered by the president of the senate in agreement with the majority leader and
15 the minority leader. Such calendar shall be electronically available to all members of the senate.
16 Except as provided in section 7.13, and during consideration of the calendar, no other business shall
17 intervene except to receive a communication from the house or a motion to suspend section 3.5.

18 All business on the calendar not disposed of at the time of adjournment shall be first in
19 order on the calendar the next day. No matter of business on the calendar shall be considered upon
20 its merits unless it has been on such calendar for at least two (2) calendar days; except that the
21 president of the senate may order a bill placed on the calendar for less than two (2) calendar days;
22 provided, however, a bill passed by the senate and amended by the house of representatives may
23 be considered by the senate without being on the calendar for two (2) calendar days if the
24 requirements of section ~~4.10-1~~ 4.9-1 have been met.

25 **7.7 Consent Calendar.**

26 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7.6, the secretary of the senate shall also
27 maintain a separate calendar, designated as the consent calendar, upon which shall be placed
28 resolutions required by ~~Rule 4.8~~ section 4.7, acts seeking to vacate the forfeiture of a corporate
29 charter and such other bills as directed by the president of the senate. Matters on the consent
30 calendar shall be in order for disposal on each day and shall include all such matters reported or
31 referred thereto from the previous day. Such consent calendar shall be posted in the chamber of the
32 senate. All matters on the consent calendar shall be disposed by roll call vote on a single motion
33 except such matters as may be objected to by any single senator, which said matter or matters shall
34 be held over on the regular calendar for the next legislative day.

1 **7.8 Reports of Joint Committees.**

2 No bill reported by or forwarded on the recommendation of a joint committee of the two
3 houses shall be in order for concurrence by the senate if it shall appear that the members of such
4 joint committee on the part of the senate, if in attendance on the general assembly, shall not have
5 been notified or present when the subject was acted on by such joint committee. No report shall be
6 acted on in the senate from any joint committee unless as subscribed by a senator who is a member
7 of said committee. Any report from a joint committee shall be made on the floor of the senate by a
8 member of said committee, notwithstanding that said member may not have concurred in the report
9 and said report shall be held on the desk unless ordered placed on the calendar pursuant to section
10 7.6 by the president of the senate or by a majority vote of the senate.

11 **7.9 Messages from the House.**

12 When a message is received from the house of representatives, transmitting any papers, the
13 secretary of the senate shall transmit to the office of the president of the senate all house transmittals
14 received on that day. The president of the senate shall assign house transmittals to committees upon
15 adjournment of the senate. The secretary of the senate shall cause all house transmittals to be
16 published in the senate journal for the day such transmittals are received. Any senator may object
17 to the committee assignment for any transmittal received during the previous legislative day. Upon
18 objection being made, the presiding officer shall assign the transmittal to the committee requested
19 by the senator making the objection, provided, however, that if another senator objects to any
20 assignment or proposed assignment of the transmittal, then the presiding officer shall call for a vote
21 of the senate on any motion for assignment which has been made and seconded, such motion
22 requiring a majority vote of those senators present and voting for assignment to a particular
23 committee.

24 During the time for consideration of house transmittals, a senator may move for immediate
25 consideration of a house transmittal, received by the secretary of the senate on the previous
26 legislative day. If there is no objection to the motion, it is deemed to be approved, but if there is
27 objection to the motion for immediate consideration, the presiding officer shall submit the motion
28 to a vote of the senate, such motion for immediate consideration shall require the votes of two-
29 thirds (2/3) of those senators present and voting, for approval.

30 **7.10 Amendments.**

31 No senator may amend from the floor any bill pending before the senate unless such
32 amendment be submitted, electronically or in writing, with sufficient copies signed by the
33 proponent, and read to the body; provided, however, that no amendment to the annual budget bill
34 making appropriations for the support of the state may be offered, except with the agreement of

1 two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, unless copies thereof shall have been filed with the
2 secretary of the senate no later than 12:00 o'clock noon on the legislative day preceding the
3 legislative day on which the budget bill shall be in order for consideration: provided however that
4 with majority consent a senator may make an oral amendment of a technical or minor nature.

5 **7.11 Votes in Concurrence.**

6 Whenever any bill shall come before the senate for concurrence, and the senate concurs
7 without amendments, or fails to concur, the secretary of the senate may announce the concurrence
8 or nonconcurrence to the other house, but the original bill received by the senate shall not be
9 transmitted to the other house.

10 **7.12 Motions.**

11 No motion shall be debated until it has been seconded. For the purpose of recorded votes
12 only the first second shall be recorded. A motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before
13 a decision or a motion to amend, except a motion to reconsider, which shall not be withdrawn after
14 the time has elapsed within which it could be originally made.

15 **7.13 Interruption of Debate.**

16 When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except to suspend section
17 3.5, to adjourn, to recommit, for the previous question, to close debate, to fix a time for closing
18 debate, to take a recess, to lay on the table, to take from the table, to transmit, to postpone
19 indefinitely, to change calendar arrangement, or to amend, and any motion or resolution the purpose
20 of which is to take any bill or any other matter from committees of the senate or to discharge a
21 committee from the consideration thereof, which several motions shall have precedence in the order
22 in which they are here arranged and shall be decided by majority vote without debate; provided
23 further that a motion to recommit as to any bill which is placed on the senate calendar may be voted
24 by yeas and nays; however, if the prime sponsor timely objects, the motion shall be voted on by
25 electronic roll of the senate.

26 **7.14 Adjournment.**

27 When time for meeting of the senate shall have been previously fixed, a motion to adjourn
28 and a motion to suspend section 3.5 shall always be in order. The senate shall not be adjourned
29 except by affirmative vote of a majority of the senators present and voting.

30 **7.15 Lay on the Table.**

31 When an amendment proposed to any pending measure be laid on the table, it shall not
32 carry with it, or prejudice such measure.

33 **7.16 Dividing Questions.**

34 A question that is susceptible of division shall, at the request of the majority, be divided

1 and put separately upon the propositions of which it is compounded.

2 **7.17 Non-Germane Amendments.**

3 No motion or proposition of a subject different from that under consideration shall be
4 admitted under color of amendment.

5 **7.18 Motion for Reconsideration.**

6 A senator on the prevailing side of any vote may, on the same legislative day, move to
7 reconsider the vote on the same or following legislative day. When a bill has been reconsidered it
8 shall not be reconsidered again during the session. Bills and other papers in reference to which a
9 motion to reconsider is pending shall, unless otherwise ordered, remain in the possession of the
10 secretary of the senate until the right of reconsideration has expired. The privilege to reconsider
11 granted by this rule may be suspended by a majority vote of the senators present and voting.

12 **7.19 Printed Material.**

13 If the reading of any printed or written paper be objected to, the matter shall be determined
14 by a majority vote of the senate without debate.

15 **7.20 Recommittal.**

16 No motion to recommit shall be entertained by the presiding officer as to any bill which is
17 placed on the calendar as the result of section 6.10 until every senator desiring to be heard has been
18 recognized, notwithstanding the provisions of section 7.13.

19 **7.21 Immediate Consideration.**

20 During the time for introduction and reference of new business, as provided in section 3.3,
21 a senator may introduce a bill and move for immediate consideration of the bill at that time. If there
22 is no objection to the motion, for immediate consideration it is deemed to be approved, but if there
23 is objection to the motion for immediate consideration, the presiding officer shall submit the motion
24 to a vote of the senate; such motion for immediate consideration shall require the votes of two-
25 thirds (2/3) of those senators present and voting, for approval. If the bill is not available
26 electronically to all members of the senate at the time of the request for immediate consideration,
27 then a hard copy of the bill shall be made available to any senator upon request.

28 **7.22 Questions During Debate.**

29 A senator, while speaking after recognition by the chair, may, upon request of a senator,
30 yield to him or her temporarily without thereby relinquishing his or her prior right to the floor and,
31 thereafter, may terminate such interruption and resume speaking at any time; provided, however,
32 that it shall not be in order for a senator to rise and request that a senator, other than the one with
33 the right to the floor, yield to a question. Furthermore, it shall not be in order for a senator, with the
34 right to the floor, to ask another senator to yield to a question, unless such senator has previously

1 spoken during the debate on the matter. All questions and responses shall be directed through the
2 chair and the presiding officer shall not be interrupted when speaking.

3 SECTION 8.

4 VOTING ON THE SENATE FLOOR

5 8.1 Method of Voting.

6 The electronic roll call of the senate shall be called on any vote pertaining to a public bill,
7 on passage of the consent calendar and on any other vote at the request of any senator present;
8 otherwise, votes shall be put by yeas and nays. In naming sums or numbers, and fixing times, the
9 largest sum or longest time shall be put first.

10 8.2 Voting Machine Inoperative.

11 In the event the machine is not to be used to record a vote or is not operating properly, all
12 votes and other determinations may be taken as required by senate rules, either by voice vote,
13 division vote or by calling the roll alphabetically and recording the yeas and nays. If a senator's
14 voting device is out of order, the senator shall rise and announce it to the presiding officer and cast
15 his or her vote orally prior to the declaration of the result of the vote.

16 8.3 Who May Vote.

17 Any member who is present on the senate floor must vote. Any senator who is not on the
18 floor at such time, but who returns before the machine is locked, shall be permitted to vote. Without
19 objection or with a majority vote, a senator may be permitted to cast a vote after the results have
20 been announced, provided however such request shall be made on the same calendar day and, only
21 if the vote if so permitted, will not change the result previously announced.

22 8.4 Control of Electronic Voting System.

23 The electronic voting system shall be under the control of the presiding officer and shall
24 be operated by such personnel as the president of the senate so designates.

25 8.5 Conducting a Vote.

26 At a reasonable time prior to any vote being taken, the presiding officer shall announce that
27 a vote is about to be taken. When any senator other than the president of the senate is presiding,
28 such senator may direct either the Secretary of the Senate or the reading clerk to cast his or her vote
29 at his or her voting station, but at no other time may a senator designate any other person to cast
30 his or her vote. Until the completion of the voting, no senator shall be recognized, and no other
31 business shall be transacted. When sufficient time has elapsed for each senator to vote prior to
32 locking the machine, the presiding officer shall ask if any member present desires to vote or change
33 his or her vote. The presiding officer shall then order the machine locked and activate the recording
34 process. The voting machine shall remain locked between all votes.

1 Nominations shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate, or his or her designee, at the
2 Office of the Secretary for presentation to the Senate.

3 **9.3 Presentation to the Senate.**

4 When a nomination shall be presented to the Senate for advice and consent, it shall, unless
5 otherwise ordered, be referred to the appropriate committee or committees and a copy of the
6 nomination shall be delivered to the senator within whose district the nominee resides. Except as
7 set forth herein, nominations shall follow the same course and be subject to the same procedures as
8 bills introduced pursuant to Rules of the Senate.

9 **9.4 Questions Presented.**

10 The final question on every nomination shall be, "Will the Senate advise and consent to
11 this nomination?" which question shall not be put on the same legislative day on which the
12 nomination is received, nor on the legislative day on which it may be reported by a committee.
13 Provided, however, that this provision may be waived by vote of a majority of the Senate.

14 **9.5 Effect of Non-action.**

15 Nominations neither confirmed nor rejected during the annual session at which they are
16 made shall not be acted upon at any succeeding session unless renewed by the appointing authority;
17 and if the Senate shall adjourn or be in recess for a period in excess of thirty (30) days, all
18 nominations pending and not finally acted upon at the time of such adjournment or recess shall be
19 returned by the Secretary of the Senate to the appointing authority, and shall not again be considered
20 unless the nomination shall again be made and delivered to the Senate by the appointing authority.

21 **9.6 Withdrawal of Nominations.**

22 Nominations may be withdrawn by the appointing authority at any time prior to final action
23 thereon by the Senate.

24 **SECTION 10.**

25 **MISCELLANEOUS**

26 **10.1 Legislative Aides.**

27 The president of the senate may appoint and prescribe the duties and terms of a
28 parliamentarian and one head page and as many assistant pages, doorkeepers and legislative aides
29 as the president of the senate shall deem necessary; and any or all of them may be removed at the
30 pleasure of the president of the senate.

31 **10.2 Absence of a Quorum.**

32 When there shall be seven (7) or more senators, but less than a quorum of the senate
33 present, a majority of the senators present may direct the presiding officer to compel the attendance
34 of absent senators in accordance with law.

1 **10.3 Amendment and Suspension of Rules.**

2 No rule shall be repealed, suspended or amended, or the operation thereof temporarily
3 suspended except by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting.

4 **10.4 Access to the Senate Chamber.**

5 **10.4-1 Access During Senate Session.**

6 Ten minutes prior to the time the senate is scheduled to convene, the secretary of the senate
7 shall clear the senate chamber of all persons other than members of the general assembly, general
8 assembly staff, guests of a senator, and authorized representatives of the news media. From this
9 time to the adjournment or recess of said session no persons other than those listed above shall be
10 admitted to the senate chamber except with permission from the senate president.

11 **10.4-2 Senators' Seats.**

12 The seat of each senator shall be assigned by the president of the senate, and in no event
13 shall any other person be permitted to occupy such assigned seat.

14 **10.4-3 Sheriff's Duties.**

15 It shall be the duty of the sheriff, or the sheriff's deputies in attendance in the senate, or in
16 their absence, a member of the capitol police department, to see that ~~rules~~ sections 10.4-1, 10.4-2,
17 10.4-3, 10.4-4 and 10.4-9 are enforced, and that all senate entrances and exits are kept completely
18 clear and open to passage to and from the chamber.

19 **10.4-4 Gallery.**

20 When the normal seating accommodations for visitors in the gallery have been filled, no
21 additional seats shall be installed, and no persons shall be thereafter admitted to the gallery of the
22 senate while in session except to fill vacancies.

23 **10.5 Confidentiality of Drafting.**

24 At the request of any senator or senate attorney to the director of the legislative council, an
25 entry into the word processing system may be made confidential so that the entry shall be accessible
26 only to the senator or senate attorney making such request or his or her designee. An entry may be
27 a bill, letter, memorandum or any other document.

28 **10.6 Misuse of Rules.**

29 If it appears that the rules are being used as a tactic to impede senate business, the presiding
30 officer may make a decision to that effect and put the matter before the senate and a majority vote
31 of the senators present shall sustain with finality the ruling of the presiding officer.

32 **10.7 Extraordinary and Special Session.**

33 In the event of the calling of an extraordinary session of the general assembly by the
34 governor, or a reconvened session by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, said

1 session shall be conducted pursuant to these rules; provided, however, that ~~rules 4.10-1~~ [sections](#)
2 [4.9-1](#), 6.2, 7.6 and 7.8 are not applicable to any such session; and, provided further, that any bill,
3 act or resolution for consideration of which the session is called shall have been provided to the
4 members at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the consideration of the senate.

5 **10.8 [Robert's Rules.](#)**

6 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedure on the senate floor and in the committees
7 of the senate in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these rules or with any joint rules
8 of the senate and house.

9 **10.9 [Use of Facilities.](#)**

10 The senate locker room, lounge and corridor adjacent to them shall be for the exclusive use
11 of the senators and their guests.

12 **10.10 [Decorum.](#)**

13 No senator shall use profane, insulting or abusive language or act in any manner that
14 interferes with the orderly conduct of the session of the senate.

15 **10.11 [Smoking Prohibited.](#)**

16 Smoking shall be prohibited in all senate areas including, but not limited to: the chamber,
17 gallery, lounge, committee rooms, offices, restrooms or hallways. The presiding officer shall
18 enforce this rule.

19 **10.12 [Consumption of Food and Alcoholic Beverages.](#)**

20 The consumption of food and alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited on the senate floor.
21 Except at the specific request of a member, all beverages consumed on the floor shall be in paper
22 or plastic cups.

23 **10.13 [Appropriate Attire Required.](#)**

24 All persons on the floor of the senate while the senate is in session shall be properly dressed,
25 and the presiding officer shall enforce this rule by appropriate means.

26 **10.14 [Electronic Devices.](#)**

27 During sessions cell phones shall not be used on the floor of the senate or in committee
28 hearing rooms when committee meetings are in session. ~~Further, pagers may be used only on the~~
29 ~~silent/vibrate mode.~~

30 **10.15 [Photographic Equipment.](#)**

31 During sessions, photographic equipment shall not be used on the floor of the senate or in
32 committee hearing rooms when committee meetings are in session unless he or she has the
33 permission of the president of the senate or the senate committee chair. This section shall not apply
34 to properly credentialed representatives of the news media.

1 **10.16 Display of Posters, Signs, and Banners on the Floor.**

2 No placard, sign, poster, banner, chart or other visual aid of similar nature shall be
3 displayed on the floor of the Senate or used in debate at any time when the Senate is in session
4 without the consent of the presiding officer. Any decision of the presiding officer under this rule
5 may be appealed to the body.

6 **10.17 Display of Posters, Signs, and Banners Prohibited in the Gallery.**

7 No placard, sign, poster, banner, chart or visual aid of similar nature shall be displayed in
8 the gallery at any time when the Senate is in session. The presiding officer shall order any such
9 object so displayed to be removed.

10 **10.18 Official Notice.**

11 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, notice to a member transmitted from the Office
12 of the President through the ~~RHIN~~ [Rhode Island General Assembly email](#) system to the ~~RHIN~~
13 [rilegislature.gov email](#) address assigned to the member shall constitute official written notice to the
14 member as of the date and time of the transmission. It is the responsibility of the members to
15 monitor their ~~RHIN~~ [rilegislature.gov email](#) address on a regular basis, or to have ~~RHIN~~ [email](#)
16 messages forwarded to an address which is monitored on a regular basis. Alternatively, a member
17 may elect to receive such notice directly at an email address other than the member's ~~RHIN~~
18 [rilegislature.gov email](#) address by executing a form available in the Office of the President. Once
19 designated, transmissions to the alternate email address shall constitute written notice to the
20 member as of the date and time of the transmission and will continue to be such until the Office of
21 the President is notified of a different address.

22 **10.19 Continuing Ethics Education.**

23 All state senators and senate employees shall annually participate in a continuing education
24 program presented by the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on the Rhode Island Code of Ethics
25 and related laws ~~through an interactive web-based format.~~

26 **10.20 Continuing Education and Training.**

27 All state senators and senate employees, shall annually participate in a continuing
28 education program presented by the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights.

29 **10.21 Discipline of a Member.**

30 The extraordinary power of expulsion generally should be reserved for very serious
31 breaches of legal or ethical responsibilities of members. A complaint to expel a member shall
32 commence with a resolution sponsored by the senate president; provided however, if the president
33 is the subject of the resolution to expel, the resolution shall be sponsored by the president pro
34 tempore. The secretary of the senate shall refer the resolution to the committee on judiciary. The

1 committee shall investigate the matter and shall have the right to compel witnesses and produce
2 documents by subpoena and other customary means. The committee shall afford the member due
3 process. Due process shall be defined as customary legislative process for hearings, to include:
4 properly served notice of all hearings, the right to testify and refute the allegations and the right to
5 present evidence. In addition, individual notice shall be served upon the member and the member
6 shall have the right to cross examine any witness. The vote of a majority of the committee shall be
7 sent to the floor for the next legislative day available for consideration. All testimony shall be under
8 oath and preserved by stenographic record which shall be transcribed upon the order of the chair.
9 Expulsion shall require by two-thirds of the members elected voting for approval of the resolution
10 to expel.

11 SECTION 11.

12 TRANSPARENCY

13 11.1 Policy.

14 It is declared to be the policy of the senate that to the maximum extent possible senate votes
15 on public bills and proceedings on the floor and in committee shall be recorded, or video screened
16 and published on the general assembly website and/or broadcast on capitol television.

17 11.2 Publication of Committee Votes.

18 To the extent possible, committee votes shall be published on the general assembly website
19 prior to the floor vote on the bill; provided however, that failure of a committee vote to appear on
20 the website prior to the floor vote shall not be grounds for objection to consideration of the bill on
21 the floor.

22 11.3 Televising or Otherwise Recording Committee Hearing.

23 To the extent possible, committee hearings shall be video recorded and broadcast to the
24 public on capitol television.

25 11.4 Publication of Votes.

26 All votes on public bills recorded electronically or by roll call shall be placed forthwith on
27 the general assembly website.

28 11.5 Publication of the Senate Rules.

29 The senate rules together with an index thereof shall be published on the general assembly
30 website.

31 11.6 Authorization and Direction.

32 The president of the senate and the senate staff are authorized and directed to take such
33 reasonable and prudent action as may be necessary to carry out the policies and directives set forth
34 in this section.

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