

RULES

of the

HOUSE OF COMMONS



2024TH ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSE

(Rev. 01-03-24)

Pursuant to H. Res. 2, the Clerk is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the Rules of the House.

C O N T E N T S

RULE.	SUBSECTION TITLE	PAGE
I.	THE SPEAKER 1, Approval of the Journal 2, Preservation of Order 3, Signature of Legislation 4, Questions of Order 5, Form of a Question 6, Speaker Pro Tempore 7, Designation of Travel 8, Committee Appointment 9, Recess and Convening Authorities	5
II.	OTHER OFFICIALS 1, Elections 2, Clerk 3, Sergeant-at-Arms 4, Chaplain	7
III.	THE MEMBERS 1, Voting 3, Election of Speaker	9
IV.	MEDIA IN THE HOUSE	9
V.	RECORDS OF THE HOUSE 1, Archiving 3, Definition of Record 4, Withdrawal of Papers	9
VI.	MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS 1, Motions 2, Withdrawal 3, Question of Consideration 4, Precedence of Motions 5, Divisibility 6, Amendments 7, Germaneness 8, Readings	10
VII.	MOTIONS FOLLOWING THE AMENDMENT STAGE 1, Previous Question 2, Recommit 3, Reconsideration	11
VIII.	ORDER AND PRIORITY OF BUSINESS	12
IX.	VOTING AND QUORUM CALLS 8, Postponement of Proceedings 9, Shorten Voting Times	13
X.	DECORUM AND DEBATE	17

	1, Decorum	
	2, Recognition	
	3, Managing Debate	
	4, Call to Order	
	5, Comportment	
	6, Exhibits	
	7, External Persons	
	8, House Record	
	9, Legislative Proceedings	
	10, Secret Sessions	
XI.	RECEIPT AND REFERRAL OF MEASURES AND MATTERS	19
	1, Messages	
	2, Referral	
	3, Petitions, Memorials, and Private Bills	
	5, Prohibition on Commemorations	
	6, Excluded Matters	
	7, Sponsorship	
XII.	THE COMMITTEE ON THE WHOLE HOUSE	21
	1, Resolving into the Committee of the Whole	
	3, Measures Requiring initial Consideration in the Committee of the Whole	
	4, Order of Business	
	5, Reading for Amendment	
	6, Quorum and Voting	
	7, Dispensing with the Reading of an Amendment	
	8, Closing Debate	
	9, Striking the Enacting Clause	
	10, Applicability of Rules of the House	
XIII.	CALENDARS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	25
	1, Calendars	
	2, Filing and Printing of Reports	
	3, Content of Reports	
	4, Availability of Reports	
	5, Privileged Reports, generally	
	6, Privileged Reports by the Committee on Rules & Reform	
	7, Resolutions of Inquiry	
XIV.	BUSINESS IN ORDER ON SPECIAL DAYS	29
	1, Suspensions	
	2, Discharge Motions	
	3, Adverse Report by the Committee on Rules & Reform, second and fourth Mondays	
	4, Private Calendar	
	5, Calendar Call of Committees, Wednesdays	
	6, Consensus Calendar	
XV.	RESPONSE TO SUBPOENAS	33
XVI.	ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES	33
	1, Committee and their Legislative Jurisdictions	

	2, General Oversight Responsibilities	
	3, Additional Functions of Committees	
	4, Election and Membership of Standing Committees	
XVII.	PROCEDURES OF COMMITTEES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS	36

	1, In General	
	2, Adoption of Written Rules	
	c, Additional and Special Meetings	
	d, Temporary Absence of Chair	
	e, Committee Records	
	f, Prohibition Against Proxy Voting	
	g, Open Meetings and Hearings	
	h, Quorum Requirements	
	i, Calling and Questioning of Witnesses	
	j, Hearing Procedures	
	k, Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Dissenting Views	
	l, Power to Sit and Act; Subpoena Power	
	3, Committee on Ethics	
	f, Committee Agendas	
	g, Meetings and Hearings	
	h, Public Disclosure	
	i, Requirements to Constitute a Complaint	
	j, Duties of Chair and Ranking Member Regarding Properly Filed Complaints	
	k, Duties of Chair and Ranking Member Regarding Information not Constituting a Complaint	
	l, Investigative and Adjudicatory Subcommittees	
	m, Standard of Proof for Adoption of Statement of Alleged Violation	
	n, Subcommittee Powers	
	o, Due Process Rights of Respondents	
	p, Committee Reporting Requirements	
	4, Audio and Visual Coverage of Committee Proceedings	
	5, Pay of Witnesses	
	6, Unfinished Business of the Session	
XVIII.	GENERAL PROVISIONS	54
XIX.	NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATION	54
XX.	QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE	55
XXI.	RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN BILLS.	56
	1, Reservation of Certain Points of Order	
	2, Taxation Measures	
XXII.	CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.	56

RULES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY

Rule I

THE SPEAKER

Approval of the Journal

1. The Speaker shall take the Chair on every legislative day and immediately call the House to order. Having examined and approved the Journal of the last day's proceedings, the Speaker shall announce to the House approval thereof. The Speaker's approval of the Journal shall be deemed agreed to unless a Member demands a vote thereon. If such a vote is decided in the affirmative, it shall not be subject to a motion to reconsider. If such a vote is decided in the negative, then one motion that the Journal be read shall be privileged, shall be decided without debate, and shall not be subject to a motion to reconsider.

Preservation of Order

2. The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct, may cause the same to be cleared.

Signature of Legislation

3. (a) If the Speaker is in the affirmative on any enrolled acts or joint resolutions, the Speaker shall sign the document in attestation of its passage. The Speaker shall also sign all writs, resolutions, warrants, and subpoenas of, or issued by order of the House. The Speaker may sign enrolled bills, resolutions, and joint resolution whether or not the House is in session.

(b) If the Speaker is in the negative on any enrolled acts or joint resolutions, the Speaker shall not sign the document and declare the piece as vetoed. If every member votes to overcome the vetoed legislation, except the Speaker, the enrolled act, resolution, or joint resolution becomes law and/or agreed to.

(c) The House shall adopt a Resolution to enact the process of vetoed legislation as described in subparagraph (b).

(d) Resolutions are considered immediately Assented upon their agreement in the House and cannot be vetoed.

Questions of Order

4. The Speaker shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by a Member. On such an appeal a Member may not speak more than once without permission of the House.

Form of a Question

5. The Speaker shall put a question in this form: "Those in favor (of the question), say 'Aye.'"; and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "Those opposed, say 'No.'". After a vote by voice under this clause, the Speaker may use such voting procedures as may be invoked under the Rules of the House.

Speaker Pro Tempore

6. (a) The Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair. Except as specified in paragraph (b), such an appointment may not extend beyond three legislative days.

(b)(1) In the case of illness, the Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair for a period not

exceeding 10 days, subject to the approval of the House. If the Speaker is absent and has omitted to make such an appointment, then the House shall elect a Speaker pro tempore to act during the absence of the Speaker.

(2) With the approval of the House, the Speaker may appoint a Member to act as Speaker pro tempore only to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for a specified period of time.

(3)(A) In the case of a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, the next Member on the list described in subdivision (B) shall act as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a Speaker or a Speaker pro tempore. Pending such election the Member acting as Speaker pro tempore may exercise such authorities of the Office of Speaker as may be necessary and appropriate to that end.

(B) As soon as practicable after the election of the Speaker and whenever appropriate thereafter, the Speaker shall deliver to the Clerk a list of Members in the order in which each shall act as

Speaker pro tempore under subdivision (A).

(C) For purposes of subdivision (A), a vacancy in the Office of Speaker may exist by reason of the physical inability of the Speaker to discharge the duties of the office.

Designation of Travel

7. The Speaker may designate a Member of the House to travel on the business of the House within or without the United States, whether the House is meeting, has recessed, or has adjourned.

Committee Appointment

8. The Speaker shall appoint members to all committees ordered by the House. Upon appointment, they must be confirmed by the House with a majority vote. Members will serve the term given as described in the order from the House. The Speaker may remove Members or appoint additional Members to a Committee with approval from the House.

Recess and Convening Authorities

9. (a) To suspend the business of the House for a short time when no question is pending before

the House, the Speaker may declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(b)(1) To suspend the business of the House when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the Speaker may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(2) To suspend the business of the Committee of the Whole House when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(c) During any recess or adjournment of not more than three days, if the Speaker is notified by the Sergeant-at-Arms of an imminent impairment of the place of reconvening at the time previously appointed, then the Speaker may—

(1) postpone the time for reconvening and notify Members accordingly, or

(2) reconvene the House before the time previously appointed solely to declare the House in recess and notify Members accordingly.

(d) The Speaker may convene the House in a place at the seat of government other than the House Floor if, in the opinion of the Speaker, the public interest shall warrant it.

(e) During any recess or adjournment of not more than three days, if in the opinion of the Speaker the public interest so warrants, then the Speaker, may reconvene the House at a time other than that previously appointed, and notify Members accordingly.

(f) The Speaker may name a designee for purposes of paragraphs (c), (d), and (e).

Rule II

OTHER OFFICIALS

Elections

1. There shall be elected at the commencement of each Assembly, to continue in office until their successors are chosen and qualified, a Clerk, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Chaplain. Each of these officers shall take an oath to support the Constitution of the House, and for the true and faithful exercise of the duties of the office to the best of the knowledge and ability of

the officer, and to keep the secrets of the House. The Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain may be removed by the House or by the Speaker.

Clerk

2. (a) At the commencement of the first session of each Assembly, the Clerk shall call the Members to order and proceed to record their presence, either by call of the roll or by use of the electronic voting system. Pending the election of a Speaker or Speaker pro tempore, and in the absence of a Member acting as Speaker pro tempore, the Clerk shall preserve order and decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by a Member.

(b) At the commencement of every regular session of the Assembly, the Clerk shall make and cause to be delivered to each Member a list of the reports that any officer or Department is required to make to the House, citing the law or resolution in which the requirement may be contained and placing under the name of each officer the list of reports required to be made by such officer.

(c) The Clerk shall—

(1) note all questions of order, with the decisions thereon, the record of which shall be appended to the Journal of each session; and

(2) enter on the Journal the hour at which the House adjourns.

(d)(1) The Clerk shall attest and affix the seal of the House to all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the House and certify the passage of all bills, and joint resolutions in accordance with Constitutional requirements.

(2) The Clerk shall examine all bills, amendments, and joint resolutions after passage by the House and, examine all bills, resolutions, and joint resolutions that have passed the House to see that they are correctly enrolled and forthwith present those bills and joint resolutions that originated in the House to the Speaker in person.

(e) The Clerk shall cause the calendars of the House to be created each legislative day.

(f) The Clerk shall deliver to any Member an extra

copy of each document requested by that Member that has been printed by order of the House in which the Member served.

(g) The Clerk shall provide for the temporary absence or disability of the Clerk by designating an official in the Office of the Clerk to sign all papers that may require the official signature of the Clerk and to perform all other official acts that the Clerk may be required to perform under the rules and practices of the House, except such official acts as are provided for by statute. Official acts performed by the designated official shall be under the name of the Clerk. The designation shall be in writing and shall be laid before the House and entered on the Journal.

(h) The Clerk may receive messages from the Speaker at any time when the House is in recess or adjournment.

(i) The Clerk shall manage the office of a Member who has died, resigned, or been expelled.

Sergeant-at-Arms

3. (a) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall attend the House during its sittings and maintain order under the direction of the Speaker or other presiding officer. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall execute the commands of the House, and all processes issued by authority thereof, directed to the Sergeant-at-Arms by the Speaker.

(b) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall enforce strictly the rules relating to the House for the official conduct of employees of the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

(c)(1) The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized and directed to impose a fine against a Member for the use of an electronic device for still photography or for audio or visual recording or broadcasting and any applicable Speaker's announced policy on electronic devices.

(2) A fine imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be \$200 for a first offense and \$1,000 for any subsequent offense.

(3)(A) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall promptly notify the Member, the Speaker, and the

Committee on Ethics of any such fine.

(B) Such Member may appeal the fine in writing to the Committee on Ethics not later than 30 calendar days or five legislative days, whichever is later, after notification pursuant to subdivision (A).

(C) Upon receipt of an appeal pursuant to subdivision (B), the Committee on Ethics shall have 30 calendar days or five legislative days, whichever is later, to either dismiss the fine or allow it to proceed. Upon a determination regarding the appeal or if no appeal has been filed at the expiration of the period specified in subdivision (B), the chair of the Committee on Ethics shall promptly notify the Member, and the Speaker. The Speaker shall promptly lay such notification before the House.

(4) The Sergeant-at-Arms and the Committee on Ethics are authorized to establish policies and procedures for the implementation of this paragraph.

(d) The Committee on Ethics shall not handle any appeals in respect to

violations of the House Code and any issuance of a fine under this section are not considered with respect to The Criminal Code Act and the Reform Fine Act.

Chaplain

4. The Chaplain shall offer a prayer at the commencement of each day's sitting of the House.

Rule III THE MEMBERS

Voting

1. Every Member shall be present within the House during its sittings, unless excused or necessarily prevented, and shall vote on each question put, unless having a direct personal or pecuniary interest in the event of such question.

2. (a) A Member may not authorize any other person to cast the vote of such Member or record their presence of such Member in the House or the Committee of the Whole House, except in an Election for Speaker.

(b) No other person may cast a Member's vote or record a Member's presence in the House or the Committee of the

Whole House, except in an Election for Speaker.

Election of Speaker

3. In an election for Speaker, a Member may vote proxy if a letter is originally signed by the absent Member and submitted to the Clerk with their vote for Speaker.

Rule IV MEDIA IN THE HOUSE

1. The House Clerk, in consultation with the Speaker, shall prohibit the use of media in the House in accordance with Rule II.

(b) The Clerk shall be permitted to record audio of each session for the purposes of ensuring an accurate Journal.

Rule V RECORDS OF THE HOUSE

Archiving

1. (a) At the end of each Assembly, the chair of each committee shall transfer to the Clerk any noncurrent records of such committee, including the subcommittees thereof.

(b) At the end of each Assembly, each officer of

the House elected under Rule II shall transfer to the Clerk any noncurrent records made or acquired in the course of the duties of such officer.

2. The Clerk shall deliver the records transferred under clause 1, together with any other noncurrent records of the House, for preservation with the Speaker's Office to be stored. Records so delivered are the permanent property of the House and remain subject to this rule and any order of the House.

Definition of Record

3. (a) In this rule the term "record" means any official, permanent record of the House (other than a record of an individual Member as described in paragraph (b)), including—

(1) with respect to a committee, an official, permanent record of the committee (including any record of a legislative, oversight, or other activity of such committee or a subcommittee thereof); and

(2) with respect to an officer of the House elected under Rule II, an official, permanent record made or acquired in the

course of the duties of such officer.

(b) Records created, generated, or received by the Office of a Member in the performance of official duties are exclusively the personal property of the individual Member and such Member has control over such records.

Withdrawal of Papers

4. A memorial or other paper presented to the House may not be withdrawn from its files without its leave. If withdrawn certified copies thereof shall be left in the Office of the Clerk. When an act passes for the settlement of a claim, the Clerk may transmit to the officer charged with the settlement thereof the papers on file in the Office of the Clerk relating to such claim. The Clerk may lend temporarily to an officer or bureau of the executive departments any papers on file in the Office of the Clerk relating to any matter pending before such officer or bureau, taking proper receipt therefor.

Rule VI

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Motions

1. Every motion entertained by the Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of a Member and, unless it is withdrawn the same day, shall be entered on the Journal with the name of the Member offering it. A dilatory motion may not be entertained by the Speaker.

Withdrawal

2. When a motion is entertained, the Speaker shall state it or cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk before it is debated. The motion then shall be in the possession of the House but may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment thereon.

Question of Consideration

3. When a motion or proposition is entertained, the question, "Will the House now consider it?" may not be put unless demanded by a Member.

Precedence of Motions

4. (a) When a question is under debate, only the following motions may be entertained (which shall have precedence in the following order):

(1) To adjourn.

(2) To lay on the table.

(3) For the previous question.

(4) To postpone to a day certain.

(5) To refer.

(6) To amend.

(7) To postpone indefinitely.

(b) A motion to adjourn, to lay on the table, or for the previous question shall be decided without debate. A motion to postpone to a day certain, to refer, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, may not be allowed again on the same day at the same stage of the question.

(c)(1) It shall be in order at any time for the Speaker, in the discretion of the Speaker, to entertain a motion—

(A) that the Speaker be authorized to declare a recess; or

(B) that when the House adjourns it stand adjourned to a day and time certain.

(2) Either motion shall be of equal privilege with the motion to adjourn and shall be decided without debate.

Divisibility

5. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a question shall be divided on the demand of a Member before the question is put if it includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being taken away, a substantive proposition remains.

(b) (1) A motion or resolution to elect members to a standing committee of the House, or to a joint standing committee, is not divisible.

(2) A resolution or order reported by the Committee on Rules & Reform providing a special order of business is not divisible.

(c) A motion to strike and insert is not divisible, but rejection of a motion to strike does not preclude another motion to amend.

Amendments

6. When an amendable proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend the amendment shall be in order, and it also shall be in order to offer a further amendment by the way of substitute for the original motion to amend, to which one amendment may be

offered but which may not be voted on until the original amendment is perfected. An amendment may be withdrawn in the House at any time before a decision or amendment thereon. An amendment to the title of a bill or resolution shall not be in order until after its passage or adoption and shall be decided without debate.

Germaneness

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

Readings

8. Bills and joint resolutions are subject to readings as follows:

(a) A first reading is in full when the bill or joint resolution is first considered.

(b) A second reading occurs only when a bill or joint resolution is read for amendment in a Committee of the Whole House.

(c) A third reading precedes passage when the Speaker states the question: "Shall the bill [or joint resolution] be engrossed [when

applicable] and read a third time?" If that question is decided in the affirmative, then the bill or joint resolution shall be read the final time by title and then the question shall be put on its passage. A recorded vote is not in order for the question on third reading.

Rule VII

MOTIONS FOLLOWING THE AMENDMENT STAGE

Previous Question

1. (a) There shall be a motion for the previous question, which, being ordered, shall have the effect of cutting off all debate and bringing the House to a direct vote on the immediate question or questions on which it has been ordered. Whenever the previous question has been ordered on an otherwise debatable question on which there has been no debate, it shall be in order to debate that question for 40 minutes, equally divided and controlled by a proponent of a question and an opponent. The previous question may be moved and ordered on a single question, on a series of questions allowable under the rules, or on an amendment or

amendments, or may embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill or resolution to its passage, adoption, or rejection.

(b) Incidental questions of order arising during the pendency of a motion for the previous question shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), when the previous question is operating to adoption or passage of a measure pursuant to a special order of business, the Chair may postpone further consideration of such measure in the House to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

Recommit

2. (a) After the previous question has been ordered on passage or adoption of a measure, or pending a motion to that end, it shall be in order to move that the House recommit (or commit, as the case may be) the measure, with or without instructions, to a standing or select committee. For such a motion to recommit, the Speaker shall give preference in recognition to a Member

who is opposed to the measure.

(b) The previous question shall be considered as ordered on any motion to recommit (or commit, as the case may be).

Reconsideration

3. When a motion has been carried or lost, it shall be in order on the same or succeeding day for a Member on the prevailing side of the question to enter a motion for the reconsideration thereof. The entry of such a motion shall take precedence over all other questions except the consideration of a conference report or a motion to adjourn and may not be withdrawn after such succeeding day without consent of the House. Once entered, a motion may be called up for consideration by any Member. During the last six days of a session of the Assembly, such a motion shall be disposed of when entered.

4. A bill, petition, memorial, or resolution referred to a committee, or reported therefrom for printing and recommitment, may not be brought back to the House on a motion to reconsider.

Rule VIII

ORDER AND PRIORITY OF BUSINESS

1. The daily order of business (unless varied by the application of other rules and except for the disposition of matters of higher precedence) shall be as follows:

First. Prayer by the Chaplain.

Second. Reading and approval of the Journal, unless postponed under the Rules.

Third. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Fourth. Correction of reference of public bills.

Fifth. Disposal of business on the Speaker's Table as provided in clause 2.

Sixth. Unfinished business as provided in clause 3.

Seventh. The morning hour for the consideration of bills called up by committees as provided in clause 4.

Eighth. Motions that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on subject to clause 5.

Ninth. Orders of the day.

2. Business on the Speaker's Table shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Messages from the Speaker shall be referred to the appropriate committees without debate.

(b) Communications addressed to the House, including reports and communications from heads of departments and bills, resolutions, and messages, may be referred to the appropriate committees in the same manner and with the same right of correction as public bills and public resolutions presented by Members.

(c) Motions to dispose of amendments on the Speaker's Table may be entertained.

3. Consideration of unfinished business in which the House may have been engaged at an adjournment, except business in the morning hour and proceedings postponed under the Rules shall be resumed as soon as the business on the Speaker's Table is finished, and at the same time each day thereafter until disposed of. The consideration of all other unfinished business shall be resumed whenever the

class of business to which it belongs shall be in order under the rules.

4. After the unfinished business has been disposed of the Speaker shall call each standing committee in regular order and then select committees. Each committee when named may call up for consideration a bill or resolution reported by it on a previous day and on the House Calendar. If the Speaker does not complete the call of the committees before the House passes to other business, the next call shall resume at the point it left off, giving preference to the last bill or resolution under consideration. A committee that has occupied the call for two days may not call up another bill or resolution until the other committees have been called in their turn.

5. After consideration of bills or resolutions under clause 4 for one hour, it shall be in order, pending consideration thereof, to entertain a motion that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House or, when authorized by a committee, that the

House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider a particular bill. Such a motion shall be subject to only one amendment designating another bill. If such a motion is decided in the negative, another such motion may not be considered until the matter that was pending when such motion was offered is disposed of.

6. All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided by a majority without debate.

Rule IX

VOTING AND QUORUM CALLS

1. (a) The House shall divide after the Speaker has put a question to a vote by voice if the Speaker is in doubt or division is demanded. Those in favor of the question shall first rise or otherwise indicate from their seats and be counted, then those opposed.

(b) If a Member requests a recorded vote, and that request is supported by at least one other Member present, the vote shall be taken by electronic device unless the Speaker invokes another procedure for recording

votes provided in this rule. A recorded vote taken in the House under this paragraph shall be considered a vote by the yeas and nays.

(c) In case of a tie vote, a question shall be lost.

2. (a) Unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the Clerk shall record vote or quorum call by electronic device. In such a case the Clerk shall enter on the Journal the names of Members recorded as voting in the affirmative, the names of Members recorded as voting in the negative, and the names of Members answering present as if they had been called in the manner provided. Except as otherwise permitted under this rule, the minimum time for a record vote or quorum call by electronic device shall be 5 minutes.

(b) When the electronic voting system is inoperable or is not used, the Speaker or Chair may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call.

3. The Speaker may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call by call of the roll. In such a case the Clerk shall call the names of Members.

After the roll has been called once, the Clerk shall call the names of those not recorded. Members appearing after the second call, but before the result is announced, may vote or announce a pair.

4. (a) Absentees shall be noted, but the doors may not be closed except when ordered by the Speaker.

(b) On the demand of a Member, or at the suggestion of the Speaker, the names of Members sufficient to make a quorum who do not vote shall be noted by the Clerk, entered on the Journal, reported to the Speaker with the names of the Members voting, and be counted and announced in determining the presence of a quorum to do business.

5. (a) In the absence of a quorum, a majority comprising at least 3 Members, which may include the Speaker, may compel the attendance of absent Members.

(b) The Sergeant-at-Arms may be ordered to send officers appointed by the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest those Members for whom no sufficient excuse is made and shall secure

and retain their attendance. The House shall determine on what condition they shall be discharged. Unless the House otherwise directs, the Members who voluntarily appear shall be admitted immediately and shall report their names to the Clerk to be entered on the Journal as present.

(c)(1) If the House should be without a quorum due to catastrophic circumstances, then—

(A) until there appear in the House a sufficient number of Members to constitute a quorum among the whole number of the House shall be determined based upon the provisional number of the House; and

(B) the provisional number of the House, as of the close of the call of the House, shall be the number of Members responding to that call of the House.

(2) If a Member counted in determining the provisional number of the House thereafter ceases to be a Member, or if a Member not counted in determining the provisional number of the House thereafter appears in the House, the

provisional number of the House shall be adjusted accordingly.

(3) The House shall be considered without a quorum due to catastrophic circumstances if after a motion has been disposed of and without intervening adjournment, each of the following occurs in the stated sequence:

(A) A call of the House (or a series of calls of the House) is closed after aggregating a period in excess of 72 hours (excluding time the House is in recess) without producing a quorum.

(B) The Speaker—

(i) receives from the Sergeant-at-Arms (or a designee) a catastrophic quorum failure report;

(ii) consults with leadership on the content of that report; and

(iii) announces the content of that report to the House.

(C) A further call of the House (or a series of calls of the House) is closed after aggregating a period in excess of 24 hours (excluding time the House is in recess) without producing a quorum.

(4)(A) A catastrophic quorum failure report is a report advising that the inability of the House to establish a quorum is attributable to catastrophic circumstances involving natural disaster, attack, contagion, or similar calamity rendering Members incapable of attending the proceedings of the House.

(B) Such report shall specify the following:

(i) The number of vacancies in the House and their respective names;

(ii) The names of Members considered incapacitated;

(iii) The names of Members not incapacitated but otherwise incapable of attending the proceedings of the House; and

(iv) The names of Members unaccounted for.

(C) Such report shall be prepared on the basis of the most authoritative information available after consultation with the Health Advisor of the House and the Clerk (or their respective designees) and pertinent

public health and law enforcement officials.

(D) Such report shall be updated every legislative day for the duration of any proceedings under or in reliance on this paragraph. The Speaker shall make such updates available to the House.

(5) An announcement by the Speaker under (3)(B)(iii) shall not be subject to appeal.

(6) Subparagraph (1) does not apply to a proposal to create a vacancy in the representation from any Member not incapacitated but otherwise incapable of attending the proceedings of the House.

(7) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(A) The term “*provisional number of the House*” means the number of Members upon which a quorum will be computed in the House of Commons sufficient in number to constitute a quorum among the whole number of the House appear in the House.

(B) The term “*whole number of the House*” means the number of Members chosen, sworn, and living whose membership has not been terminated by resignation

or by the action of the House.

(d) Upon the death, resignation, expulsion, disqualification, removal, or swearing of a Member, the whole number of the House shall be adjusted accordingly. The Speaker shall announce the adjustment to the House. Such an announcement shall not be subject to appeal. In the case of a death, the Speaker may lay before the House such documentation from officials as the Speaker deems pertinent.

6. (a) When a quorum fails to vote on a question, a quorum is not present, and objection is made for that cause (unless the House shall adjourn)—

(1) there shall be a call of the House;

(2) the Sergeant-at-Arms shall proceed forthwith to bring in absent Members; and

(3) the yeas and nays on the pending question shall at the same time be considered as ordered.

(b) The Clerk shall record Members by the yeas and nays on the pending question, using such procedure as the Speaker may invoke under the Rules. Each member

arrested under this clause shall be brought by the Sergeant-at-Arms before the House, whereupon the Member shall be noted as present, discharged from arrest, and given an opportunity to vote; and such vote shall be recorded. If those voting on the question and those who are present and decline to vote together to make a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as the requisite majority of those voting shall have determined. Thereupon further proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with.

(c) At any time after Members have had the requisite opportunity to respond by the yeas and nays ordered under this clause, but before a result has been announced, a motion that the House adjourn shall be in order if seconded by another member. If the House adjourns on such a motion, all proceedings under this clause shall be considered as vacated.

7. (a) The Speaker may not entertain a point of order that a quorum is not

present unless a question has been put to a vote.

(b) Subject to paragraph (c) the Speaker may recognize a Member to move a call of the House at any time. When a quorum is established pursuant to a call of the House, further proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with unless the Speaker recognizes for a motion to compel attendance of Members.

(c) A call of the House shall not be in order after the previous question is ordered unless the Speaker determines by actual count that a quorum is not present.

Postponement of Proceedings

8. (a)(1) When a recorded vote is ordered, or the yeas and nays are ordered, or a vote is objected to—

(A) on any of the questions specified in subparagraph (2), the Speaker may postpone further proceedings to a designated place in the legislative schedule within two additional legislative days; and

(B) on the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal,

the Speaker may postpone further proceedings to a designated place in the legislative schedule on that legislative day.

(2) The questions described in subparagraph (1) are as follows:

(A) The question of passing a bill or joint resolution;

(B) The question of adoption a resolution;

(C) The question of agreeing to a motion to instruct managers;

(D) The question of agreeing to a conference report;

(E) The question of adopting a motion to recommit;

(F) The question of adopting a motion to concur;

(G) The question of agreeing to an amendment;

(H) The question of ordering the previous question on a question described in subdivisions (A) through (G);

(I) The question of agreeing to a motion to suspend the rules; and

(J) The question of agreeing to a motion to reconsider or the question of agreeing to a motion to lay on the table a motion to reconsider.

(b) At a time designated by the Speaker for further proceedings on questions postponed under paragraph (a), the Speaker shall resume proceedings on each postponed question.

(c) If the House adjourns on a legislative day designated for further proceedings on questions postponed under this clause without disposing of such questions, then on the next legislative day the unfinished business is the disposition of such questions.

Shorten Voting Times

9. (a) The Speaker may reduce the minimum time for electronic voting on any question that follows another electronic vote or a report from the Committee on the Whole, if in the discretion of the Speaker, Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, notice of possible shorten vote for a given series of votes shall be issued prior to the

first electronic vote in the series.

Automatic Yeas and Nays

10. The yeas and nays shall be considered as ordered when the Speaker puts the question on passage of a bill or joint resolution, or on the adoption of a conference report, making general appropriations, or on final adoption of a concurrent resolution on the budget or conference report thereon.

Ballot Votes

11. In a case of ballot for election, a majority of the votes shall be necessary to an election. When there is not such a majority on the first ballot, the process shall be repeated until a majority is obtained. In all balloting blanks shall be rejected, may not be counted in the enumeration of votes, and may not be reported by the Clerk.

Rule X

DECORUM AND DEBATE

Decorum

1. (a) A Member who desires to speak or deliver a matter to the House shall respectfully address the Speaker and, on being

recognized, may address the House from any place on the floor. When invited by the Chair, a Member may speak from the Chair's desk.

(b) Remarks in debate (which may include its Members) shall be confined to the question under debate, avoiding personality.

Recognition

2. When two or more Members seek recognition, the Speaker shall name the Member who is first to speak. A Member may not occupy more than one hour in debate on a question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole House except as otherwise provided in this Rule.

Managing Debate

3. (a) The Member who calls up a measure may open and close debate thereon. When general debate extends beyond one day, that Member shall be entitled to one hour to close without regard to the time used in opening.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (a), a Member may not speak more than once to the same question

without leave of the House.

(c) A manager of a measure who opposed an amendment thereto is entitled to close controlled debate thereon.

Call to Order

4. (a) If a Member, in speaking or otherwise, transgressed the Rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or a Member may, call to order the offending Member, who shall immediately sit down and suspend talking unless permitted on motion of another Member to explain. If a Member is called to order, the Member making the call to order shall indicate the words excepted to, which shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the House.

(b) The Speaker shall decide the validity of a call to order. The House, if appealed to, shall decide the question without debate. If the decision is in favor of the Member called to order, the Member shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise. If the case required it, an offending Member shall be liable to censure or such other punishment as the House

may consider proper. A Member may not be held to answer a call to order, and may not be subject to the censure of the House therefor, if further debate or other business has intervened.

Comportment

5. When a Speaker is putting a question or addressing the House, a Member may not exit the House or cross the Speaker's Desk. When a Member is speaking, a Member may not pass between the person speaking and the Chair. During the session of the House, a Member may not wear non-religious headdress or hat or remain by the Clerk's desk during the call of roll or the counting of ballots. A person on the floor of the House may not smoke or use a mobile electronic device that impairs decorum. The Sergeant-at-Arms is charged with strict enforcement of this clause.

Exhibits

6. When the use of an exhibit in debate is objected to by a Member, the Chair, in the discretion of the Chair, may submit the question of its use to the House without debate.

External Persons

7. During the session of the House, it shall not be in order for a Member to bring to the attention of the House a person, either a Member or not, unless it is deemed to be an emergency.

House Record

8. (a) The House Record shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks made during the proceedings of the House, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the Member making the remarks.

(b) Unparliamentary remarks may be deleted only by permission or order of the House.

(c) This clause establishes a standard of conduct.

Legislative Proceedings

9. (a) A Member may not engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in the Chamber, including—

(1) intentionally obstructing or impeding the passage of others on the floor;

(2) the use of an exhibit to impede, disrupt, or disturb the proceedings of the House;

(3) the denial of legislative instruments to others seeking to engage in legislative proceedings; and

(4) use of electronic devices, food, facial expressions, or interrupting to disrupt proceedings.

(b) This clause establishes a standard of conduct.

Secret Sessions

10. When confidential communications are received, or when the Speaker or a Member informs the House that such individual has communications that such individual believes ought to be kept secret for the present, the House shall be cleared of all persons except the Members, and officers of the House for the reading of such communications, and debates and proceedings thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

Rule XI

RECEIPT AND REFERRAL OF MEASURES AND MATTERS

Messages

1. Messages received from the Speaker shall be

entered on the Journal and published in the House Record of the proceedings of that day.

Referral

2. (a) The Speaker shall refer each bill, resolution, or other matter that relates to a subject listed under a standing committee named in the Rules in accordance with the provisions of this clause.

(b) The Speaker shall refer matters under paragraph (a) in such manner as to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that each committee that has jurisdiction under the Rules over the subject matter of a provision thereof may consider such provision and report to the House thereon.

(c) In carrying out paragraphs (a) and (b) with respect to referral of a matter, the Speaker—

(1) shall designate a committee of primary jurisdiction (except where the Speaker determines that extraordinary circumstances justify review by more than one committee as though primary);

(2) may refer the matter to one or more additional

committees for consideration in sequence, either initially or after the matter has been reported by the committee for primary jurisdiction;

(3) may refer portions of the matter reflecting different subjects and jurisdictions to one or more additional committees;

(4) may refer the matter to a special, ad hoc committee appointed by the Speaker with the approval of the House, and including members of the committees of jurisdiction, for the specific purpose of considering that matter and reporting to the House thereon;

(5) may subject a referral to appropriate time limitations; and

(6) may make such other provision as may be considered appropriate.

(d) A bill for the payment or adjudication of a private claim against the House may not be referred to a committee other than the Committee on the Judiciary, except by unanimous consent.

Petitions, Memorials, and Private Bills

3. If a Member has a petition, memorial, or private bill to present, the Member shall sign it, deliver it to the Clerk, and may specify the reference or disposition to be made thereof. Such petition, memorial, or private bill (except when judged by the Speaker to be obscene or insulting) shall be entered on the Journal with the name of the Member presenting it and shall be printed in the House Record.

4. A private bill or private resolution (including an omnibus claim or pension bill), or amendment thereto, may not be received or considered in the House if it authorizes or directs—

(a) the payment of money for property damages, for personal injuries or death for which suit may be instituted, or for a pension (other than to carry out a provision of law or treaty stipulation);

(b) the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream; or

(c) the correction of a military or naval record.

Prohibition on Commemorations

5. (a) A bill or resolution, or an amendment thereto,

may not be introduced or considered in the House if it establishes or expresses a commemoration.

(b) In this clause the term “commemoration” means a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time.

Excluded Matters

6. A petition, memorial, bill, or resolution excluded under this rule shall be returned to the Member from whom it was received. A petition or private bill that has been inappropriately referred may, by direction of the committee having possession of it, be properly referred in the manner originally presented. An erroneous reference of a petition or private bill under this clause does not confer jurisdiction on a committee to consider or report it.

Sponsorship

7. (a) Bills, memorials, petitions, and resolutions, endorsed with the names of Members introducing them, may be delivered to the Speaker to be referred. The titles and references of all bills, memorials, petitions,

resolutions, and other documents referred under this rule shall be entered on the Journal and printed in the House Record. An erroneous reference may be corrected by the House in accordance with the Rules on any day immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by unanimous consent or motion. Such a motion shall be privileged if offered by direction of a committee to which the bill has been erroneously referred or by direction of a committee claiming jurisdiction and shall be decided without debate.

(b)(1) The sponsor of a public bill or public resolution may name cosponsors. The name of a cosponsor added after the initial printing of a bill or resolution shall appear in the next printing of the bill or resolution on the written request of the sponsor. Such a request may be submitted to the Speaker at any time until the last committee authorized to consider and report the bill or resolution reports it to the House or is discharged from its consideration.

(2) The name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution may be deleted

by unanimous consent. The Speaker may entertain such a request only by the Member whose name is to be deleted or by the sponsor of the bill or resolution, and only until the last committee authorized to consider and report the bill or resolution reports it to the House or is discharged from its consideration. The Speaker may not entertain a request to delete the name of the sponsor of a bill or resolution. A deletion shall be indicated by date in the next printing of the bill or resolution.

(3) The addition or deletion of the name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution shall be entered on the Journal and printed in the House Record of that day.

(4) A bill or resolution shall be reprinted on the written request of the sponsor. Such a request may be submitted to the Speaker only when 2 or more cosponsors have been added since the last printing of the bill or resolution.

(5) When a bill or resolution is introduced "by request," those words shall be entered on the

Journal and printed in the House Record.

(c)(1) A bill or joint resolution may not be introduced unless the sponsor submits for printing in the House Record a statement citing as specifically as practicable the power or powers granted to enact the bill or joint resolution. The statement shall appear in a portion of the Record designated for that purpose and be made publicly available in electronic form by the Clerk.

Rule XII

THE COMMITTEE ON THE WHOLE HOUSE

Resolving into the Committee of the Whole

1. Whenever the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole House, the Speaker shall leave the chair after appointing a Member as Chair to preside. In case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobby, the Chair may cause the same to be cleared.

2. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole House by motion. When such a motion is

entertained, the Speaker shall put the question without debate: "Shall the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House for consideration of this matter?", naming it.

(b) After the House has adopted a resolution reported by the Committee on Rules & Reform providing a special order of business for the consideration of a measure in the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker may at any time, when no question is pending before the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of that measure without intervening motion, unless the special order of business provides otherwise.

Measures Requiring initial Consideration in the Committee of the Whole House

3. All public bills, resolutions, or joint resolutions involving a tax or charge on the people, raising revenue, directly or indirectly making appropriations of money or property or requiring such appropriations to be

made, authorizing payments out of appropriations already made, or releasing any liability to the House for money or property, shall be first considered in the Committee of the Whole House. A bill, resolution, or joint resolution that fails to comply with this clause is subject to a point of order against its consideration.

Order of Business

4. (a) Subject to subparagraph (b) business on the calendar of the Committee of the Whole House may be taken up in regular order, or in such order as the Committee may determine, unless the measure to be considered was determined by the House at the time of resolving into the Committee of the Whole.

(b) Motions to resolve into the Committee of the Whole for consideration of bills and joint resolutions making general appropriations have precedence under this clause.

Reading for Amendment

5. (a) Before general debate commences on a measure in the Committee of the Whole

House, it shall be read in full. When general debate is concluded or closed by order of the House, the measure under consideration shall be read for amendment. A Member who offers an amendment shall be allowed five minutes to explain it, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed five minutes to speak in opposition to it. There shall be no further debate thereon, but the same privilege of debate shall be allowed in favor of and against any amendment that may be offered to an amendment. An amendment, or an amendment to an amendment, may be withdrawn by its proponent only by the unanimous consent of the Committee of the Whole.

(b) When a Member offers an amendment in the Committee of the Whole House, the Clerk shall promptly transmit copies of the amendment to Members. The Clerk also shall deliver at least one copy of the amendment to the Speaker.

Quorum and Voting

6. (a) A quorum of a Committee of the Whole House is 3 Members. The

first time that a Committee of the Whole finds itself without a quorum during a day, the Chair shall invoke the procedure for a quorum call set forth in the Rules, unless the Chair elects to invoke an alternate procedure set forth in clause 3 or any other Rule. If a quorum appears, the Committee of the Whole shall continue its business. If a quorum does not appear, the Committee of the Whole shall rise, and the Chair shall report the names of absentees to the House.

(b)(1) The Chair may refuse to entertain a point of order that a quorum is not present during general debate.

(2) After a quorum has once been established on a day, the Chair may entertain a point of order that a quorum is not present only when the Committee of the Whole House is operating under the five-minute rule and the Chair has put the pending proposition to a vote.

(3) Upon sustaining a point of order that a quorum is not present, the Chair may announce that, following a regular quorum call under

paragraph (a), the minimum time for electronic voting on the pending question shall be not less than two minutes.

(c) When ordering a quorum call in the Committee of the Whole House, the Chair may announce an intention to declare that a quorum is constituted at any time during the quorum call when the Chair determines that a quorum has appeared. If the Chair interrupts the quorum call by declaring that a quorum is constituted, proceedings under the quorum call shall be considered as vacated, and the Committee of the Whole shall continue its sitting and resume its business.

(d) A quorum is not required in the Committee of the Whole House for adoption of a motion that the Committee rise.

(e) In the Committee of the Whole House, the Chair shall order a recorded vote on a request supported by at least 2 Members.

(f) In the Committee of the Whole House, the Chair may reduce to not less than two minutes the minimum time for

electronic voting on any or all pending amendments after a record vote has been taken on the first pending amendment, if in the discretion of the Chair, Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote.

(g) The Chair may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time. The Chair may reduce to not less than two minutes the minimum time for electronic voting—

(1) on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 5 minutes; or

(2) on any postponed question taken after the Committee of the Whole resumes its sitting if in the discretion of the Chair, Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote.

(h) Whenever a recorded vote on any question has been decided by a margin within which the votes cast by the Members have been decisive, the

Committee of the Whole shall rise and the Speaker shall put such question de novo without intervening motion. Upon the announcement of the vote on that question, the Committee of the Whole shall resume its sitting without intervening motion.

Dispensing with the Reading of an Amendment

7. It shall be in order in the Committee of the Whole House to move that the Committee of the Whole dispense with the reading of an amendment that has been printed in the bill or resolution as reported by a committee, or an amendment that a Member has caused to be printed in the House Record. Such a motion shall be decided without debate.

Closing Debate

8. (a) Subject to paragraph (b) at any time after the Committee of the Whole House has begun five-minute debate on amendments to any portion of a bill or resolution, it shall be in order to move that the Committee of the Whole close all debate on that portion of the bill or resolution or on the

pending amendments only. Such a motion shall be decided without debate. The adoption of such a motion does not preclude further amendment, to be decided without debate.

(b) If the Committee of the Whole House closes debate on any portion of a bill or resolution before there has been debate on an amendment that a Member has caused to be printed in the House Record at least one day before its consideration, the Member who caused the amendment to be printed in the Record shall be allowed five minutes to explain it, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed five minutes to speak in opposition to it. There shall be no further debate thereon.

(c) Material submitted for printing in the House Record under this clause shall indicate the full text of the proposed amendment, the name of the Member proposing it, the number of the bill or resolution to which it will be offered, and the point in the bill or resolution or amendment thereto where the amendment is intended to be offered.

The amendment shall appear in a portion of the Record designated for that purpose. Amendments to a specified measure submitted for printing in that portion of the Record shall be numbered in the order printed.

Striking the Enacting Clause

9. A motion that the Committee of the Whole House rise and report a bill or resolution to the House with the recommendation that the enacting or resolving clause be stricken shall have precedence of a motion to amend, and, if carried in the House, shall constitute a rejection of the bill or resolution. Whenever a bill or resolution is reported from the Committee of the Whole with such adverse recommendation and the recommendation is rejected by the House, the bill or resolution shall stand recommitted to the Committee of the Whole without further action by the House. Before the question of concurrence is submitted, it shall be in order to move that the House refer the bill or resolution to a committee, with or without instructions. If a bill or

resolution is so referred, then when it is again reported to the House it shall be referred to the Committee of the Whole without debate.

Applicability of Rules of the House

10. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee of the Whole House so far as applicable.

Rule XIII
CALENDARS AND
COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Calendars

1. (a) All business reported by committees shall be referred to one of the following three calendars:

(1) A Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House, to which shall be referred public bills and public resolutions raising revenue, involving a tax or charge on the people, directly or indirectly making appropriations of money or property or requiring such appropriations to be made, authorizing payments out of appropriations already made, or releasing any liability to the House for money or property.

(2) A House Calendar, to which shall be referred all public bills and public resolutions not requiring referral to the Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House.

(3) A Private Calendar, to which shall be referred all private bills and private resolutions.

(b) There is established a Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees.

(c) There is established a Consensus Calendar.

Filing and Printing of Reports

2. (a)(1) Except as provided in subparagraph (2), all reports of committees (other than those filed from the floor) shall be delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar under the direction of the Speaker in accordance with clause 1. The title or subject of each report shall be entered on the Journal and printed in the House Record.

(2) A bill or resolution reported adversely (other than those filed as privileged) shall be laid on the table unless a committee to which the bill or resolution was referred requests at the time of the report its

referral to an appropriate calendar under clause 1 or unless, within three days thereafter, a Member makes such a request.

(b)(1) It shall be the duty of the chair of each committee to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House a measure or matter approved by the committee and to take or cause to be taken steps necessary to bring the measure or matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, the report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which a written request for the filing of the report, signed by the members of the committee, has been filed with the clerk of the committee. The clerk of the committee shall immediately notify the chair of the filing of such a request.

This subparagraph does not apply to a report of the Committee on Rules & Reform with respect to a rule, joint rule, or order of business of the House.

(c) All supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views filed by one or more members of a committee shall be included in, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the committee with respect to a measure or matter. When time guaranteed has expired (or, if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk not later than one hour after the expiration of such time. This clause does not preclude the immediate filing or printing of a committee report in the absence of a timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views.

Content of Reports

3. (a)(1) Except as provided in subparagraph (2), the report of a committee on a measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume that—

(A) shall include all supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report; and

(B) shall bear on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted under paragraph (c)(3)) are included as part of the report.

(2) A committee may file a supplemental report for the correction of a technical error in its previous report on a measure or matter. A supplemental report only correcting errors in the depiction of record votes under paragraph (b) may be filed under this subparagraph and shall not be subject to the requirement in clause 4 or clause 6 concerning the availability of reports.

(b) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report a measure or matter of a public nature, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of members voting for and against, shall be included in the committee report. The preceding sentence does not apply to votes taken in executive session by the Committee on Ethics, and applies only to the maximum extent practicable to a report by

the Committee on Rules & Reform on a rule, joint rule, or the order of business.

(c) The report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee shall include, separately set out and clearly identified, the following:

(1) Oversight findings and recommendations.

(2) An estimate of new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs to the appropriate levels under current law.

(3) An estimate and comparison if timely submitted to the committee before the filing of the report.

(4) A statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding.

(5) On a bill or joint resolution that establishes or reauthorizes a program, a statement indicating whether any such program is known to be duplicative of another such program.

(d) Each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution shall contain the following:

(1)(A) An estimate by the committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out the bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and in each of the five fiscal years following that fiscal year (or for the authorized duration of any program authorized by the bill or joint resolution if less than five years);

(B) a comparison of the estimate of costs described in subdivision (A) made by the committee with any estimate of such costs made by a agency and submitted to such committee; and

(C) when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs with the appropriate levels under current law.

(2)(A) In subparagraph (1) the term “agency” includes any department, agency, establishment, wholly owned corporation, or instrumentality of the House.

(B) Subparagraph (1) does not apply to the Committee on Rules & Reform or the Committee on Ethics, and does not apply when a cost estimate and comparison has been included in the report under paragraph (c)(3).

(e)(1) Whenever a committee reports a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof, it shall include in its report or in an accompanying document (showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed)—

(A) the entire text of each section of a statute that is proposed to be repealed; and

(B) a comparative print of each amendment to the entire text of a section of a statute that the bill or joint resolution proposes to make.

(2) If a committee reports a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof with a recommendation that the bill or joint resolution be amended, the comparative print required by subparagraph (1) shall reflect the changes in existing law

proposed to be made by the bill or joint resolution as proposed to be amended.

(f) Whenever the Committee on Rules & Reform reports a resolution proposing to repeal or amend a standing rule of the House, it shall include in its report or in an accompanying document—

(1) the text of any rule or part thereof that is proposed to be repealed; and

(2) a comparative print of any part of the resolution proposing to amend the rule and of the rule or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed.

Availability of Reports

4. (a)(1) Except as specified in subparagraph (2), it shall not be in order to consider in the House a measure or matter reported by a committee until the proposed text of each report of a committee on that measure or matter has been available to Members for 72 hours.

(2) Subparagraph (1) does not apply to—

(A) a resolution providing a rule, joint rule, or order of business reported by the Committee on Rules & Reform considered under clause 6;

(B) a resolution presenting a question of the privileges of the House reported by any committee;

(C) a measure for the declaration of an emergency; and

(D) a measure providing for the disapproval of a decision, determination, or action by a agency that would become, or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by the House. In this subdivision the term “agency” includes any department, agency, establishment, wholly owned corporation, or instrumentality of the House.

(b) A committee that reports a measure or matter shall make every reasonable effort to have its hearings thereon (if any) printed and available for distribution to Members before the consideration of the measure or matter in the House.

Privileged Reports, generally

5. (a) The following committees shall have leave to report at any time on the following matters, respectively:

(1) The Committee on Rules & Reform, on rules, joint rules, and the order of business.

(2) The Committee on Ethics, on resolutions recommending action by the House with respect to a Member as a result of an investigation by the committee relating to the official conduct of such Member.

(b) A report filed from the floor as privileged under paragraph (a) may be called up as a privileged question by direction of the reporting committee, subject to any requirement concerning its availability to Members under clause 4 or concerning the timing of its consideration under clause 6.

Privileged Reports by the Committee on Rules & Reform

6. (a) A report by the Committee on Rules & Reform on a rule, joint rule, or the order of business may not be called up for consideration on the same

day it is presented to the House except—

(1) when so determined by a vote of two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present;

(2) in the case of a resolution proposing only to waive a requirement of clause 4 concerning the availability of reports; or

(3) during the last three days of a session.

(b) Pending the consideration of a report by the Committee on Rules & Reform on a rule, joint rule, or the order of business, the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn but may not entertain any other dilatory motion until the report shall have been disposed of.

(c) The Committee on Rules & Reform may not report a rule or order that would prevent the motion to recommit a bill or joint resolution from being made as provided, including a motion to recommit with instructions to report back an amendment otherwise in order.

(d) The Committee on Rules & Reform shall present to the House reports concerning rules, joint rules, and the order

of business, within three legislative days of the time when they are ordered. If such a report is not considered immediately, it shall be referred to the calendar. If such a report on the calendar is not called up by the member of the committee who filed the report within seven legislative days, any member of the committee may call it up as a privileged question on the day after the calendar day on which the member announces to the House intention to do so. The Speaker shall recognize a member of the committee who seeks recognition for that purpose.

(e) An adverse report by the Committee on Rules & Reform on a resolution proposing a special order of business for the consideration of a public bill or public joint resolution may be called up as a privileged question by a Member on the second and fourth Mondays of a month.

(f) If the House has adopted a resolution making in order a motion to consider a bill or resolution, and such a motion has not been offered within seven calendar days thereafter,

such a motion shall be privileged if offered by direction of all reporting committees having initial jurisdiction of the bill or resolution.

(g) Whenever the Committee on Rules & Reform reports a resolution providing for the consideration of a measure, it shall to the maximum extent possible specify in the accompanying report any waiver of a point of order against the measure or against its consideration.

Resolutions of Inquiry

7. A report on a resolution of inquiry addressed to the head of an executive department may be filed from the floor as privileged. If such a resolution is not reported to the House within 14 legislative days after its introduction, a motion to discharge a committee from its consideration shall be privileged.

Rule XIV

BUSINESS IN ORDER ON SPECIAL DAYS

Suspensions

1. (a) A rule may not be suspended except by a vote of two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present.

The Speaker may not entertain a motion that the House suspend the rules except on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and during the last six days of a session.

(b) Pending a motion that the House suspend the rules, the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn but may not entertain any other motion until the vote is taken on the suspension.

(c) A motion that the House suspend the rules is debatable for 40 minutes, one-half in favor of the motion and one-half in opposition thereto.

Discharge Motions

2. (a)(1) A Member may present to the Clerk a motion in writing to discharge—

(A) a committee from consideration of a public bill or public resolution that has been referred to it for 30 legislative days; or

(B) the Committee on Rules & Reform from consideration of a resolution that has been referred to it for seven legislative days and that proposes a special order of business for the

consideration of a public bill or public resolution that has been reported by a committee or has been referred to a committee for 30 legislative days.

(2) Only one motion may be presented for a bill or resolution. A Member may not file a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules & Reform from consideration of a resolution providing for the consideration of more than one public bill or public resolution or admitting or effecting a nongermane amendment to a public bill or public resolution.

(b) A motion presented under paragraph (a) shall be placed in the custody of the Clerk, who shall arrange a convenient place for the signatures of Members. A signature may be withdrawn by a Member in writing at any time before a motion is entered on the Journal. The Clerk shall make the signatories a matter of public record, causing the names of the Members who have signed a discharge motion during a week to be published in a portion of the House Record designated for that purpose on the last legislative day of the week and making cumulative

lists of such names available each day for public inspection in an appropriate office of the House. The Clerk shall devise a means for making such lists available to offices of the House and to the public in electronic form. When a majority of the total membership of the House shall have signed the motion, it shall be entered on the Journal, published with the signatories thereto in the Record, and referred to the Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees.

(c)(1) A motion to discharge that has been on the calendar for at least seven legislative days (except during the last six days of a session) shall be privileged only at a time or place, designated by the Speaker, in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after the day on which a Member whose signature appears thereon announces to the House an intention to offer the motion. When such a motion is called up, the House shall proceed to its consideration under this paragraph without intervening motion except one motion to adjourn. Privileged motions to

discharge shall have precedence in the order of their entry on the Journal.

(2) When a motion to discharge is called up, the bill or resolution to which it relates shall be read by title only. The motion is debatable for 20 minutes, one-half in favor of the motion and one-half in opposition thereto.

(d)(1) If a motion prevails to discharge the Committee on Rules & Reform from consideration of a resolution, the House shall immediately consider the resolution, pending which the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn but may not entertain any other dilatory motion until the resolution has been disposed of. If the resolution is adopted, the House shall immediately proceed to its execution.

(2) If a motion prevails to discharge a committee from consideration of a public bill or public resolution, a motion that the House proceed to the immediate consideration of such bill or resolution shall be privileged if offered by a Member whose signature appeared

on the motion to discharge. The motion to proceed is not debatable. If the motion to proceed is adopted, the bill or resolution shall be considered immediately under the general rules of the House. If unfinished before adjournment of the day on which it is called up, the bill or resolution shall remain the unfinished business until it is disposed of. If the motion to proceed is rejected, the bill or resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar, where it shall have the same status as if the committee from which it was discharged had duly reported it to the House.

(e)(1) When a motion to discharge originated under this clause has once been acted on by the House, it shall not be in order to entertain during the same session—

(A) a motion to discharge a committee from consideration of that bill or resolution or of any other bill or resolution that, by relating in substance to or dealing with the same subject matter, is substantially the same; or

(B) a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules & Reform from consideration of a resolution providing a special order of business for the consideration of that bill or resolution or of any other bill or resolution that, by relating in substance to or dealing with the same subject matter, is substantially the same.

(2) A motion to discharge on the Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees that is rendered out of order under subparagraph (1) shall be stricken from that calendar.

Adverse Report by the Committee on Rules & Reform, second and fourth Mondays

3. An adverse report by the Committee on Rules & Reform on a resolution proposing a special order of business for the consideration of a public bill or public joint resolution may be called up as a privileged question by a Member on the second and fourth Mondays of a month.

Private Calendar

4. (a) On the first Tuesday of a month, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to

call the bills and resolutions on the Private Calendar after disposal of such business on the Speaker's Table as requires reference only. If two or more Members object to the consideration of a bill or resolution so called, it shall be recommitted to the committee that reported it. No other business shall be in order before completion of the call of the Private Calendar on this day unless three-fourths of the Members voting, a quorum being present, agree to a motion that the House dispense with the call.

(b)(1) On any day, after the disposal of such business on the Speaker's Table as requires reference only, the Speaker may direct the Clerk to call any bill or resolution that has been on the Private Calendar for at least seven days, but only on the second legislative day after the legislative day on which the Speaker or a designee announces to the House an intention to do so. Preference shall be given to omnibus bills containing the texts of bills or resolutions that have previously been objected to on a call of the

Private Calendar. If two or more Members object to the consideration of a bill or resolution so called (other than an omnibus bill), it shall be recommitted to the committee that reported it. Three-fourths of the Members voting, a quorum being present, may adopt a motion that the House dispense with the call on this day.

(2) Omnibus bills shall be read for amendment by paragraph. No amendment shall be in order except to strike or to reduce amounts of money or to provide limitations. An item or matter stricken from an omnibus bill may not thereafter during the same session of the House be included in an omnibus bill. Upon passage such an omnibus bill shall be resolved into the several bills and resolutions of which it is composed. The several bills and resolutions, with any amendments adopted by the House, shall be engrossed, when necessary, and otherwise considered as passed severally by the House as distinct bills and resolutions.

(c) The Speaker may not entertain a reservation of the right to object to the

consideration of a bill or resolution under this clause. A bill or resolution considered under this clause shall be considered in the House as in the Committee of the Whole. A motion to dispense with the call of the Private Calendar under this clause shall be privileged. Debate on such a motion shall be limited to five minutes in support and five minutes in opposition.

Calendar Call of Committees, Wednesdays

5. (a) On Wednesday of each week, business shall not be in order before completion of the call of those committees whose chair, or other member authorized by the committee, has announced to the House a request for such call on the preceding legislative day.

(b) A bill or resolution on either the House or the Whole House Calendar, except bills or resolutions that are privileged under the Rules of the House, may be called under this clause. A bill or resolution called up from the Whole House Calendar shall be considered in the Committee of the Whole House without motion.

General debate on a measure considered under this clause shall be confined to the measure and may not exceed two hours equally divided between a proponent and an opponent.

(c) This clause does not apply during the last two weeks of a session.

Consensus Calendar

6. (a)(1) At least once during any week in which the House convenes, the House shall consider a measure on the Consensus Calendar as designated by the Speaker.

(2) This paragraph does not apply before March 1 of an odd-numbered year or after September 30 of an even-numbered year.

(b)(1) The sponsor of a measure that has accumulated at least 2 cosponsors and has not been reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction may present to the Clerk a motion in writing to place that measure on the Consensus Calendar.

(2) A proper motion presented under subparagraph (1) shall be placed in the custody of the Clerk, and shall appear in a portion of the

House Record designated for that purpose. The Clerk shall maintain a cumulative list of such motions, and shall make such list publicly available in electronic form.

(3) A motion presented under subparagraph (1) shall be considered as withdrawn if the measure is reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction prior to its placement on the Consensus Calendar.

(c) After a measure has maintained at least 2 cosponsors for a cumulative period of 25 legislative days after the presentation of a motion under paragraph (b)(1), the measure shall be placed on the Consensus Calendar. Such measure shall remain on the Consensus Calendar until it is—

(1) considered in the House; or

(2) reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction.

Rule XV

RESPONSE TO SUBPOENAS

1. (a) Members may be subpoenaed by any standing or select

Committee of the House for one of the following purposes—

(1) For a deposition for legislative purposes;

(2) To produce documents for legislative purposes; or

(3) To testify for legislative purposes.

(b) Members can be subpoenaed for multiple purposes as described in paragraph (a).

2. Members are required to comply will all duly issued subpoenas.

3. If a Subpoena issued requires the Member not to be able to attend the House, the Member shall, in writing, notify the Speaker.

Rule XVI

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their Legislative Jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees

listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees as follows:

(a) **Committee on Vacation.**

(1) Intent on Vacation matters.

(2) Vacation travel requirements.

(3) Fulfill requirements outlined in The Better Vacation Planning Act.

(b) **Committee on Rules & Reform.**

(1) Rules and joint rules (other than those relating to the Code of Official Conduct) and the order of business of the House.

(2) Recesses and final adjournments of Assembly.

(3) Reforms relating to House agencies, services, or taxation.

(4) Budgets.

(5) Repeal or establishment of new House agency or service.

(6) Oversight on laws and compliance with the law.

(7) Holidays.

(c) **Committee on Education & Health.**

(1) Welfare of the House.

(2) Safety equipment.

(3) Health recommendations and requirements.

(4) Education related requirements or recommendations.

(d) Committee on Ethics.

(1) The Code of Official Conduct

(e) Committee on Natural Resources.

(1) Roadways.

(2) Outside efforts in respect to landscaping or tree removal.

(3) External improvements to the land.

(f) Committee on Food & Agriculture.

(1) Agriculture practices and recommendations.

(2) Food planning.

(3) Food regulations.

(4) Healthy eating recommendations.

General Oversight Responsibilities

2. (a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws; and

(B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.

(c)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the House and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee shall review and study on a continuing basis—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of House agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and

(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.

(d) Each standing committee shall review and study on a continuing basis the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within its jurisdiction.

(e)(1) Not later than March 1 of the first session of an Assembly, the chair of each standing committee (other than the Committee on Ethics and the Committee on Rules & Reform) shall—

(A) prepare, in consultation with the ranking member, an

oversight plan for that Assembly;

(B) provide a copy of that plan to each member of the committee for at least seven calendar days before its submission; and

(C) submit that plan (including any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a member of the committee) simultaneously to the Committee on Rules and Reform.

(2) In developing the plan, the chair of each committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(A) consult with other committees that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies with the objective of ensuring maximum coordination and cooperation among committees when conducting reviews of such laws, programs, or agencies and include in the plan an explanation of steps that have been or will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(B) review specific problems with rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are

ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;

(C) give priority consideration to including in the plan the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(D) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies within the committee's jurisdiction are subject to review every 10 years; and

(E) have a view toward insuring against duplication of programs.

(3) Not later than April 15 in the first session of a Assembly, after consultation with the Speaker, the Committee on Rules & Reform shall report to the House the oversight plans submitted under subparagraph (1) together with any recommendations that it may make to ensure the most effective coordination of oversight plans and otherwise to achieve the objectives of this clause.

(f) The Speaker, with the approval of the House,

may appoint special ad hoc oversight committees for the purpose of reviewing specific matters within the jurisdiction of two or more standing committees.

Additional Functions of Committees

3.

(a) The Committee on Rules & Reform may at any time conduct investigations of any matter conferring jurisdiction over the matter to another standing committee. The findings and recommendations of the committee in such an investigation shall be made available to any other standing committee having jurisdiction over the matter involved.

(b)(1) The Committee on Rules & Reform may adopt a rule authorizing and regulating the taking of depositions by a member or counsel of the committee, including pursuant to subpoena.

(2) A rule adopted by the committee pursuant to this subparagraph—

(A) may provide that a deponent be directed to subscribe an oath or affirmation before a person authorized by law

to administer the same; and

(B) shall ensure that all members of the committee are accorded equitable treatment with respect to notice of and a reasonable opportunity to participate in any proceeding conducted thereunder.

(C) Information secured pursuant to the authority described in subdivision (1) shall retain the character of discovery until offered for admission in evidence before the committee, at which time any proper objection shall be timely.

(c)(1) The Committee on Rules & Reform shall—

(A) provide policy direction for the oversight of the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer; and

(B) establish and maintain standards for making documents publicly available in electronic form by the House and its committees.

(d)(1) Each standing committee shall, in its consideration of all public bills and public joint resolutions within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for

continuing programs and activities of the House will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirement, and objective of the programs and activities involved. In this subparagraph programs and activities of the House includes programs and activities of any department, agency, establishment, wholly owned corporation, or instrumentality of the House.

(2) Each standing committee shall review from time to time each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually to ascertain whether the program should be modified to provide for annual appropriations.

Election and Membership of Standing Committees

4. (a) The standing committees specified in clause 1 shall be elected by the House within seven calendar days after the commencement of each Assembly, from nominations submitted by the Speaker. A resolution proposing to change the composition of a standing committee shall be

privileged if offered by direction of a Member concerned.

(b) Membership on a standing committee during the course of an Assembly shall be contingent on a Member's behavior and can be striped of committee assignments if the House passes a resolution to remove such assignments from a Member.

(c) The House shall fill a vacancy on a standing committee by an appointment by the Speaker, with the consent of the House.

Rule XVII

PROCEDURES OF COMMITTEES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In General

1. (a)(1)(A) The Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.

(2)(A) In a committee or subcommittee—

(i) a motion to recess from day to day, or to recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be privileged; and

(ii) a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution shall be privileged if printed copies are available.

(B) A motion accorded privilege under this subparagraph shall be decided without debate.

(b)(1) Each committee may conduct at any time such investigations and studies as it considers necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities. Subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required, each committee may incur expenses, including travel expenses, in connection with such investigations and studies.

(2) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read in committee if it has been available to the members for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day).

(3) A report of an investigation or study

conducted jointly by more than one committee may be filed jointly, provided that each of the committees complies independently with all requirements for approval and filing of the report.

(4) After an adjournment *sine die* of the last regular session, an investigative or oversight report may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that a member who gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views shall be entitled to not less than seven calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion in the report.

(c) Each committee may have printed and bound such testimony and other data as may be presented at hearings held by the committee or its subcommittees.

(d)(1) Not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of that committee.

(2) Such report shall include—

(A) separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight

activities of that committee under this rule during the Assembly;

(B) a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the committee;

(C) a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to the oversight plans specified in subdivision (B);

(D) a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by that committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon; and

(E) a delineation of any hearings held pursuant to clauses 2(n), (o), or (p) of this rule.

(3) After an adjournment *sine die* of the last regular session of an Assembly, or after December 15 of an even-numbered year, whichever occurs first, the chair of a committee may file the report described in subparagraph (1) with the Clerk at any time and without approval of the committee, provided that—

(A) a copy of the report has been available to each member of the committee for at least seven calendar days; and

(B) the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a member of the committee.

Adoption of Written Rules

2. (a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

(A) shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public;

(B) may not be inconsistent with the Rules of the House or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of Rules of the House;

(C) shall in any event incorporate all of the succeeding provisions of this clause to the extent applicable; and

(D) shall include provisions to govern the implementation of clause 4 as provided in paragraph (f) of such clause.

(2) Each committee shall make its rules publicly

available in electronic form and submit such rules for publication in the House Record not later than 60 days after the chair of the committee is elected.

(3) A committee may adopt a rule providing that the chair be directed to offer a motion whenever the chair considers it appropriate.

Regular Meeting Days

(b) Each standing committee shall establish regular meeting days for the conduct of its business, which shall be not less frequent than monthly. Each such committee shall meet for the consideration of a bill or resolution pending before the committee or the transaction of other committee business on all regular meeting days fixed by the committee if notice is given pursuant to paragraph (g)(3).

Additional and Special Meetings

(c)(1) The chair of each standing committee may call and convene, as the chair considers necessary, additional and special meetings of the committee for the consideration of a bill or resolution pending before the committee or

for the conduct of other committee business, subject to such rules as the committee may adopt. The committee shall meet for such purpose under that call of the chair.

(2) Any House Member may file in the offices of the committee a written request that the chair call a special meeting of the committee. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the chair of the filing of the request. If the chair does not call the requested special meeting within three calendar days after the filing of the request (to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request) the House may introduce and pass a resolution ordering that a special meeting of the committee will be held. The written notice shall specify the date and hour of the special meeting and the measure or matter to be considered. The committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the adoption of the resolution or the granting the written request, the Clerk

of the Committee shall notify all members of the committee that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall be deemed to satisfy paragraph (g)(3)(A)(ii). Only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

Temporary Absence of Chair

(d) The ranking member shall serve as chair of a committee or subcommittee upon the temporary absence of the chair. If the chair and ranking member of a committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the Speaker shall preside at that meeting.

Committee Records

(e)(1)(A) Each committee shall keep a complete record of all committee action which shall include—

(i) in the case of a meeting or hearing transcript, a substantially verbatim

account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(ii) a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is taken.

(B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (B)(ii) and subject to paragraph (k)(7), the result of each such record vote shall be made available by the committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in its offices and also made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote. Information so available shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the committee present but not voting.

(ii) The result of any record vote taken in executive session in the Committee on Ethics may not be made available for inspection by the public

without an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), all committee records (including hearings, data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the Member serving as its chair. Such records shall be the property of the House, and each Member shall have access thereto.

(B) A Member, other than members of the Committee on Ethics, may not have access to the records of that committee respecting the conduct of a Member without the specific prior permission of that committee.

(3) Each committee shall include in its rules standards for availability of records of the committee delivered to the Clerk. Such standards shall specify procedures for orders of the committee, including a requirement that nonavailability of a record for a period longer than the period otherwise applicable under that rule shall be approved by vote of the committee.

(4) Each committee shall make its publications

available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible.

(5) To the maximum extent practicable, each committee shall—

(A) provide audio coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings; and

(B) maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(6) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter considered by a committee, the chair of such committee shall cause the text of each such amendment to be made publicly available in electronic form.

Prohibition Against Proxy Voting

(f) A vote by a member of a committee or subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may not be cast by proxy.

Open Meetings and Hearings

(g)(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, by a standing committee or subcommittee thereof (other than the Committee on Ethics or its subcommittees) shall be open to the public, including still photography coverage, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate a law or rule of the House. Persons, other than members of the committee and such noncommittee Members, may not be present at a business or markup session that is held in executive session. This subparagraph does not apply to open committee hearings, which are governed by subparagraph (2).

(2)(A) Each hearing conducted by a committee or subcommittee (other than the Committee on Ethics or its subcommittees) shall be open to the public, including still photography coverage, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate a law or rule of the House.

(B) Notwithstanding the requirements of subdivision (A), in the presence of the number of members required under the rules of the committee for the purpose of taking testimony, a majority of those present may—

(i) agree to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement

information, or would violate clause 2(k)(5); or

(ii) agree to close the hearing as provided in clause 2(k)(5).

(C) A Member may not be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at a hearing of a committee or subcommittee (other than the Committee on Ethics or its subcommittees) unless the House by majority vote authorizes a particular committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by the same procedures specified in this subparagraph for closing hearings to the public.

(D) The committee or subcommittee may vote by the same procedure described in this subparagraph to close one subsequent day of hearing may vote by the same procedure to close up to five additional, consecutive days of hearings.

(3)(A) The chair of a committee shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of—

(i) a committee hearing, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice; or

(ii) a committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which members have notice thereof.

(B) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner than specified in subdivision (A) in either of the following circumstances (in which case the chair shall make the announcement specified in subdivision (A) at the earliest possible time):

(i) the chair of the committee, with the concurrence of the ranking member, determines that there is good cause; or

(ii) the committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required under the rules of the committee for the transaction of business.

(C) An announcement made under this subparagraph shall be published promptly in the Record and made publicly

available in electronic form.

(D) This subparagraph and subparagraph (4) shall not apply to the Committee on Rules & Reform.

(4) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of an announcement under subparagraph (3)(B) made within 24 hours before such meeting, the chair of the committee shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae.

(C) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or

security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(6)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), a point of order does not lie with respect to a measure reported by a committee on the ground that hearings on such measure were not conducted in accordance with this clause.

(B) A point of order on the ground described in subdivision (A) may be made by a member of the committee that reported the measure if such point of order was timely made and improperly disposed of in the committee.

Quorum Requirements

(h)(1) A measure or recommendation may not be reported by a committee unless the Chair and Ranking Member of the committee is actually present.

(2) Each committee may fix the number of its members to constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, which may not be less than two.

(3) Each committee may fix the number of its

members to constitute a quorum for taking any action other than one for which the presence of a majority of the committee is otherwise required, which may not be less than one-third of the members.

(4)(A) Each committee may adopt a rule authorizing the chair of a committee or subcommittee—

(i) to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment; and

(ii) to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

(B) A rule adopted pursuant to this subparagraph shall provide that when proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

Calling and Questioning of Witnesses

(i)(1) Whenever a hearing is conducted by a committee on a measure or matter, the minority member of the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the chair before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(2)(A) Subject to subdivisions (B) and (C), each committee shall apply the five-minute rule during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing until such time as each member of the committee who so desires has had an opportunity to question each witness.

(B) A committee may adopt a rule or motion permitting a specified number of its members to question a witness for longer than five minutes. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this subdivision shall be equal for the majority party and the minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

Hearing Procedures

(j)(1) The chair at a hearing shall announce in

an opening statement the subject of the hearing.

(2) A copy of the committee rules and of this clause shall be made available to each witness on request.

(3) Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the committee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness—

(A) notwithstanding paragraph (g)(2), such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session if, in the presence of the number of

members required under the rules of the committee for the purpose of taking testimony, the committee determines by vote of a majority of those present that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; and

(B) the committee shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if the committee, a majority being present, determines that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

In either case the committee shall afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness, and receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (5), the chair shall receive and the committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witnesses.

(7) Evidence or testimony taken in executive session, and proceedings conducted in executive session, may be released or used in public sessions only when authorized by

the committee, a majority being present.

(8) In the discretion of the committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of the testimony of such witness given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the committee.

Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Dissenting Views

(k) If at the time of approval of a measure or matter by a committee (other than the Committee on Rules & Reform) a member of the committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views for inclusion in the report to the House thereon, all members shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on

such a day) to file such written and signed views with the Clerk of the Committee.

Power to Sit and Act; Subpoena Power

(l)(1) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under this rule, a committee or subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (3)(A))—

(A) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it considers necessary; and

(B) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary.

(2) The chair of the committee may administer oaths to witnesses.

(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (A)(ii), a subpoena may be authorized and issued by a committee or subcommittee under

subparagraph (1)(B) in the conduct of an investigation or series of investigations or activities only when authorized by the committee or subcommittee, all Members of the committee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the chair of the committee and attested by the Speaker.

(ii) In the case of a subcommittee of the Committee on Ethics, a subpoena may be authorized and issued only by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members.

(B) A subpoena duces tecum may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the committee or subcommittee authorizing the subpoena.

(C) Compliance with a subpoena issued by a committee or subcommittee under subparagraph (1)(B) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

(m)(1) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-

day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in programs which that committee may authorize.

(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received.

(n) Each committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any House agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

(o) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by indicating that programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known

as the “high-risk list” or the “high-risk series.”

Committee on Ethics

3. (a) The Committee on Ethics has the following functions:

(1) The committee may recommend to the House from time to time such administrative actions as it may consider appropriate to establish or enforce standards of official conduct for Members. A letter of reproof or other administrative action of the committee pursuant to an investigation under subparagraph (2) shall only be issued or implemented as a part of a report required by such subparagraph.

(2) The committee may investigate, subject to paragraph (b), an alleged violation by a Member of the Code of Official Conduct or a rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual. After notice and hearing (unless the right to a hearing is waived by the Member), the committee shall report to the House its

findings of fact and recommendations, if any, for the final disposition of any such investigation and such action as the committee may consider appropriate in the circumstances.

(3) The committee may consider the request of a Member for an advisory opinion with respect to the general propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member. With appropriate deletions to ensure the privacy of the person concerned, the committee may publish such opinion for the guidance of other Members.

(4) The committee may consider the request of a Member for a written waiver in exceptional circumstances.

(b)(1)(A) Unless approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, the Committee on Ethics may not report a resolution, report, recommendation, or advisory opinion relating to the official conduct of a Member, or, except as provided in subparagraph (2), undertake an investigation of such conduct.

(B)(i) Upon the receipt of information offered as a

complaint that is in compliance with this rule and the rules of the committee, the chair and ranking member jointly may appoint members to serve as an investigative subcommittee.

(ii) The chair and ranking member of the committee jointly may gather additional information concerning alleged conduct that is the basis of a complaint or of information offered as a complaint until they have established an investigative subcommittee or either of them has placed on the agenda of the committee the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee.

(2) Except in the case of an investigation undertaken by the committee on its own initiative, the committee may undertake an investigation relating to the official conduct of an individual Member only—

(A) upon receipt of information offered as a complaint, in writing and under oath, from a Member and transmitted to the committee by such Member; or

(B) upon receipt of information offered as a

complaint, in writing and under oath, from a person not a Member provided that a Member certifies in writing to the committee that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the committee.

If a complaint is not disposed of within the applicable periods set forth in the rules of the Committee on Ethics, the chair and ranking member shall establish jointly an investigative subcommittee and forward the complaint, or any portion thereof, to that subcommittee for its consideration. However, if at any time during those periods either the chair or ranking member places on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, then an investigative subcommittee may be established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

(3) The committee may not undertake an investigation of an alleged violation of a rule, regulation, or standard of conduct that was not in effect at the time of the

alleged violation. The committee may not undertake an investigation of such an alleged violation that occurred before the third previous Assembly unless the committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation that occurred in a more recent Assembly.

(4) A member of the committee shall be ineligible to participate as a member of the committee in a committee proceeding relating to the member's official conduct. Whenever a member of the committee is ineligible to act as a member of the committee under the preceding sentence, the Speaker shall designate a Member as the ineligible member to act in any proceeding of the committee relating to that conduct.

(5) A member of the committee may seek disqualification from participating in an investigation of the conduct of a Member upon the submission in writing and under oath of an affidavit of disqualification stating that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision in the

case in which the member seeks to be disqualified. If the committee approves and accepts such affidavit of disqualification, the chair shall so notify the Speaker and request the Speaker to designate a Member as the disqualifying member to act in any proceeding of the committee relating to that case.

(6) Information or testimony received, or the contents of a complaint or the fact of its filing, may not be publicly disclosed by any committee or staff member unless specifically authorized in each instance by a vote of the full committee.

(7) The committee shall have the functions designated in the Rules of the House.

(c)(1) Each meeting of the Committee on Ethics or a subcommittee thereof shall occur in executive session unless the committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, opens the meeting to the public.

(2) Each hearing of an adjudicatory subcommittee or sanction hearing of the Committee on Ethics shall be held in

open session unless the committee or subcommittee, in open session by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, closes all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day to the public.

(d) Before a Member on the Committee on Ethics, including Members of a subcommittee of the committee selected and shared staff, may have access to information that is confidential under the rules of the committee, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose, to any person or entity outside the Committee on Ethics, any information received in the course of my service with the committee, except as authorized by the committee or in accordance with its rules.”

Copies of the executed oath shall be retained by the Clerk as part of the records of the House. This paragraph establishes a standard of conduct within the meaning of paragraph (a)(2). Breaches of confidentiality shall be investigated by the

Committee on Ethics and appropriate action shall be taken.

(e) If a complaint or information offered as a complaint is deemed frivolous by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee on Ethics, the committee may take such action as it, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Committee Agendas

(f) The committee shall adopt rules providing that the chair shall establish the agenda for meetings of the committee, but shall not preclude the ranking minority member from placing any item on the agenda.

Meetings and Hearings

(g) The committee shall adopt rules providing that—

(1) all meetings or hearings of the committee or any subcommittee thereof, other than any hearing held by an adjudicatory subcommittee or any sanction hearing held by the committee, shall occur in executive session unless the committee or

subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members opens the meeting or hearing to the public; and

(2) any hearing held by an adjudicatory subcommittee or any sanction hearing held by the committee shall be open to the public unless the committee or subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members closes the hearing to the public.

Public Disclosure

(h) The committee shall adopt rules providing that, unless otherwise determined by a vote of the committee, only the chair or ranking member, after consultation with each other, may make public statements regarding matters before the committee or any subcommittee thereof.

Requirements to Constitute a Complaint

(i) The committee shall adopt rules regarding complaints to provide that whenever information offered as a complaint is submitted to the committee, the chair and ranking member shall have 14 calendar days or five legislative days,

whichever is sooner, to determine whether the information meets the requirements of the rules of the committee for what constitutes a complaint.

Duties of Chair and Ranking Member Regarding Properly Filed Complaints

(j)(1) The committee shall adopt rules providing that whenever the chair and ranking member jointly determine that information submitted to the committee meets the requirements of the rules of the committee for what constitutes a complaint, they shall have 45 calendar days or five legislative days, whichever is later, after that determination (unless the committee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members votes otherwise) to—

(A) recommend to the committee that it dispose of the complaint, or any portion thereof, in any manner that does not require action by the House, which may include dismissal of the complaint or resolution of the complaint by a letter to the Member or officer against whom the complaint is made;

(B) establish an investigative subcommittee; or

(C) request that the committee extend the applicable 45-calendar day or five-legislative day period by one additional 45-calendar day period when they determine more time is necessary in order to make a recommendation under subdivision (A).

(2) The committee shall adopt rules providing that if the chair and ranking member jointly determine that information submitted to the committee meets the requirements of the rules of the committee for what constitutes a complaint, and the complaint is not disposed of within the applicable time periods under subparagraph (1), then they shall establish an investigative subcommittee and forward the complaint, or any portion thereof, to that subcommittee for its consideration. However, if, at any time during those periods, either the chair or ranking member places on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, then an investigative subcommittee may be

established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

Duties of Chair and Ranking Member Regarding Information not Constituting a Complaint

(k) The committee shall adopt rules providing that whenever the chair and ranking member jointly determine that information submitted to the committee does not meet the requirements of the rules of the committee for what constitutes a complaint, they may—

(1) return the information to the complainant with a statement that it fails to meet the requirements of the rules of the committee for what constitutes a complaint; or

(2) recommend to the committee that it authorize the establishment of an investigative subcommittee.

Investigative and Adjudicatory Subcommittees

(l) The committee shall adopt rules providing that—

(1)(A) an investigative subcommittee shall be

composed of two Members whenever such a subcommittee is established pursuant to the rules of the committee;

(B) an adjudicatory subcommittee shall be composed of the members of the committee who did not serve on the pertinent investigative subcommittee whenever such a subcommittee is established pursuant to the rules of the committee; and

(C) notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, the chair and ranking member of the committee may consult with an investigative subcommittee either on their own initiative or on the initiative of the subcommittee, shall have access to information before a subcommittee with which they so consult, and shall not thereby be precluded from serving as full, voting members of any adjudicatory subcommittee;

(2) at the time of appointment, the chair shall designate one member of a subcommittee to serve as chair and the ranking member, which does not

require consent of the House, shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the ranking member; and

(3) the chair and ranking member of the committee may serve as members of an investigative subcommittee, but may not serve as non-voting, ex officio members.

Standard of Proof for Adoption of Statement of Alleged Violation

(m) The committee shall adopt rules to provide that an investigative subcommittee may adopt a statement of alleged violation only if it determines by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the subcommittee that there is substantial reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities by a Member of the House of Commons, has occurred.

Subcommittee Powers

(n)(1) The committee shall adopt rules providing that an investigative subcommittee or an

adjudicatory subcommittee may authorize and issue subpoenas only when authorized by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the subcommittee.

(2) The committee shall adopt rules providing that an investigative subcommittee may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, expand the scope of its investigation when approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

(3) The committee shall adopt rules to provide that—

(A) an investigative subcommittee may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, amend its statement of alleged violation anytime before the statement of alleged violation is transmitted to the committee; and

(B) if an investigative subcommittee amends its statement of alleged violation, the respondent shall be notified in writing and shall have 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to file an answer to the

amended statement of alleged violation.

Due Process Rights of Respondents

(o) The committee shall adopt rules to provide that—

(1) not less than 10 calendar days before a scheduled vote by an investigative subcommittee on a statement of alleged violation, the subcommittee shall provide the respondent with a copy of the statement of alleged violation it intends to adopt together with all evidence it intends to use to prove those charges which it intends to adopt, including documentary evidence, witness testimony, memoranda of witness interviews, and physical evidence, unless the subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members decides to withhold certain evidence in order to protect a witness; but if such evidence is withheld, the subcommittee shall inform the respondent that evidence is being withheld and of the count to which such evidence relates;

(2) neither the respondent nor the counsel of the

respondent shall, directly or indirectly, contact the subcommittee or any member thereof during the period of time set forth in paragraph (1) except for the sole purpose of settlement discussions where counsel for the respondent and the subcommittee are present;

(3) if, at any time after the issuance of a statement of alleged violation, the committee or any subcommittee thereof determines that it intends to use evidence not provided to a respondent under paragraph (1) to prove the charges contained in the statement of alleged violation (or any amendment thereof), such evidence shall be made immediately available to the respondent, and it may be used in any further proceeding under the rules of the committee;

(4) evidence provided pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) shall be made available to the respondent and the counsel of the respondent only after each agrees, in writing, that no document, information, or other materials obtained pursuant to that

paragraph shall be made public until—

(A) such time as a statement of alleged violation is made public by the committee if the respondent has waived the adjudicatory hearing; or

(B) the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing if the respondent has not waived an adjudicatory hearing; but the failure of respondent and the counsel of the respondent to so agree in writing, and their consequent failure to receive the evidence, shall not preclude the issuance of a statement of alleged violation at the end of the period referred to in paragraph (1);

(5) a respondent shall receive written notice whenever—

(A) the chair and ranking member determine that information the committee has received constitutes a complaint;

(B) a complaint or allegation is transmitted to an investigative subcommittee;

(C) an investigative subcommittee votes to authorize its first subpoena or to take testimony under oath, whichever occurs first;

(D) an investigative subcommittee votes to expand the scope of its investigation; or

(E) the committee or an investigative subcommittee determines to take into evidence the trial transcript or exhibits admitted into evidence at a criminal trial pursuant to subparagraph (9);

(6) whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a statement of alleged violation and a respondent enters into an agreement with that subcommittee to settle a complaint on which that statement is based, that agreement, unless the respondent requests otherwise, shall be in writing and signed by the respondent and respondent's counsel, the chair and ranking minority member of the subcommittee, and the outside counsel, if any;

(7) statements or information derived solely from a respondent or the counsel of a respondent during any settlement discussions between the committee or a subcommittee thereof and the respondent shall not be included in any report of the subcommittee or

the committee or otherwise publicly disclosed without the consent of the respondent;

(8) whenever a motion to establish an investigative subcommittee does not prevail, the committee shall promptly send a letter to the respondent informing the respondent of such vote; and

(9) in any investigation permitted by House or committee rules, in addition to any other evidence which the committee or an investigative subcommittee may consider, if the respondent has been convicted by a court of record for a crime which is related to the subject of the investigation, the committee or investigative subcommittee may take into evidence the trial transcript and all exhibits admitted into evidence at the trial.

Committee Reporting Requirements

(p) The committee shall adopt rules to provide that—

(1) whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a statement of

alleged violation and transmits a report to that effect to the committee, the committee may by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members transmit such report to the House of Commons;

(2) whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a statement of alleged violation, the respondent admits to the violations set forth in such statement, the respondent waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, and the respondent's waiver is approved by the committee—

(A) the subcommittee shall prepare a report for transmittal to the committee, a final draft of which shall be provided to the respondent not less than 15 calendar days before the subcommittee votes on whether to adopt the report;

(B) the respondent may submit views in writing regarding the final draft to the subcommittee within seven calendar days of receipt of that draft;

(C) the subcommittee shall transmit a report to the committee regarding the statement of alleged

violation together with any views submitted by the respondent pursuant to subdivision (B), and the committee shall make the report together with the respondent's views available to the public before the commencement of any sanction hearing; and

(D) the committee shall by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members issue a report and transmit such report to the House of Commons, together with the respondent's views previously submitted pursuant to subdivision (B) and any additional views respondent may submit for attachment to the final report; and

(3) members of the committee shall have not less than 72 hours to review any report transmitted to the committee by an investigative subcommittee before both the commencement of a sanction hearing and the committee vote on whether to adopt the report.

(q) Upon receipt of any written notification from the board of the Office of Ethics that the board is undertaking a review of

any alleged conduct of any Member and if the committee is investigating such matter, the committee may at any time so notify the board and request that the board cease its review and refer the matter to the committee for its consideration. If at the end of the applicable time period (including any permissible extension) the committee has not reached a final resolution of the matter, the committee shall so notify the board of the Office of Ethics in writing. The committee may not request the same matter from the board more than one time.

(r) The committee may not take any action that would deny any person any right or protection provided under the Constitution of the United States.

Audio and Visual Coverage of Committee Proceedings

4. (a) The purpose of this clause is to provide a means, in conformity with acceptable standards of dignity, propriety, and decorum, by which committee hearings or committee meetings that are open to the public may

be covered by audio and visual means—

(1) for the education, enlightenment, and information of the general public, on the basis of accurate and impartial news coverage, regarding the operations, procedures, and practices of the House as a legislative and representative body, and regarding the measures, public issues, and other matters before the House and its committees, the consideration thereof, and the action taken thereon; and

(2) for the development of the perspective and understanding of the general public with respect to the role and function of the House under the Constitution as an institution of Government.

(b) In addition, it is the intent of this clause that radio and television tapes and television film of any coverage under this clause may not be used for any partisan political campaign purpose or be made available for such use.

(c) It is, further, the intent of this clause that the general conduct of each meeting (whether of a

hearing or otherwise) covered under authority of this clause by audio or visual means, and the personal behavior of the committee members and staff, other Government officials and personnel, witnesses, television, radio, and press media personnel, and the general public at the hearing or other meeting, shall be in strict conformity with and observance of the acceptable standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the House in its operations, and may not be such as to—

(1) distort the objects and purposes of the hearing or other meeting or the activities of committee members in connection with that hearing or meeting or in connection with the general work of the committee or of the House; or

(2) cast discredit or dishonor on the House, the committee, or a Member or bring the House, the committee, or a Member into disrepute.

(d) The coverage of committee hearings and meetings by audio and visual means shall be

permitted and conducted only in strict conformity with the purposes, provisions, and requirements of this clause.

(e) Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by a committee or subcommittee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by audio and visual means. A committee or subcommittee chair may not limit the number of television or still cameras to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety considerations, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized).

(f) Written rules adopted by each committee pursuant to clause 2(a)(1)(D) shall contain provisions to the following effect:

(1) If audio or visual coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, that coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.

(2) The allocation among the television media of the positions or the number of television cameras

permitted by a committee or subcommittee chair in a hearing or meeting room shall be in accordance with fair and equitable procedures.

(3) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between a witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the committee or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(4) Television cameras shall operate from fixed positions but may not be placed in positions that obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

(5) Equipment necessary for coverage by the television and radio media may not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing or meeting room while the committee is in session.

(6)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), floodlights, spotlights, strobe lights, and flashguns may not be used in providing any method of coverage of the hearing or meeting.

(B) The television media may install additional

lighting in a hearing or meeting room, without cost to the Government, in order to raise the ambient lighting level in a hearing or meeting room to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of a hearing or meeting at the current state of the art of television coverage.

(7) If requests are made by more of the media than will be permitted by a committee or subcommittee chair for coverage of a hearing or meeting by still photography, that coverage shall be permitted on the basis of a fair and equitable pool arrangement devised by the Standing Committee of Press Photographers.

(8) Photographers may not position themselves between the witness table and the members of the committee at any time during the course of a hearing or meeting.

(9) Photographers may not place themselves in positions that obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing by the other media.

(10) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be currently accredited to

the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(11) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery.

(12) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and their coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner.

Pay of Witnesses

5. Witnesses appearing before the House or any of its committees shall be paid the same per diem rate as established, authorized, and regulated by the Committee on Rules & Reform for Members, plus actual expenses of travel to or from the place of examination. Such per diem may not be paid when a witness has been summoned at the place of examination.

Unfinished Business of the Session

6. All business of the House at the end of one session shall be resumed at the commencement of the next session of the same Assembly in the

same manner as if no adjournment had taken place.

Rule XVIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The provisions of law that constituted the Rules of the House at the end of the previous Assembly shall govern the House in all cases to which they are applicable, and the rules of parliamentary practice comprised by Jefferson's Manual shall govern the house in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules and orders of the House.

Rule XIX

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATION

1. The following positions are considered as nominations under this Rule:

(a) Chair and Ranking Member Committee Assignments;

(b) Health Advisor of the House;

(c) All Agencies Positions created under law; and

(d) any additional position that the House may add under law.

2. The House does not treat the Clerk, Speaker, and Sergeant-at-Arms as nominated positions under this Rule.

3. The Speaker shall have the sole power to nominate someone to the House upon a creation or vacancy of such position. Such nominations shall be in writing, read as a communication to the House, and, unless otherwise, referred and placed on the House Calendar.

4. Unless otherwise stated in an Act, nominated positions are placed on the House Calendar until they are called up by the Speaker.

5. (a) Upon the Speaker calling up a nomination under Rule VI, Clause 1 from the House Calendar, the Clerk shall report the nomination and then shall proceed to one hour of debate on the nomination.

(b) The question under debate on the confirmation of the nomination shall be subject to Rule VII.

6. Upon action of the House, the Speaker shall be immediately notified of the House's actions.

7. The Speaker may withdraw a nomination anytime before the question is put thereon.

8. Unless otherwise stated in an Act, nominated positions are confined to Members of the House.

9. The Speaker may remove any person from their respective nominated position if so warranted. The House may pass a Joint Resolution to find disapproval of a person in a nominated position. If such measure passes and is Assented, that shall be considered removed from such position.

10. (a) The House may from time to time pass Acts to impose term limits on nominations, creations of new nominated positions, and amending this Rule.

(b) All positions are considered as life positions unless otherwise.

Rule XX

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

1. Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its

proceedings; and second, those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of Members, individually, in their respective capacity only.

2. (a)(1) A resolution reported as a question of the privileges of the House, or offered from the floor by the Speaker as a question of the privileges of the House shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn. A resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the Speaker as a question of the privileges of the House shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn only at a time or place, designated by the Speaker, in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after the day on which the proponent announces to the House an intention to offer the resolution and the form of the resolution. Oral announcement of the form of the resolution may be dispensed with by unanimous consent.

(2) The time allotted for debate on a resolution offered from the floor as a question of the privileges of the House shall be equally divided between

(A) the proponent of the resolution, and (B) the opponent of the resolution.

(3) A resolution causing a vacancy in the Office of Speaker shall not be privileged except if supported by one (1) other Member.

(b) A question of personal privilege shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn.

Rule XXI

RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN BILLS

Reservation of Certain Points of Order

1. At the time of a general appropriation bill is reported, all points of order against provisions therein shall be considered as reserved.

Taxation Measures

2. Any measures that relate to taxation must—

(a) not be passed via a motion to suspend the rules and pass;

(b) be reported out of committee; and

(c) must have 72 hours period between the period of being reported out of committee to debate on the House floor.

Rule XXII

CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

There is hereby established by and for the House the following code of conduct, to be known as the “Code of Official Conduct”:

1. A Member shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.

2. Before a Member may have access to classified information, the following oath shall be executed:

“I do solemnly swear that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Commons, except as authorized by the House of Commons of in accordance with its Rules.”

Copies of the executed oath shall be retained as Records of the House.