

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

L.R.B. Form No. 4 (Rev. 1/11/17)

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**A Resolution adopting the Rules  
of the Senate for the 207th and  
208th Regular Session.**

**Legislative Reference Bureau**

**INTRODUCED** \_\_\_\_\_

By Williams, Lindsey M. District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session \_\_\_\_\_

**Referred to Committee on**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reported** \_\_\_\_\_

**As Committed-Amended**

**Recomendation**

\_\_\_\_\_

**By Hon.** \_\_\_\_\_

## A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting the Rules of the Senate for the 207th and 208th Regular  
2 Session.

3 RESOLVED, That the following be adopted as the Rules of the  
4 Senate for the governing of the 207th and 208th Regular Session.

5 2023-2024

6 RULES OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

7 Rule 1. Sessions.

8 (a) Regular and special.--The General Assembly shall be a  
9 continuing body during the term for which its Representatives  
10 are elected. It shall meet at twelve o'clock noon on the first  
11 Tuesday of January each year. Special sessions shall be called  
12 by the Governor on petition of a majority of the Members elected  
13 to each House or may be called by the Governor whenever in his  
14 opinion the public interest requires. (Const. Art. II, Sec. 4)

15 (b) Weekly.--The Senate shall convene its weekly sessions on  
16 Monday, unless the Senate shall otherwise direct.

17 Rule 2. President.

1 The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate.

2 (Const. Art. IV, Sec. 4)

3 Rule 3. Duties of the President.

4 The President shall:

5 (1) Take the chair on every legislative day at the hour  
6 to which the Senate stands recessed, immediately call the  
7 Senators to order, and proceed with the Order of Business of  
8 the Senate.

9 (2) While in session have general direction of the  
10 Senate Chamber. It shall be the President's duty to preserve  
11 order and decorum, including ensuring all members and staff  
12 with privilege of the floor are properly attired pursuant to  
13 Senate Rule 10, and, in case of disturbance or disorderly  
14 conduct in the Chamber or galleries, may cause the same to be  
15 cleared. When in the President's opinion there arises a case  
16 of extreme disturbance or emergency the President shall, with  
17 the concurrence of the President Pro Tempore, the Majority  
18 Leader and the Minority Leader, recess the Senate. Such  
19 recess shall not extend beyond the limitation imposed by  
20 Article II, section 14 of the Constitution.

21 (3) During debate, prevent personal references or  
22 questions as to motive, and confine Senators, in debate, to  
23 the question.

24 (4) Decide, when two or more Senators arise, who shall  
25 be first to speak.

26 (5) In the presence of the Senate, within one  
27 legislative day after receipt or adoption, sign all bills and  
28 joint resolutions which have passed both Houses after their  
29 titles have been read.

30 (6) Sign resolutions, orders, writs, warrants and

1 subpoenas issued by order of the Senate. The signature shall  
2 be attested by the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate,  
3 or, if absent, by the Chief Clerk of the Senate; and the fact  
4 of signing shall be entered in the Journal on the next  
5 available session day.

6 (7) Decide all points of order, subject to appeal,  
7 giving, however, any Member called to order the right to  
8 extenuate or justify. Debate shall not be permitted unless  
9 there be an appeal from a decision of the President in which  
10 event the President shall submit the question to the whole  
11 Senate for decision. The President shall submit points of  
12 order involving the constitutionality of any matter to the  
13 Senate for decision. Questions of order submitted to the  
14 Senate may be debated.

15 Rule 4. President Pro Tempore.

16 (a) Election.--The Senate shall, at the beginning and close  
17 of each regular session and at such other times as may be  
18 necessary, elect one of its Members President Pro Tempore, who  
19 shall perform the duties of the Lieutenant Governor in any case  
20 of absence or disability of that officer, and whenever the  
21 office of Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant. (Const. Art. II,  
22 Sec. 9)

23 (b) Voting.--The vote of a majority of the Members voting  
24 shall be required to elect a President Pro Tempore. Except at  
25 the beginning and close of each regular session, the Senate  
26 shall only elect a President Pro Tempore when the office has  
27 become vacant and the vote of the majority of the Members  
28 elected shall be required to vacate the office of a seated  
29 President Pro Tempore.

30 Rule 5. Duties of President Pro Tempore.

1 (a) Mandatory.--The President Pro Tempore shall:

2 (1) Appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and members of the  
3 Standing Committees of the Senate as soon after the election  
4 of the President Pro Tempore as possible. Upon the  
5 resignation of the Chair of a standing committee, the  
6 President Pro Tempore may designate an acting Chair.

7 (2) Appoint members to special committees whenever  
8 authorized.

9 (3) Fill all vacancies occurring in standing and special  
10 committees.

11 (4) Refer to the appropriate standing committee every  
12 bill and joint resolution which may be introduced in the  
13 Senate or received from the House of Representatives.

14 (5) Appoint and have under the President Pro Tempore's  
15 direction such Senate employees as are authorized by law.

16 (6) Vote last on all questions when occupying the Chair.

17 (b) Discretionary.--The President Pro Tempore may name any  
18 Senator to preside in the absence of the President, or if both  
19 the President and President Pro Tempore are absent the Majority  
20 Leader, or the Majority Leader's designee, shall preside. The  
21 Majority Leader, during such time, shall be vested with all  
22 powers of the President. This authority shall not extend beyond  
23 a day's recess.

24 Rule 6. Duties of the Secretary-Parliamentarian.

25 (a) Election.--At the beginning of each regular session  
26 convening in an odd-numbered year and at other times as may be  
27 necessary, the Senate shall elect a Secretary-Parliamentarian of  
28 the Senate.

29 (b) General duties.--The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the  
30 Senate shall:

1           (1) Assist the presiding officer in conducting the  
2 business of the session.

3           (2) Act in the capacity of Parliamentarian.

4           (c) Specific duties.--The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the  
5 Senate shall, subject to the direction of the President Pro  
6 Tempore:

7           (1) Direct the following functions:

8           (i) Amending bills in the Senate.

9           (ii) Preparing and publishing the Senate Calendar.

10          (iii) Publication of the Senate History.

11          (iv) Numbering Senate bills as they are introduced  
12 and causing them to be distributed to the chair of the  
13 committee to which they are referred and receiving a  
14 receipt for the same.

15          (v) Printing of bills.

16          (vi) Maintain and update, as needed, the Legislative  
17 Data Processing Senate Virtual Session Desk application  
18 for use by members and staff.

19          (2) Keep a record of the Senate action on a bill on a  
20 special record sheet attached to the bill after it has been  
21 reported from committee.

22          (3) Keep a record of all leaves granted by the Senate by  
23 compiling the leave requests submitted by a member and  
24 transmitted to the Secretary-Parliamentarian by the  
25 respective Floor Leaders. These records shall be retained  
26 only for the duration of the two-year legislative session.  
27 Further, these records shall be available for public  
28 inspection upon request.

29          (4) Transmit all bills, joint resolutions, concurrent  
30 resolutions and other communications to the House of

1 Representatives within one legislative day of final passage  
2 or adoption, and each shall be accompanied by a message  
3 stating the title to the measure being transmitted and  
4 requesting concurrence of the House, as required.

5 (5) Attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by  
6 order of the Senate; certify as to the passage of Senate  
7 Bills and the approval of executive nominations.

8 (6) Supervise the Senate Library, assist Senators by  
9 making reference material available to them and perform any  
10 duties assigned to the Senate Librarian by any statute.

11 (7) Supervise the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, the Senate  
12 Bill Room, the Senate Print Shop, the Official Reporter's  
13 Office and the Senate Page Service.

14 (8) Post each roll call vote, including each roll call  
15 vote on all amendments, taken in the Senate on the Internet  
16 website maintained by the Senate immediately, but in no case  
17 later than 24 hours after the vote. Each roll call vote shall  
18 be posted in a manner which clearly identifies the bill,  
19 resolution, amendment or other subject of the vote.

20 (9) Post the Legislative Journal of the Senate on the  
21 Internet website maintained by the Senate upon approval of  
22 the Journal or within 90 calendar days of each session day,  
23 whichever is earlier. The journal shall be the official  
24 record of the Senate upon Senate approval or posting of the  
25 Journal on the Internet website by the Secretary-  
26 Parliamentarian.

27 (10) Provide for the publication and dissemination of  
28 educational or informational literature pertaining to the  
29 Senate, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Government of  
30 the United States.

1 Rule 7. Duties of the Chief Clerk of the Senate.

2 (a) Election.--At the beginning of each regular session  
3 convening in an odd-numbered year and, whenever necessary, the  
4 Senate shall elect a Chief Clerk of the Senate.

5 (b) Duties.--The Chief Clerk shall be the chief fiscal  
6 officer of the Senate and shall perform those powers and duties  
7 prescribed by law, the Rules of the Senate and at the direction  
8 of the President Pro Tempore. In the absence of the Secretary-  
9 Parliamentarian, the Chief Clerk shall, subject to the direction  
10 of the President Pro Tempore, attest all writs, warrants and  
11 subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and shall certify as to  
12 the passage of Senate Bills and the approval of executive  
13 nominations.

14 Rule 8. Duties of the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms.

15 There shall be a Chief Sergeant-at-Arms who shall:

16 (1) Be constantly in attendance during the sessions of  
17 the Senate except when absent in discharging other duties.

18 (2) Appoint, have charge of and direct the work of the  
19 assistant sergeants-at-arms.

20 (3) Serve all subpoenas and warrants issued by the  
21 Senate or any duly authorized officer or committee.

22 (4) Maintain order, at the direction of the presiding  
23 officer, in the Senate Chamber and adjoining rooms.

24 (5) See that no person, except those authorized to do  
25 so, disturbs or interferes with the desk, or its contents, of  
26 any Senator or officer.

27 (6) Exclude from the Floor all persons not entitled to  
28 the privilege of the same.

29 (7) Have charge of all entrances to the Chamber during  
30 the sessions of the Senate and shall see that the doors are



1 properly attended.

2 (8) Announce, upon recognition by the presiding officer,  
3 all important communications and committees.

4 (9) Escort the Senate to all Joint meetings with the  
5 mace.

6 (10) Escort the Senate to attend funeral services of  
7 members, former members of the Senate or other dignitaries  
8 with the mace.

9 Rule 9. Order of Business.

10 (a) General rule.--The Order of Business to be observed in  
11 taking up business shall be as follows:

12 First	Call to Order.
13 Second	Prayer by the Chaplain and
14	Pledge of Allegiance.
15 Third	Reading of Communications.
16 Fourth	Receiving reports of committees.
17 Fifth	Asking of leaves of absence. No
18	Senator shall absent himself
19	without leave of the Senate,
20	first obtained, unless prevented
21	from attendance by sickness, or
22	other sufficient cause.
23 Sixth	Approval of Journals of
24	preceding session days.
25 Seventh	Offering of original
26	resolutions.
27 Eighth	Introduction of Guests.
28 Ninth	Consideration of the Calendar.
29	Any bill or resolution on the
30	Calendar not finally acted upon

1 within 10 legislative days shall  
2 be removed from the Calendar and  
3 laid on the table, unless the  
4 Senate shall otherwise direct.  
5 Tenth Consideration of Executive  
6 Nominations.  
7 Eleventh Unfinished Business. Reports of  
8 Committees.  
9  
10 Twelfth First consideration of bills  
11 reported from committee, which,  
12 at this time, shall not be  
13 subject to amendment, debate or  
14 a vote thereon.  
15 Thirteenth Announcements by the Secretary-  
16 Parliamentarian.  
17 Fourteenth Introduction of Petitions and  
18 Remonstrances.  
19 Fifteenth Recess.

20 (b) Special order of business.--Any subject may, by a vote  
21 of two-thirds of the Members present, be made a special order;  
22 and when the time so fixed for its consideration arrives, the  
23 presiding officer shall lay it before the Senate.

24 Rule 10. Order and decorum.

25 (a) Recognition.--Any Senator who desires to speak or  
26 deliver any matter to the Senate shall rise and respectfully  
27 address the presiding officer as "Mr. President" or "Madam  
28 President," and on being recognized, may address the Senate at a  
29 microphone located on the Floor of the Chamber.

30 (b) Avoiding personal references.--Any Senator addressing

1 the Senate shall confine remarks to the question under debate,  
2 avoiding personal references or questions as to motive.

3 (c) Speaking out of order.--If any Senator transgresses the  
4 Rules of the Senate, in speaking or otherwise, the presiding  
5 officer may, or any Senator may through the presiding officer,  
6 call that Senator to order.

7 (d) Speaking more than twice.--No Senator shall speak more  
8 than twice on one question without leave of the Senate.

9 (e) Decorum.--When a Senator is speaking, no other person  
10 shall pass between the Senator and the presiding officer.

11 (f) Order and privilege.--No Senator speaking shall be  
12 interrupted except by a call to order, a question of privilege,  
13 a question of order or a call for the previous question, without  
14 the consent of the Senator speaking, and no Senator shall speak  
15 on a question after it is put to a vote.

16 (g) Questions of order.--The presiding officer shall decide  
17 all questions of order, subject to appeal by any member. No  
18 debate shall be allowed on questions of order, unless there is  
19 an appeal. A second point of order on the same general subject,  
20 but not the same point, is not in order while an appeal is  
21 pending, but when the first appeal is decided, laid on the table  
22 or otherwise disposed of, the second point of order is in order  
23 and is subject to appeal. While an appeal is pending, no other  
24 business is in order. It is within the discretion of the  
25 presiding officer as to whether to vacate the chair on an  
26 appeal.

27 (h) Question when interrupted.--A question regularly before  
28 the Senate can be interrupted only by a call for the previous  
29 question, for amendment, postponement, to lay on the table,  
30 commitment, recess or adjournment sine die.

1 (i) Use of tobacco products.--No tobacco products, including  
2 cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco, shall be used in  
3 the Senate Chamber or in Senate Committee Rooms.

4 (j) Cell phones.--In the Senate Chamber, cell phones and  
5 similar portable communication devices shall be set to silent  
6 mode and use of voice or video recording and broadcasting  
7 capabilities is prohibited.

8 (k) Proper attire.--Members and staff with privilege of the  
9 floor during Senate sessions shall not dress in a manner  
10 offensive to the decorum of the Senate but shall be dressed in  
11 professional attire, including a coat, tie and trousers or  
12 slacks for men, and appropriate dignified dress for women.

13 Rule 11. Motions.

14 (a) Putting a motion.--When a motion is made, it shall,  
15 before debate, be stated by the presiding officer. Every motion  
16 made to the Senate and entertained by the presiding officer  
17 shall be entered in the Journal with the name of the Senator  
18 making it. A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator making it  
19 before amendment, postponement, an order to lay on the table or  
20 decision.

21 (b) Precedence of motions.--Motions shall take precedence in  
22 the following order:

- 23 (1) Adjourn sine die.
- 24 (2) Recess.
- 25 (3) Previous question.
- 26 (4) Recess temporarily within the same session day.
- 27 (5) Questions of privilege of the Senate.
- 28 (6) Orders of the day.
- 29 (7) Lay on the table.
- 30 (8) Limit, close or extend limit on debate.

1 (9) Postpone.

2 (10) Commit or recommit.

3 (11) Amend.

4 (12) Main motion.

5 (c) Non-debatable motions.--Non-debatable motions are:

6 (1) Adjourn sine die.

7 (2) Recess.

8 (3) Recess temporarily within the same session day.

9 (4) Previous question.

10 (5) Orders of the day.

11 (6) Limit, close or extend limit on debate.

12 (d) Motions which permit limited debate.--

13 (1) On the motion to postpone, the question of  
14 postponement is open to debate, but the main question is not.

15 (2) The motion to commit or recommit to committee is  
16 debatable as to the propriety of the reference, but the main  
17 question is not open to debate.

18 (3) The motion to amend is debatable on the amendments  
19 only and does not open the main question to debate.

20 (e) Seconding motions.--All motions, except for the previous  
21 question, which shall be seconded by not less than four  
22 Senators, may be made without a second.

23 (f) Recessing and convening.--

24 (1) A motion to recess shall always be in order, except,  
25 when on the call for the previous question, the main question  
26 shall have been ordered to be now put, or when a Member has  
27 the Floor, and shall be decided without debate.

28 (2) On a motion to recess, adopted and not having a  
29 reconvening time, the Senate will meet the following day at  
30 10:00 a.m.

1           (3) The Senate shall not convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.  
2 unless the Senate adopts a motion that sets forth the need to  
3 convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.

4           (4) The Senate shall not recess later than 11:00 p.m.  
5 each session day unless the Senate adopts a motion that sets  
6 forth the need to recess later than 11:00 p.m.

7           (g) Motion for previous question.--Pending the consideration  
8 of any question before the Senate, a Senator may call for the  
9 previous question, and if seconded by four Senators, the  
10 President shall submit the question: "Shall the main question  
11 now be put?" If a two-thirds vote of all Senators elected are in  
12 favor of it, the main question shall be ordered, the effect of  
13 which shall cut off all further amendments and debate, and bring  
14 the Senate to a direct vote first upon the pending amendments  
15 and motions, if there be any, then upon the main proposition.  
16 The previous question may be ordered on any pending amendment or  
17 motion before the Senate.

18           (h) Motion to lay on table.--The motion to lay on the table  
19 is debatable, and the effect of the adoption of this motion is  
20 to place on the table the pending question and everything  
21 adhering to it. The motion to lay on the table shall require a  
22 vote of two-thirds of the Members present. Questions laid on the  
23 table remain there for the entire session unless taken up before  
24 the session closes.

25           (i) Motion to take from table.--A motion to take from the  
26 table, a bill or other subject, is in order under the same order  
27 of business in which the matter was tabled. It shall be decided  
28 without debate or amendment.

29           (j) Reconsideration.--

30           (1) When a question has once been made and carried in

1 the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order to move the  
2 reconsideration thereof. When the Senate has been equally  
3 divided on a question, or a bill shall have failed to pass by  
4 reason of not having received the number of votes required by  
5 the Constitution, it shall be in order to move the  
6 reconsideration thereof.

7 (2) Provided, however, that no motion for the  
8 reconsideration of any vote shall be in order after a bill,  
9 resolution, report, amendment or motion upon which the vote  
10 was taken shall have gone out of the possession of the  
11 Senate.

12 (3) Provided, further, that no motion for  
13 reconsideration shall be in order unless made on the same day  
14 on which the vote was taken, or within the next five days of  
15 voting session of the Senate thereafter.

16 (4) A motion to reconsider the same question a third  
17 time is not in order.

18 (5) When a bill, resolution, report, amendment, order,  
19 or communication, upon which a vote has been taken, shall  
20 have gone out of the possession of the Senate and been sent  
21 to the House of Representatives or to the Governor, the  
22 motion to reconsider shall not be in order until a resolution  
23 has been passed to request the House or Governor to return  
24 the same and the same shall have been returned to the  
25 possession of the Senate.

26 (k) Articles of impeachment.--A motion to call up articles  
27 of impeachment received from the House of Representatives is  
28 debatable.

29 Rule 12. Bills.

30 (a) Passage of bills.--

1 (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill  
2 shall be so altered or amended, on its passage through either  
3 House, as to change its original purpose. (Const. Art. III,  
4 Sec. 1)

5 (2) No alteration or amendment shall be considered which  
6 is not appropriate and closely allied to the original purpose  
7 of the bill. If a bill has been amended after being reported  
8 by the Appropriations Committee and if the amendment may  
9 require the expenditure of Commonwealth funds or funds of a  
10 political subdivision or cause a loss of revenue to the  
11 Commonwealth or a political subdivision, the Appropriations  
12 Committee shall make a fiscal note reflecting the impact of  
13 the amendment available to the Senators.

14 (b) Reference and printing.--No bill shall be considered  
15 unless referred to a committee, printed for the use of the  
16 members and returned therefrom. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 2)

17 (c) Form of bills.--No bill shall be passed containing more  
18 than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title,  
19 except a general appropriation bill or a bill codifying or  
20 compiling the law or a part thereof. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 3)

21 (d) Consideration of bills.--

22 (1) Every bill shall be considered on three different  
23 days in each House. All amendments made thereto shall be  
24 available pursuant to Rule 13(a)(2) for the use of the  
25 members before the final vote is taken on the bill. Upon  
26 written request addressed to the presiding officer of the  
27 Senate by at least 25% of the Members elected to the Senate,  
28 any bill shall be read at length in that House. No bill shall  
29 become a law, unless on its final passage the vote is taken  
30 by yeas and nays, the names of the persons voting for and



1 against it are entered on the Journal, and a majority of the  
2 Members elected to each House is recorded thereon as voting  
3 in its favor. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 4)

4 (2) Every bill that receives a majority of co-  
5 sponsorship support from the Majority Party and a majority of  
6 co-sponsorship support from the Minority Party shall be  
7 reported out of standing committee, considered on three  
8 separate days and receive a vote on final passage.

9 (3) Bills that originate in the House and are reported  
10 to the Senate with at least one vote from the Minority Party  
11 shall be reported out of standing committee, be considered on  
12 three separate days and receive a vote on final passage.

13 (e) Local and special bills.--No local or special bill shall  
14 be passed unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall  
15 have been published in the locality where the matter or the  
16 thing to be effected may be situated, which notice shall be at  
17 least 30 days prior to the introduction into the General  
18 Assembly of such bill and in the manner to be provided by law;  
19 the evidence of such notice having been published shall be  
20 exhibited in the General Assembly before such act shall be  
21 passed. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 7)

22 (f) Revenue bills.--All bills for raising revenue shall  
23 originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may  
24 propose amendments as in other bills. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 10)

25 (g) Appropriation bills.--

26 (1) The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing  
27 but appropriations for the executive, legislative and  
28 judicial departments of the Commonwealth, for the public debt  
29 and for public schools. All other appropriations shall be  
30 made by separate bills, each embracing but one subject.

1 (Const. Art. III, Sec. 11)

2 (2) No appropriation shall be made for charitable,  
3 educational or benevolent purposes to any person or community  
4 nor to any denomination and sectarian institution,  
5 corporation or association: Provided, That appropriations may  
6 be made for pensions or gratuities for military service and  
7 to blind persons 21 years of age and upwards and for  
8 assistance to mothers having dependent children and to aged  
9 persons without adequate means of support and in the form of  
10 scholarship grants or loans for higher educational purposes  
11 to residents of the Commonwealth enrolled in institutions of  
12 higher learning, except that no scholarship, grants or loans  
13 for higher educational purposes shall be given to persons  
14 enrolled in a theological seminary or school of theology.

15 (Const. Art. III, Sec. 29)

16 (h) Charitable and educational appropriations.--No  
17 appropriation shall be made to any charitable or educational  
18 institution not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth,  
19 other than normal schools established by law for the  
20 professional training of teachers for the public schools of the  
21 State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected  
22 to each House. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 30)

23 (i) Land transfer legislation.--

24 (1) No bills granting or conveying Commonwealth land or  
25 taking title thereto shall be reported by any committee of  
26 the Senate unless there has been filed with the Secretary-  
27 Parliamentarian and the Chair of the Reporting Committee, a  
28 memorandum from the Department of General Services indicating  
29 the use to which the property is presently employed, the full  
30 consideration for the transfer, if any, a departmental

1 appraisal of the property, including its valuation and a list  
2 of recorded liens and encumbrances, if any, the use to which  
3 the property will be employed upon its transfer, the date by  
4 which the land is needed for its new use and the senatorial  
5 district or districts in which the land is located. The  
6 memorandum shall be filed within 60 days after a request is  
7 made for same and contain a statement by a responsible person  
8 in the Department of General Services indicating whether or  
9 not the departments involved favor the transfer which is the  
10 subject of the bill under consideration. The sponsor of the  
11 bill or the Chair of the Reporting Committee may request the  
12 memorandum from the Department of General Services.

13 (2) No amendment granting or conveying Commonwealth land  
14 or taking title thereto shall be considered by the Senate  
15 unless there has been filed with the Secretary-  
16 Parliamentarian and the Chair of the committee reporting the  
17 bill a memorandum from the Department of General Services  
18 indicating the use to which the property is presently  
19 employed, the full consideration for the transfer, if any, a  
20 departmental appraisal of the property, including its  
21 valuation and a list of recorded liens and encumbrances, if  
22 any, the use to which the property will be employed upon its  
23 transfer, the date by which the land is needed for its new  
24 use, the senatorial district or districts in which the land  
25 is located and a statement by a responsible person in the  
26 Department of General Services indicating whether or not the  
27 departments involved favor the transfer which is the subject  
28 of the amendment under consideration. The memorandum shall be  
29 filed within 60 days after a request is made. The sponsor of  
30 the amendment or the Chair of the Reporting Committee may

1 request the memorandum from the Department of General  
2 Services.

3 (3) If a memorandum is not filed within 60 days after a  
4 request is made to the Department of General Services, the  
5 Senate or any committees of the Senate may consider bills or  
6 amendments granting or conveying Commonwealth land or taking  
7 title thereto, notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2).

8 (j) Consideration during second regular session.--All bills,  
9 joint resolutions, resolutions, concurrent resolutions or other  
10 matters pending before the Senate upon the recess of a first  
11 regular session convening in an odd-numbered year shall maintain  
12 their status and be pending before a second regular session  
13 convening in an even-numbered year but not beyond adjournment  
14 sine die or November 30th of such year, whichever first occurs.

15 (k) Introduction.--All bills shall be introduced in  
16 quadruplicate or filed electronically with the Secretary-  
17 Parliamentarian's Office through a process determined by the  
18 Secretary-Parliamentarian. A sponsor may be added after a bill  
19 has been printed but the addition of sponsors shall not require  
20 that the bill be reprinted. All bills shall be examined by the  
21 Legislative Reference Bureau for correctness as to form and  
22 shall be imprinted with the stamp of the Bureau before being  
23 filed with the Secretary-Parliamentarian for introduction.

24 (l) Character of bills to be introduced.--No Member shall  
25 introduce, nor shall any committee report any bill for the  
26 action of the Senate, proposing to legislate upon any of the  
27 subjects prohibited by Article III, section 32 of the  
28 Constitution.

29 (m) Printing of amended bills.--

30 (1) All bills reported or re-reported from committee, if

1 amended by the committee, and all bills on the Calendar, if  
2 amended by the Senate, shall be reprinted and a new printer's  
3 number assigned thereto before any action is taken thereon.

4 (2) No bill or joint resolution re-reported from  
5 committee as amended shall be voted upon on final passage  
6 until at least six hours have elapsed from the time of the  
7 committee report.

8 (n) First consideration.--Bills on first consideration shall  
9 not be subject to amendment, debate or a vote thereon.

10 (o) Second consideration.--Bills on second consideration may  
11 be subject to amendment, debate and a vote thereon.

12 (p) Third consideration and final passage.--

13 (1) The following apply:

14 (i) Bills on third consideration may be amended and  
15 are subject to debate. Bills on final passage may not be  
16 amended but are open to debate. The vote on final passage  
17 shall be taken by a roll call. The names of the Senators  
18 voting for and against shall be recorded, entered in the  
19 Journal and posted on the Internet website maintained by  
20 the Senate. No bill shall be declared passed unless a  
21 majority of all Senators elected to the Senate shall be  
22 recorded as voting for the same.

23 (ii) No bill shall be given third consideration on  
24 the Calendar until it has been referred to the  
25 Appropriations Committee and a fiscal note attached  
26 thereto.

27 (iii) In obtaining the information required by these  
28 Rules, the Appropriations Committee may utilize the  
29 services of the Budget Office and any other State agency  
30 as may be necessary.

1 (iv) No bills appropriating money for charitable or  
2 benevolent purposes shall be considered finally until  
3 after the general appropriation bill shall have been  
4 reported from committee.

5 (v) A bill on third consideration shall be  
6 considered by the Senate upon its merits and acted upon  
7 by the Senate at the request of the prime sponsor if the  
8 bill has been on third consideration for at least nine  
9 legislative days.

10 (2) The following apply:

11 (i) It shall not be in order, by suspension of this  
12 Rule or otherwise, to consider a bill on final passage  
13 unless it is printed, together with amendments, if any,  
14 and made available to the Senators.

15 (ii) No bill or joint resolution amended on third  
16 consideration shall be voted on final passage until at  
17 least six hours have elapsed from the time of adoption of  
18 the amendment.

19 (q) Prefiling of bills, joint resolutions and resolutions.--  
20 Any Senator or Senator-elect may file, via paper or electronic  
21 format, bills, joint resolutions and resolutions with the  
22 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate commencing on December  
23 15 of each even-numbered year. The Secretary-Parliamentarian of  
24 the Senate shall number the bills, joint resolutions and  
25 resolutions and shall have them available for distribution. Upon  
26 the naming of the committees of the Senate at the convening of a  
27 First Regular Session, the President Pro Tempore shall refer all  
28 prefiled measures to the proper committee within seven calendar  
29 days.

30 (r) Normal filing of bills, joint resolutions and

1 resolutions.--Senators may introduce bills, joint resolutions  
2 and resolutions by filing the same, via paper or electronic  
3 format, with the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate. The  
4 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate shall number the bills,  
5 joint resolutions and resolutions and shall notify the President  
6 Pro Tempore of the fact of such filing.

7 (s) Referral to committee by President Pro Tempore.--Every  
8 bill, joint resolution and resolution introduced by a Senator or  
9 received from the House of Representatives shall be referred by  
10 the President Pro Tempore to the appropriate committee within  
11 seven calendar days. Upon referral, the Secretary-  
12 Parliamentarian of the Senate shall deliver the bills, joint  
13 resolutions and resolutions, via paper or electronic format, to  
14 the committees to which they have been referred. The Secretary-  
15 Parliamentarian of the Senate shall have the bills, joint  
16 resolutions and resolutions available for distribution.

17 (t) Senate calendar.--Members of the Senate shall receive a  
18 marked Senate calendar no later than 24 hours in advance of the  
19 start of the Senate session.

20 (u) Supplemental calendar.--Members of the Senate shall  
21 receive a supplemental Senate calendar no later than 12 hours in  
22 advance of the start of the Senate session.

23 Rule 13. Amendments.

24 (a) When in order.--

25 (1) Amendments shall be in order when a bill is reported  
26 or re-reported from committee, on second consideration, on  
27 third consideration and on concurrence from the House. No  
28 amendments shall be received by the presiding officer or  
29 considered by the Senate which destroys the general sense of  
30 the original bill or is not appropriate and closely allied to

1 the original purpose of the bill. Any Member, upon request,  
2 must be furnished a copy of a proposed amendment, this  
3 includes being available on the Senate Virtual Session Desk  
4 application or its successor applications, and be given a  
5 reasonable opportunity to consider same before being required  
6 to vote thereon.

7 (2) Amendments offered on the Floor shall be read by the  
8 Reading Clerk and stated by the presiding officer to the  
9 Senate before being acted upon. Amendments shall be presented  
10 with at least four typewritten copies obtained electronically  
11 through the Legislative Reference Bureau, which shall have  
12 the Sponsor identified. No amendment may be considered by the  
13 Senate until the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate has  
14 posted the amendment on the Internet website maintained by  
15 the Senate. All amendments submitted to the Secretary-  
16 Parliamentarian for consideration on the floor shall receive  
17 a roll call vote unless the amendment sponsor indicates  
18 otherwise. The names of Senators voting for or against an  
19 amendment on either second or third consideration or on  
20 concurrence from the House shall be recorded, entered in the  
21 Journal and posted on the Internet website maintained by the  
22 Senate.

23 (3) Amendments to bills or other main motions or  
24 questions before the Senate may be tabled. When an amendment  
25 proposed to any bill or other main motion or question before  
26 the Senate is laid on the table, it shall not carry with it  
27 or prejudice the bill, main motion or question. A motion to  
28 take an amendment from the table shall only be in order if  
29 the bill or other main motion or question remains before the  
30 Senate for decision. The motion to take an amendment from the



1 table is not debatable and shall have the same precedence as  
2 the motion to amend.

3 (b) Amendments reconsidering; revert to prior print.--

4 Amendments adopted or defeated may not be again considered  
5 without reconsidering the vote by which the amendments were  
6 adopted or defeated, unless a majority vote of the Senators  
7 present shall decide to revert to a prior printer's number. If  
8 such a motion is made to a bill on third consideration and  
9 carried it shall not be in order to vote on the final passage of  
10 the bill until a copy of the reverted printer's number is made  
11 available to the Senators, this includes being available on the  
12 Senate Virtual Session Desk application or its successor  
13 applications.

14 (c) Concurrence in House amendments.--

15 (1) The following apply:

16 (i) No amendments to bills by the House shall be  
17 concurred in by the Senate, except by the vote of a  
18 majority of the Members elected to the Senate taken by  
19 yeas and nays. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 5)

20 (ii) If a bill on concurrence contains an amendment  
21 which may require the expenditure of Commonwealth funds  
22 or funds of a political subdivision or cause a loss of  
23 revenue to the Commonwealth or a political subdivision,  
24 the bill shall not be voted finally until a fiscal note  
25 reflecting the impact of the amendment is provided to the  
26 Senators, which includes being posted to the Senate  
27 Virtual Session Desk application with notification to  
28 Senators.

29 (2) The following apply:

30 (i) Any bill or resolution containing House

1 amendments which is returned to the Senate shall be  
2 referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive  
3 Nominations immediately upon the reading of the  
4 communication by the Reading Clerk, subject to paragraph  
5 (1)(ii). The consideration of any bill or resolution  
6 containing House amendments may include the amendment of  
7 House amendments in the Committee on Rules and Executive  
8 Nominations or prior to the vote on concurrence on the  
9 Senate Floor. The vote on concurring in amendments by the  
10 House to bills or resolutions amended by the House shall  
11 not be taken until the bills or resolutions have been  
12 favorably reported, as committed or as amended, by the  
13 Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and have  
14 been placed on the desks of the Senators, this includes  
15 being available on the Senate Virtual Session Desk  
16 application or its successor applications, and  
17 particularly referred to on their calendars.

18 (ii) Unless the Majority Leader and the Minority  
19 Leader shall agree otherwise, the offering of an  
20 amendment to House amendments in the Committee on Rules  
21 and Executive Nominations shall not be in order until at  
22 least one hour after the filing of a copy of the  
23 amendment as prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
24 with the office of the Secretary-Parliamentarian. Upon  
25 the filing of such an amendment, the Secretary-  
26 Parliamentarian shall immediately time stamp the  
27 amendment and forward a time-stamped copy of the  
28 amendment to the offices of the Majority Leader and the  
29 Minority Leader. Except as provided in this subsection,  
30 it shall not be in order to suspend or otherwise waive

1 the requirements of this subsection.

2 Rule 14. Committees.

3 (a) Standing committees.--

4 (1) There shall be the following permanent standing  
5 committees, the Chair, the Vice Chair and members thereof to  
6 be appointed by the President Pro Tempore as soon as possible  
7 after the election of the President Pro Tempore in sessions  
8 convening in odd-numbered years or such other times as may be  
9 necessary. The composition of each standing committee shall  
10 be equally divided between the Majority party, including  
11 Senators who caucus with the Majority party, and the Minority  
12 party, including Senators who caucus with the Minority party.

13 Aging and Youth - 10 members

14 Agriculture and Rural Affairs - 10 members

15 Appropriations - 22 members

16 Banking and Insurance - 14 members

17 Communications and Technology - 10 members

18 Community, Economic and Recreational Development - 14  
19 members

20 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure - 14  
21 members

22 Education - 10 members

23 Environmental Resources and Energy -- 10 members

24 Finance -- 10 members

25 Game and Fisheries -- 10 members

26 Health and Human Services -- 10 members

27 Intergovernmental Operations -- 10 members

28 Judiciary - 14 members

29 Labor and Industry -- 10 members

30 Law and Justice -- 10 members

1           Local Government -- 10 members  
2           Rules and Executive Nominations - 16 members  
3           State Government -- 10 members  
4           Transportation - 14 members  
5           Urban Affairs and Housing -- 10 members  
6           Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness -- 10  
7           members

8           (2) Subcommittees. Each standing committee or the chair  
9           thereof may appoint, from time to time, a subcommittee to  
10          study or investigate a matter falling within the jurisdiction  
11          of the standing committee or to consider a bill or resolution  
12          referred to it. A subcommittee may hold public hearings only  
13          with the prior permission of its standing committee.

14          Subcommittees shall be regulated by the Senate Rules of  
15          Procedure and shall be in existence for only that time  
16          necessary to complete their assignments and report to their  
17          standing committees.

18          (b) Members-ex-officio.--

19               (1) The President Pro Tempore shall be an ex-officio  
20          voting member of all standing committees and any  
21          subcommittees that may be established and shall not be  
22          included in the number of committee members herein provided.  
23          However, the President Pro Tempore shall not be an ex-officio  
24          Member of the Committee on Ethics and Official Conduct.

25               (2) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader shall  
26          each be an ex-officio member of the Committee on  
27          Appropriations and shall not be included in the number of  
28          members of the committee provided herein.

29               (3) The Majority Leader shall serve as Chair of the  
30          Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and the Minority

1 Leader shall serve as the Minority Chair.

2 (c) Committees' function between sessions.--Standing  
3 committees shall exist and function both during and between  
4 sessions. Such power shall not extend beyond November 30th of  
5 any even-numbered year.

6 (d) Powers and responsibilities.--Standing committees are  
7 authorized:

8 (1) To maintain a continuous review of the work of the  
9 Commonwealth agencies concerned with their subject areas and  
10 the performance of the functions of government within each  
11 such subject area, and for this purpose to request reports  
12 from time to time, in such form as the standing committee  
13 shall designate, concerning the operation of any Commonwealth  
14 agency and presenting any proposal or recommendation such  
15 agency may have with regard to existing laws or proposed  
16 legislation in its subject area. The standing committee is  
17 authorized to require public officials and employees and  
18 private individuals to appear before the standing committee  
19 for the purpose of submitting information to it.

20 (2) In order to carry out its duties, each standing  
21 committee is empowered with the right and authority to  
22 inspect and investigate the books, records, papers,  
23 documents, data, operation and physical plant of any public  
24 agency in this Commonwealth.

25 (3) In order to carry out its duties, each standing  
26 committee or special committee appointed under Rule 5(a)(2)  
27 may issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum and other  
28 necessary process to compel the attendance of witnesses and  
29 the production of any books, letters or other documentary  
30 evidence desired by the committee. The chair shall administer

1 oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to  
2 witnesses who shall appear before the committee to testify.

3 (4) Each bill referred to a standing committee shall be  
4 considered by the standing committee upon its merits and  
5 acted upon by the standing committee at a scheduled meeting  
6 within 10 legislative days or 30 calendar days, whichever is  
7 longer.

8 (5) Each resolution referred to a standing committee  
9 shall be considered by the standing committee upon its merits  
10 and acted upon by the standing committee at a scheduled  
11 meeting within 10 legislative days or 30 calendar days,  
12 whichever is longer.

13 (e) Notice of meetings.--

14 (1) The following apply:

15 (i) The Chair of a committee or, in the absence of  
16 the Chair, the Vice Chair, with the approval of the  
17 Chair, shall provide each member of the committee with  
18 written notice of committee meetings, which shall include  
19 the date, time and location of the meeting and the number  
20 of each bill, resolution or other matter which may be  
21 considered. The Chair shall give due notice of a standing  
22 committee meeting or hearing not later than 72 hours  
23 before the date and time the standing committee meeting  
24 or hearing is to be scheduled. Committee members shall  
25 give due notice of amendments to be offered not later  
26 than 24 hours before the scheduled standing committee  
27 meeting. During session, notice of meetings of standing  
28 committees shall be published daily. Notice shall be  
29 delivered by the Chair to the Secretary-Parliamentarian's  
30 office on a form prescribed by the Secretary-

1           Parliamentarian of the Senate by the end of the session  
2           on the day preceding its intended publication.

3           (ii) Whenever the Chair of any standing committee  
4           shall refuse to call a regular meeting, then a majority  
5           plus one of the members of the standing committee may  
6           vote to call a meeting by giving 72 hours' written notice  
7           to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate, setting  
8           the time and place for such meeting. Such notice shall be  
9           read in the Senate and the same posted by the Secretary-  
10          Parliamentarian in the Senate. Thereafter, the meeting  
11          shall be held at the time and place specified in the  
12          notice. In addition, any such meeting shall comply with  
13          all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open  
14          meetings) relative to notice of meetings.

15          (iii) When the majority plus one of the members of a  
16          standing committee believe that a certain bill or  
17          resolution in the possession of the standing committee  
18          should be considered and acted upon by such committee,  
19          they may request the Chair to include the same as part of  
20          the business of a committee meeting. Should the Chair  
21          refuse such request, the membership may require that such  
22          bill be considered by written motion made and approved by  
23          a majority plus one vote of the entire membership to  
24          which the committee is entitled.

25          (iv) Whenever the Chair of any standing committee  
26          fails to call a hearing on a resolution or bill, the  
27          Minority Chair of the standing committee may call a  
28          hearing by providing written notice to members of the  
29          standing committee and to the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
30          of the Senate, setting the time and place of such

1 hearing, not later than 72 hours before the hearing is to  
2 be scheduled. Such notice shall be read in the Senate and  
3 the same posted by the Secretary-Parliamentarian in the  
4 Senate. Thereafter, the hearing shall be held at the time  
5 and place specified in the notice. In addition, any such  
6 hearing shall comply with all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S.  
7 Ch. 7.

8 (v) When the Minority Chair of a standing committee  
9 believes that a certain bill or resolution in the  
10 possession of the standing committee should be considered  
11 and acted upon by such committee, the Minority Chair  
12 shall notify the Chair to include the same as part of the  
13 business of a committee meeting. The Chair shall add the  
14 bill or resolution to the standing committee meeting  
15 agenda.

16 (2) A committee meeting, or hearing for which notice has  
17 not been published as provided in paragraph (1), may be held  
18 during a session only if approval is granted by a two-thirds  
19 vote of the members of the relevant standing committee and if  
20 notice of the bills to be considered is given during session.

21 (f) Bills recommitted.--Any bill or resolution reported by  
22 any standing committee without prior notice having been given as  
23 required by these Rules shall be recommitted to the committee  
24 reporting the same.

25 (g) Public meetings or hearings.--

26 (1) The following apply:

27 (i) The Chair of a standing committee may hold  
28 hearings open to the public and in doing so shall make a  
29 public announcement in writing prior to the date of the  
30 hearing of the date, time, location and subject matter of



1 the hearing.

2 (ii) The Chair of a standing committee shall have  
3 the power to designate whether or not a meeting of the  
4 committee for the purpose of transacting committee  
5 business shall be open to the public or shall be held in  
6 executive session and therefore closed to the public, but  
7 no matters may be considered in executive session for  
8 which an open meeting is required under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7.  
9 The chairperson of a standing committee shall provide  
10 reasonable opportunity for public comment or testimony at  
11 each meeting.

12 (2) All standing committees may have their hearings  
13 reported and transcribed if payment for such service is being  
14 made from committee funds. If payment is expected to be made  
15 from a source other than committee funds, approval must be  
16 first obtained from the President Pro Tempore or Minority  
17 Leader.

18 (3) All meetings of the Senate standing and special  
19 committees shall be livestreamed and posted on the official  
20 Senate Internet website. The official Senate livestream and  
21 recordings of the livestream, video or audio, shall be  
22 broadcasted and may be posted on the respective Senate caucus  
23 websites and social media platforms. The restrictions on  
24 video and audio feeds under Rule 23(e) apply to livestreamed  
25 and video recordings of standing and special committee  
26 meetings. Video recordings of committee meetings shall be  
27 retained for at least 10 years.

28 (h) Quorum of committee.--A committee is actually assembled  
29 only when a quorum constituting a majority of the members of  
30 that committee is present in person. A majority of the quorum of

1 the whole committee, including at least one Senator of the  
2 Minority party, shall be required to report any bill, resolution  
3 or other matter to the Floor for action by the whole Senate.

4 (i) Quorum of subcommittee.--A subcommittee is actually  
5 assembled only when a quorum constituting a majority of the  
6 members of that subcommittee is present in person. A majority of  
7 the quorum of the whole subcommittee, including at least one  
8 Senator of the Minority party, shall be required to report any  
9 bill, resolution or other matter to the committee.

10 (j) Consideration of legislation.--

11 (1) The prime sponsor of a bill or resolution may  
12 request that the chairperson of a standing committee hold a  
13 meeting on a bill or resolution introduced and referred to  
14 the standing committee. The chairperson shall hold a public  
15 meeting within 10 legislative days of receiving a request  
16 from the prime sponsor of a bill or resolution. All meetings  
17 on bills or resolutions shall be subject to the requirements  
18 of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7. The chairperson of a standing committee  
19 shall provide reasonable opportunity for public comment or  
20 testimony at each meeting.

21 (2) Within 10 legislative days of a meeting on a bill or  
22 resolution held under paragraph (1), the chairperson of a  
23 standing committee shall hold a meeting of the standing  
24 committee to consider the bill or resolution.

25 (k) Discharging committees.--

26 (1) No standing committee shall be discharged from  
27 consideration of any bill, resolution or other matter within  
28 20 legislative days of its reference to committee without the  
29 unanimous consent of the Senate or after such 20-day period  
30 except by majority vote of all members elected to the Senate.

1           (2) Such discharge shall be by resolution which shall  
2 lie over one day for consideration upon introduction and  
3 which may be considered under the Order of Business of  
4 Resolutions on the Calendar.

5 Rule 15. Committee officers.

6           (a) Chair-ex-officio.--The Chair and Minority Chair of each  
7 standing committee shall be ex-officio members of each  
8 subcommittee that may be established as part of the standing  
9 committee, with the right to attend meetings of the subcommittee  
10 and vote on any matter before the subcommittee.

11           (b) Calling committee to order.--The Chair or, if authorized  
12 by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall call the committee to order  
13 at the hour provided by these Rules. Upon the appearance of a  
14 quorum, the committee shall proceed with the order of business.  
15 Any member of the committee may question the existence of a  
16 quorum.

17           (c) Chair control of the committee room.--The Chair or, if  
18 authorized by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall preserve order  
19 and decorum and shall have general control of the committee  
20 room. In case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct in the  
21 committee room, the Chair or, if authorized by the Chair, the  
22 Vice Chair, may cause the same to be cleared. The use of cell  
23 phones and similar portable communication devices within any  
24 Senate committee room by other than members of the Senate or  
25 their staffs is strictly prohibited.

26           (d) Chair's authority to sign documents and decide questions  
27 of order.--The Chair shall sign all notices, vouchers, subpoenas  
28 or reports required or permitted by these Rules. The Chair shall  
29 decide all questions of order relative to parliamentary  
30 procedure, subject to an appeal by any member of the committee.

1 (e) Vote of Chair, Vice Chair.--The Chair and Vice Chair  
2 shall vote on all matters before such committee; Provided, That  
3 the name of the Chair shall be called last.

4 (f) Performance of duties by Vice Chair.--Upon the death of  
5 the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the office  
6 until and unless the President Pro Tempore shall appoint a  
7 successor or designate an acting Chair. Upon and during  
8 disability, or incapacity of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall  
9 perform the Chair's duties.

10 (g) Chair's duty to report.--The Chair shall report any bill  
11 to the Floor of the Senate not later than the next occurring  
12 legislative day after the committee's vote to report it.

13 (h) Amendments.--Upon reporting the bill from committee, the  
14 Chair shall submit all amendments adopted in committee to the  
15 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for posting on the  
16 Internet website maintained by the Senate.

17 Rule 16. Committee members.

18 Members, attendance and voting shall be as follows:

19 (1) Every member of a committee shall be in attendance  
20 during each of its meetings, unless excused or necessarily  
21 prevented, and shall vote on each question, except that a  
22 member desiring to be excused from voting in committee due to  
23 a direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest shall seek  
24 a ruling from the Chair pursuant to Rule 20(c).

25 (2) The Chair may excuse any Senator for just cause from  
26 attendance during the meetings of the committee for any  
27 stated period.

28 (3) Any member of a committee who is otherwise engaged  
29 in legislative duties may have the member's vote recorded on  
30 bills, resolutions or other matters pending before the

1 committee by communicating in writing to the Chair the  
2 inability to attend and the manner in which the member  
3 desires to be voted on bills, resolutions or other matters  
4 pending before the committee.

5 Rule 17. Committee voting.

6 Taking the vote shall be as follows:

7 (1) The Chair shall announce the results of all votes to  
8 report a bill or resolution or a vote regarding an executive  
9 nomination. All votes shall be open to the public and shall  
10 be posted on the Internet website maintained by the Senate  
11 within 24 hours.

12 (2) In all cases where the committee vote shall be  
13 equally divided, the question falls.

14 Rule 18. Motions in committees.

15 All motions made in committee shall be governed and take the  
16 same precedence as those set forth in these Rules.

17 Rule 19. Conference Committees.

18 (a) Composition.--The President Pro Tempore shall appoint  
19 three Senators to comprise a Committee of Conference. Two shall  
20 be from the Majority Party and one from the Minority Party.

21 (b) Deliberations.--The deliberations of the committee shall  
22 be confined to the subject of difference between the two Houses,  
23 unless both Houses shall direct a free conference.

24 (c) Report of Conference Committee.--

25 (1) The report of a Committee of Conference shall be  
26 prepared in triplicate by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
27 and shall be signed by the members or a majority of the  
28 members of each committee comprising the Committee of  
29 Conference. Every report of a Committee of Conference shall  
30 be printed together with the bill as amended by the

1 committee, shall be made available to the Senators, including  
2 being available on the Senate Virtual Session Desk  
3 application or its successor applications, and shall be  
4 particularly referred to on their calendars before action  
5 shall be taken on such report. No report of a Committee of  
6 Conference may be adopted by the Senate until at least six  
7 hours have elapsed from the time of adoption of the report by  
8 the Committee of Conference.

9 (2) A report of a Committee of Conference which requires  
10 the expenditure of Commonwealth funds or funds of a political  
11 subdivision or causes a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth  
12 or a political subdivision shall have a fiscal note attached  
13 before the report is finally adopted by the Senate.

14 (d) Adoption of Conference Committee report.--Reports of  
15 committees of conference shall be adopted only by the vote of a  
16 majority of the members elected to the Senate, taken by yeas and  
17 nays. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 5)  
18 Rule 20. Voting.

19 (a) Senators must be present.--Every Senator shall be  
20 present within the Senate Chamber during the sessions of the  
21 Senate and shall be recorded as voting on each question stated  
22 from the Chair which requires a roll call vote unless the  
23 Senator is on leave, is duly excused or is unavoidably prevented  
24 from attending session. The refusal of any Senator to vote as  
25 provided by this Rule shall be deemed a contempt of the Senate.

26 (b) Voting required.--Except as may be otherwise provided by  
27 this Rule, no Senator shall be permitted to vote on any question  
28 unless the Senator is present in the Senate Chamber at the time  
29 the roll is being called, or prior to the announcement of the  
30 vote, unless the following applies:

1           (1) Capitol leave.--A Senator who is performing a  
2 legislative duty in the Harrisburg area, which is defined in  
3 the Financial Operating Rules of the Senate as within Dauphin  
4 County or otherwise within a 10-mile radius of the Capitol,  
5 may, upon request during session, be granted a Capitol Leave  
6 by the Senate and may be voted by the Senator's respective  
7 Floor Leader. A specific reason for the Capitol Leave must be  
8 given in writing by the Senator. The Capitol Leave request  
9 shall be communicated to the Senator's respective Whip for  
10 transmission to the respective Floor Leader prior to the  
11 beginning of a roll call vote. All written Capitol Leave  
12 requests shall be transmitted by the respective Floor Leaders  
13 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for retention  
14 in accordance with Rule 6(c)(3) within 24 hours of the  
15 conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
16 requested.

17           (2) Legislative leave.--A Senator who is performing a  
18 legislative duty outside of the Harrisburg area may, upon  
19 request during session, be granted a Legislative Leave by the  
20 Senate and may be voted by the Senator's respective Floor  
21 Leader. A specific reason for the Legislative Leave must be  
22 given in writing by the Senator. The Legislative Leave  
23 request shall be communicated to the Senator's respective  
24 Whip for transmission to the respective Floor Leader prior to  
25 the beginning of a roll call vote. All written Legislative  
26 Leave requests shall be transmitted by the respective Floor  
27 Leaders to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for  
28 retention in accordance with Rule 6(c)(3) within 24 hours of  
29 the conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
30 requested.

1           (3) Military leave.--A Senator who is on active duty or  
2 in training with a reserve component of the armed forces of  
3 the United States or the Pennsylvania National Guard or Air  
4 National Guard may be granted a military leave. A Senator  
5 requesting military leave shall submit a leave request to the  
6 Senator's respective Floor Leader who shall transmit the  
7 request to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate on  
8 behalf of the Senator requesting leave within 24 hours of the  
9 conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
10 requested.

11           (4) Personal leave.--A Senator who is absent for any  
12 purpose other than those set forth in these Rules may be  
13 granted a personal leave. A Senator on personal leave shall  
14 not be voted on any question before the Senate or on any  
15 question before any committee of the Senate. A Senator  
16 requesting personal leave shall submit a leave request to the  
17 Senator's respective Floor Leader who shall transmit the  
18 request to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate on  
19 behalf of the Senator requesting leave within 24 hours of the  
20 conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
21 requested.

22           (c) Excused from voting.--

23           (1) A Senator desiring to be excused from voting due to  
24 a direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest in any  
25 question or bill proposed or pending before the Senate shall  
26 seek a ruling from the presiding officer.

27           (2) Senators who seek a ruling on whether they have a  
28 direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest in any  
29 question or bill proposed or pending before the Senate shall,  
30 after the Senator is recognized by the presiding officer,



1 make a brief statement of the reasons for making the request  
2 and ask the presiding officer to decide whether or not the  
3 Senator must vote. The question shall be decided by the  
4 presiding officer without debate.

5 (d) Changing vote.--No Senator may vote or change a vote  
6 after the result is announced by the Chair. Before the  
7 announcement of the final result, however, a Senator may change  
8 a vote, or may vote, if previously absent from the Chamber.  
9 Should a Senator be erroneously recorded on any vote, the  
10 Senator may at any time, with the permission of the Senate, make  
11 a statement to that effect which shall be entered in the  
12 Journal. Similarly, should the Senator be absent when a vote is  
13 taken on any question, the Senator may later, with the  
14 permission of the Senate, make a statement for entry upon the  
15 Journal, indicating how the Senator would have voted had the  
16 Senator been present when the roll was taken and the reasons  
17 therefor shall be submitted in writing or delivered orally not  
18 to exceed five minutes.

19 (e) Persons allowed at desk during roll call.--No Senator or  
20 other person, except the Majority or Minority Leader or other  
21 persons designated by them, shall be permitted at the Reading  
22 Clerk's desk during the recording, counting or verification of a  
23 roll call vote.

24 (f) Two-thirds vote.--When bills or other matters which  
25 require a two-thirds vote are under consideration, the  
26 concurrence of two-thirds of all the Senators elected shall not  
27 be requisite to decide any question or amendment short of the  
28 final question and, on any question short of the final one, a  
29 majority of Senators voting shall be sufficient to pass the  
30 same.

1 (g) Majority vote defined.--A majority of the Senators  
2 elected shall mean a majority of the Senators elected, living,  
3 sworn and seated.

4 (h) Majority vote.--When bills or other matters which  
5 require a vote of the majority of Senators elected are under  
6 consideration, the concurrence of a majority of all the Senators  
7 elected shall not be requisite to decide any question or  
8 amendment short of the final question; and, on any question  
9 short of a final one, a majority of Senators voting shall be  
10 sufficient to pass the same.

11 (i) Announcement of vote.--Upon completion of a roll call  
12 vote or a voice vote, the result shall be announced immediately  
13 unless the Majority or Minority Leader requests a delay.

14 (j) Explanation of vote.--Any Senator may, with the consent  
15 of the Senate, make an explanation of a vote on any question and  
16 have the explanation printed in the Journal.

17 (k) Tie vote.--In the case of a tie vote, the President of  
18 the Senate may cast a vote to break the tie as long as, by doing  
19 so, it does not violate any provisions of the Constitution of  
20 Pennsylvania. In the event that there is a tie vote on a  
21 question requiring a constitutional majority, the question  
22 falls.

23 (l) Verifying vote.--Any Senator may demand a verification  
24 of a vote immediately upon the completion of a roll call or  
25 after the announcement of the vote by the presiding officer. In  
26 verifying a vote, the Clerk shall first read the affirmative  
27 roll at which time any additions or corrections shall be made.  
28 Upon the completion and verification of the affirmative roll  
29 call, the Clerk shall proceed with the reading of the negative  
30 roll at which time any additions or corrections shall be made.

1 Upon the completion and verification of the negative roll call,  
2 the roll call shall be declared verified. It shall not be in  
3 order for a Senator to change a vote after the verified roll  
4 call is announced. A demand for a verification shall not be in  
5 order when all Senators vote one way. The demand for a  
6 verification of a vote is not debatable.

7 (m) Voice vote.--Unless otherwise ordered, demanded or  
8 required, a voice vote may be taken. Any Senator who doubts the  
9 accuracy of a voice vote may demand a roll call vote. Such  
10 request must be made immediately upon the announcement of the  
11 vote by the presiding officer and shall not be in order after  
12 other business has intervened. The demand for a verification of  
13 a voice vote shall not be in order.

14 Rule 21. Correspondents.

15 (a) Admission to Senate Press Gallery.--Admission to the  
16 Senate Press Gallery shall be limited to members in good  
17 standing of the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents'  
18 Association and to other members of the press as determined by  
19 the President Pro Tempore. Seating shall be available on a  
20 first-come basis.

21 (b) Photographs in Senate Chamber.--

22 (1) Photographers may be authorized by the President Pro  
23 Tempore to take still photographs in the Senate.

24 (2) No still photographs shall be taken in the Senate  
25 during sessions without prior notice to the Senators. When  
26 possible, such notice shall be given at the beginning of the  
27 session during which the still photographs are scheduled to  
28 be taken.

29 (c) Order and decorum of press.--

30 (1) Persons seated in the Senate Press Gallery shall be

1 dressed appropriately and shall, at all times, refrain from  
2 loud talking or causing any disturbance which tends to  
3 interrupt the proceedings of the Senate.

4 (2) Persons seated in the Senate Press Gallery shall not  
5 walk onto the Floor of the Senate nor approach the rostrum or  
6 the Reading Clerk's desk during session or while being at  
7 ease.

8 Rule 22. Radio and television.

9 (a) Filming, videotaping, televising and broadcasting.--  
10 Filming, videotaping, televising or broadcasting of Senate  
11 sessions shall be permitted as provided in these Rules.

12 (b) Broadcasting session.--Nothing in this Rule shall be  
13 construed to prohibit any licensed radio station or television  
14 station from broadcasting a session from the Senate or any part  
15 thereof; Provided, That the signal originates from the Senate-  
16 operated audio-visual system which transmits Senate session  
17 activity to the offices in the Main Capitol and environs.

18 Rule 23. Video feed and audio feed.

19 (a) Responsibilities of the Chief Clerk of the Senate.--

20 (1) The Chief Clerk, in consultation with the Secretary-  
21 Parliamentarian of the Senate, shall provide a video feed and  
22 audio feed of Senate Floor activity.

23 (2) The Chief Clerk shall be responsible for the  
24 acquisition, installation and maintenance of equipment  
25 required to provide the video feed and audio feed, and for  
26 the continued development and operation of the feeds,  
27 including the hiring of the necessary personnel.

28 (3) All equipment required to produce the video feed and  
29 audio feed shall be operated by Senate personnel. Nothing in  
30 any contract entered into by the Office of the Chief Clerk

1 regarding installation or maintenance of equipment shall  
2 permit any control over the video cameras and microphones in  
3 the Senate Chamber to be exercised by anyone but the  
4 appropriate Senate officers and employees.

5 (b) Sessions provided free of charge.--

6 (1) Continuous broadcast of Senate sessions shall be  
7 provided free of charge to any licensed television station,  
8 radio station or cable television outlet and shall further be  
9 available through the Senate's Internet website.

10 (2) The Senate Committee on Management Operations may  
11 authorize providing the video feed and audio feed free of  
12 charge to other entities.

13 (c) Funding.--Funding for the implementation and operation  
14 of the broadcasting system shall be provided through Senate  
15 appropriations.

16 (d) Scope of video and audio feeds.--

17 (1) The video feed and audio feed shall provide a  
18 complete, unedited record of what is said on the Floor of the  
19 Senate and shall be free from commentary.

20 (2) To the extent possible, the video cameras shall be  
21 focused on the Senate Floor. When necessary, the presiding  
22 officer and the persons actually speaking shall be covered by  
23 the video cameras and microphones.

24 (3) During roll call votes and other votes, the video  
25 cameras shall be focused on the Senate Floor until the  
26 announcement of the vote tabulation by the presiding officer.

27 (4) During guest introductions, video feed of guests  
28 seated in the Senate Gallery or on the floor of the Senate is  
29 permissible.

30 (e) Restrictions on video and audio feeds.--

1           (1) The video feed and audio feed, and any television or  
2 radio coverage thereof, shall not be made available or used  
3 for political or campaign purposes, whether in paid political  
4 advertisements or otherwise. Use of the video feed and audio  
5 feed shall be subject to all Federal and State laws relating  
6 to elections and campaign practices.

7           (2) The video feed and audio feed, and any television or  
8 radio coverage thereof, shall not be used in any commercial  
9 advertisement.

10          (3) Any live coverage of the Senate shall be without and  
11 presented without any commercial sponsorship, except when it  
12 is part of a bona fide news program or public affairs  
13 program.

14          (4) The President Pro Tempore or any other presiding  
15 officer shall be prohibited from ordering that any segment of  
16 a Floor session not be broadcast or recorded.

17          (5) Except as provided in this Rule, the President Pro  
18 Tempore, any other presiding officer and any Senator, officer  
19 or employee of the Senate shall be prohibited from editing  
20 any portion of the video feed and audio feed described in  
21 this Rule.

22          (6) Official Senate video feed of Senate session shall  
23 be broadcast on the official Senate Internet website by the  
24 Legislative Data Processing Committee. All caucuses may  
25 broadcast and post unedited session videos on their  
26 respective Senate caucus websites and social media platforms  
27 using the official Senate feed.

28          (7) A Senator may post an unedited video clip or audio  
29 clip of Senate session on his or her Senate social media  
30 platforms or provide an unedited video clip or audio clip of

1 Senate session for any television broadcast.

2 (f) Other recording prohibited.--

3 (1) Except as provided in this Rule, any recording,  
4 filming, videotaping, broadcasting or distribution of any  
5 session of the Senate, or any part thereof, in any form  
6 whatsoever is prohibited.

7 (2) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed to prohibit  
8 any licensed radio or television station or other licensed  
9 entity from broadcasting a session from the Senate or any  
10 part thereof; Provided, That the signal originates from the  
11 Senate-operated sound and video system which transmits Senate  
12 session activity to the offices in the Main Capitol and  
13 environs.

14 (g) Violations.--Any violation of this Rule shall be dealt  
15 with as directed by the Committee on Rules and Executive  
16 Nominations.

17 (h) Official record.--The video feed and audio feed provided  
18 by the Senate shall not constitute an official record of Senate  
19 actions. The official record of Senate actions shall be  
20 contained in the Journals prepared by the Secretary-  
21 Parliamentarian of the Senate and approved by the Senate or  
22 posted on the Senate Internet website pursuant to Rule 6(c)(9).  
23 Rule 24. Who privileged to the Floor of the Senate.

24 (a) Admission during session.--With the exception of the  
25 Senate Gallery and Senate Press Gallery, no person shall be  
26 admitted within the Senate Chamber during Senate sessions,  
27 unless invited by the President Pro Tempore or the Majority  
28 Leader or Minority Leader. Prior to the start of each Senate  
29 session day, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader shall  
30 provide notice to the President Pro Tempore listing the guests

1 they have invited to the Floor of the Senate. During session,  
2 authorized staff with access to the Senate Chamber shall be  
3 limited and shall be restricted to the area immediately adjacent  
4 to the Majority Leader's and Minority Leader's desks. Advice to  
5 Senators during debate shall be allowed only when the Senator is  
6 using the microphones at the Majority Leader's and Minority  
7 Leader's desks.

8 (b) Rear entrance closed during session.--No person shall,  
9 during a session, be permitted to enter through the front or  
10 rear door of the Senate Chamber nor be present in the rooms  
11 immediately to the rear of the Senate Chamber except for  
12 Senators, officers and employees expressly authorized.

13 (c) Telephone facilities.--No person other than Senators,  
14 Senate Officers or their staff shall, at any time, be permitted  
15 to use the telephone facilities in or adjacent to the Senate  
16 Chamber.

17 Rule 25. Rules.

18 (a) Force and effect.--These Rules shall be in full force  
19 and effect until altered, changed, amended or repealed as  
20 provided in subsection (d).

21 (b) Dispensing with Rules.--The consent of two-thirds of the  
22 Senators elected shall be necessary to suspend any Rule.

23 (c) Voting for adopting Rules.--The consent of two-thirds of  
24 the Senators elected shall be necessary to adopt these Rules.

25 (d) Voting for altering, changing or amending Rules.--The  
26 consent of two-thirds of the Senators elected shall be necessary  
27 to alter, change or amend these Rules.

28 (e) Alteration, change or amendment of Rules by  
29 resolution.--All alterations, changes or amendments to Senate  
30 Rules shall be by resolution which shall not be considered



1 unless first referred to and reported from the Rules and  
2 Executive Nominations Committee.

3 Rule 25.1. Mandatory interrogation.

4 A member who is a maker of a bill or amendment shall stand  
5 for interrogation when requested by any member during floor  
6 debate.

7 Rule 26. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure to govern  
8 Senate.

9 The Rules of Parliamentary Practice comprised in Mason's  
10 Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Senate in all  
11 cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not  
12 inconsistent with the Standing Rules, Prior Decisions and Orders  
13 of the Senate.

14 Rule 27. Quorum.

15 (a) Majority constitutes a quorum.--A majority of Senators  
16 elected shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may  
17 adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent  
18 members. (Const. Art. II, Sec. 10)

19 (b) When less than a quorum is present.--When, upon a call,  
20 which may be demanded by not less than four Senators, it is  
21 found that less than a quorum is present, it shall be the duty  
22 of the presiding officer to order the doors of the Senate to be  
23 closed, and to direct the Reading Clerk to call the roll of the  
24 Senate and note the absentees after which the names of the  
25 absentees shall be again called. A Senator whose absence is not  
26 excused, or for whom an insufficient excuse is made, may by  
27 order of a majority of the Senators present be sent for and  
28 taken into custody by the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, or assistant  
29 sergeants-at-arms appointed for the purpose. Any unexcused  
30 Senator shall be brought before the bar of the Senate, where the

1 Senator, unless excused by a majority of the Senators present,  
2 shall be publicly reprimanded by the presiding officer for  
3 neglect of duty.

4 (c) When less than a quorum vote but are present.--When less  
5 than a quorum vote upon any subject under the consideration of  
6 the Senate, not less than four Senators may demand a call of the  
7 Senate, when it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to  
8 order the doors of the Senate to be closed and the roll of the  
9 Senators to be called. If it is ascertained that a quorum is  
10 present, either by answering to their names, or by their  
11 presence in the Senate, the presiding officer shall again order  
12 the yeas and nays; and, if any Senator present refuses to vote,  
13 the name or names of such Senator shall be entered on the  
14 Journal as "Present but not voting." Such refusal to vote shall  
15 be deemed a contempt; and, unless purged, the presiding officer  
16 shall direct the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the Senator  
17 before the bar of the Senate, where the Senator shall be  
18 publicly reprimanded by the presiding officer.

19 Rule 28. Executive nominations.

20 (a) Presentation and reference.--

21 (1) All nominations by the Governor or the Attorney  
22 General shall be submitted to the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
23 of the Senate. All nominees shall file the financial  
24 statements required pursuant to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating  
25 to ethics standards and financial disclosure) with the  
26 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate. Copies of the  
27 nominations and financial statements shall be furnished by  
28 the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate to the Majority  
29 Caucus Secretary and Minority Caucus Secretary or their  
30 designees.

1           (2) Nominations shall, after being read, without a  
2 motion, be referred by the presiding officer to the Committee  
3 on Rules and Executive Nominations. After having been  
4 reported by the committee, the final question on every  
5 nomination shall be: "Will the Senate advise and consent to  
6 this nomination?"

7           (3) The Chair of the Committee on Rules and Executive  
8 Nominations shall designate an appropriate standing committee  
9 of the Senate to conduct a public hearing for nominees that  
10 have Statewide jurisdiction and to which salaries are  
11 attached. The Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations  
12 shall refer those nominees to the designated committee for  
13 the purpose of holding a public hearing to scrutinize the  
14 qualifications of nominees and to report its recommendations.  
15 Public hearings may be held for nominees for any other  
16 office.

17       (b) Information concerning nominations.--All information,  
18 communication or remarks made by a Senator when acting upon  
19 nominations in committee, concerning the character or  
20 qualifications of the person nominated, may be kept  
21 confidential. If, however, charges shall be made against a  
22 person nominated, the committee may, in its discretion, notify  
23 the nominee, but the name of the person making such charges  
24 shall not be disclosed.

25       (c) Consideration.--When the consideration of executive  
26 nominations is reached in the order of business, a Senator may  
27 make a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of  
28 confirming the nominations which have been reported from  
29 committee; and on the motion being agreed to, the nomination or  
30 nominations shall be considered until finally disposed of,

1 unless the same shall be postponed by a majority of the Senate.

2 (d) Executive session.--When in executive session, no  
3 communication shall be received from the Governor, unless it be  
4 relative to the nomination under consideration, nor from the  
5 House of Representatives, nor shall any other business be  
6 considered.

7 (e) Reconsideration.--When a nomination is confirmed or  
8 rejected by the Senate, any Senator may move for a  
9 reconsideration on the same day on which the vote was taken, or  
10 on either of the next two days of voting session of the Senate;  
11 but if a notification of the confirmation or rejection of a  
12 nomination shall have been sent to the Governor before the  
13 expiration of the time within which a motion to reconsider may  
14 be made, the motion to reconsider shall be accompanied by a  
15 motion to request the Governor to return such notification to  
16 the Senate. A motion to reconsider the vote on a nomination may  
17 be laid on the table without prejudice to the nomination.

18 Rule 29. Resolutions.

19 (a) Introduction.--All resolutions, Senate and concurrent,  
20 shall be introduced by presenting five copies of the Resolution,  
21 with the sponsor identified, to the presiding officer.

22 (b) Consideration.--The following resolutions, after being  
23 read, shall be referred to an appropriate committee without  
24 debate unless by unanimous consent the Senate shall otherwise  
25 direct and, if favorably reported by the committee, shall lie  
26 over one day for consideration, after which the resolutions may  
27 be called up under the appropriate order of business:

28 (1) All Senate concurrent resolutions and House  
29 concurrent resolutions, excepting resolutions in reference to  
30 adjournment sine die, recesses and resolutions recalling

1 bills from the Governor, which shall be regarded as  
2 privileged.

3 (2) Resolutions containing calls for information from  
4 the heads of departments or to alter the Rules.

5 (3) Resolutions giving rise to debate, except those that  
6 relate to the disposition of matters immediately before the  
7 Senate, those that relate to the business of the day on which  
8 they were offered, and those that relate to adjournment sine  
9 die or a recess.

10 (c) Printing in Senate History.--

11 (1) (Reserved).

12 (2) All resolutions shall be adopted by a majority vote  
13 of the Senators present except as specifically provided for  
14 in these Rules.

15 (d) Joint Resolutions.--

16 (1) Joint resolutions shall be limited to constitutional  
17 amendments and shall be adopted by a vote of a majority of  
18 the Senators elected to the Senate.

19 (2) A Joint resolution when passed by both Houses shall  
20 not be transmitted to the Governor for approval or  
21 disapproval but shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary  
22 of the Commonwealth in accordance with Article XI, section 1  
23 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

24 Rule 29.1. Citations.

25 (a) Preparation.--A member making a request that a Senate  
26 Citation be issued to a particular person or on a specified  
27 occasion shall provide the Legislative Reference Bureau with the  
28 facts necessary for the preparation of the citation on a  
29 suitable form.

30 (b) Filing.--The citation request shall be filed with the

1 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate and automatically  
2 referred to the President Pro Tempore, who may approve and sign  
3 the citation on behalf of the Senate.

4 (c) Issuance.--One original citation shall be issued by the  
5 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate.

6 Rule 30. General access to the Senate Floor prohibited.

7 The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate shall cause the  
8 doors to the Senate Floor to be closed to all persons except  
9 those who are entitled to access pursuant to the Rules of the  
10 Senate. On days when the Senate is not in session, access to the  
11 Senate Floor by any person not connected with the Senate is  
12 prohibited. Other than the Senator, no person shall be permitted  
13 to occupy the seat of a Senator at any time.

14 Rule 31. Veto.

15 (a) Passing over veto.--When any bill is not approved by the  
16 Governor, he shall return it with his objection to the House in  
17 which such bill originated. Thereupon such House shall enter the  
18 objections upon their Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If,  
19 after such reconsideration, two-thirds of all the Members  
20 elected to that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be  
21 sent with the objections to the other House by which likewise it  
22 shall be reconsidered and, if approved by two-thirds of all the  
23 members elected to that House, it shall become a law. (Const.  
24 Art. IV, Sec. 15)

25 (b) Consideration during second regular session.--A bill  
26 vetoed in a first regular session and not finally acted upon may  
27 be brought up for consideration in a second regular session.

28 Rule 32. Division of a question.

29 Any Senator may call for a division of a question by the  
30 Senate if the question includes points so distinct and separate

1 that, one of them being taken away, the other will stand as a  
2 complete proposition. The motion to strike out and insert is  
3 indivisible.

4 Rule 33. Coordination with other Senate Rules.

5 Any use of Senate resources or time shall be governed by the  
6 Financial Operating Rules and the Ethical Conduct Rules of the  
7 Senate.

8 Rule 34. Committee on Ethics.

9 (a) Composition.--In addition to the committees created by  
10 Rule 14, there shall be a Senate Committee on Ethics which shall  
11 be composed of six members appointed by the President Pro  
12 Tempore. Three members shall be of the Majority Party and three  
13 members shall be of the Minority Party. The Minority Party  
14 members will be appointed on the recommendation of the Minority  
15 Leader.

16 (b) Organization.--The Senate Committee on Ethics shall be  
17 organized as follows:

18 (1) The President Pro Tempore shall appoint one of the  
19 Majority Party members as Chair and, on the recommendation of  
20 the Minority Leader, one of the Minority Party members as  
21 Vice Chair. A quorum for this committee shall be four  
22 members, and the committee shall have such duties, powers,  
23 procedure and jurisdiction as are prescribed and authorized  
24 in this Rule.

25 (2) The chair shall notify all members of the committee  
26 at least 24 hours in advance of the date, time and place of a  
27 meeting. Whenever the chair shall refuse to call a meeting, a  
28 majority of the committee may call a meeting by giving two  
29 days' written notice to the Majority Leader and the Minority  
30 Leader of the Senate setting forth the time and place for

1 such meeting. A meeting commenced in this manner shall be  
2 held at the time and place specified in the notice.

3 (3) Except as provided in subsection (j), all meetings  
4 of the committee shall be open to the public and notice of  
5 such meetings shall be given as generally provided in these  
6 Rules for the convening of committees.

7 (4) The committee may adopt rules of procedure for the  
8 orderly conduct of its affairs, investigations, hearings and  
9 meetings, which rules are not inconsistent with this Rule.

10 (c) Receipt of complaint.--The committee shall receive  
11 complaints against any Senator alleging unethical conduct in  
12 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
13 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator. Any complaint filed  
14 with the committee shall:

15 (1) be submitted in writing;

16 (2) be sworn or affirmed by the person filing the  
17 complaint; and

18 (3) detail the alleged unethical conduct in question and  
19 specify the Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
20 allegedly violated.

21 (d) Review of complaint.--Upon receipt of a complaint that  
22 conforms with all the requirements of this Rule, the Senate  
23 Committee on Ethics shall review the complaint and determine  
24 whether or not a preliminary investigation is warranted within  
25 30 days of receiving the complaint. For good cause, a majority  
26 of the members of the committee may vote to grant an additional  
27 30 days to complete the committee's review. A frivolous or de  
28 minimis complaint may be dismissed by a majority of the members  
29 of the committee, with prejudice. The chair shall notify the  
30 complainant and the subject Senator of the disposition of a



1 dismissed complaint.

2 (e) Disposition of complaints.--If it is determined by a  
3 majority of the members of the Senate Committee on Ethics that  
4 an ethical conduct violation may have occurred, the Senator  
5 against whom the complaint has been brought shall be notified in  
6 writing and given a copy of the complaint. Within 15 days after  
7 receipt of the complaint, the Senator may file a written answer  
8 to the complaint with the committee. If no answer is filed, the  
9 complaint shall be deemed denied by the subject Senator. The  
10 lack of an answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or  
11 create an inference or presumption that the complaint is true.  
12 The lack of an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the  
13 members of the committee from either proceeding with a formal  
14 investigation or dismissing the complaint.

15 (f) Preliminary investigation.--The committee shall have 30  
16 days from the date that receipt of the answer to the complaint  
17 is to be provided to complete its preliminary investigation. For  
18 good cause, a majority of the members of the committee may vote  
19 to grant an additional 30 days to complete the committee's  
20 review. The committee may employ an independent counsel to  
21 conduct a preliminary investigation. Upon conclusion of the  
22 preliminary investigation, by vote of a majority of the members  
23 of the committee, the committee shall determine whether to  
24 proceed with a formal investigation, which may include hearings.  
25 In the event that the committee vote is equally divided, the  
26 question falls. If the committee does not decide to proceed to a  
27 formal investigation, the Chair shall notify the complainant and  
28 the subject Senator of the disposition of the complaint and  
29 shall summarize the committee's rationale for its conclusion.

30 (g) Confidentiality.--Prior to the commencement of a formal

1 investigation, the fact that a preliminary investigation is  
2 being conducted or is to be conducted shall be confidential  
3 information. If, however, the filing of a complaint or a  
4 preliminary investigation is made public by the complainant, the  
5 committee may publicly confirm the receipt of a complaint.

6 (h) Indictment.--When an indictment is returned against a  
7 member of the Senate, and the gravamen of the indictment is  
8 directly related to the ethical conduct of a Senator in  
9 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
10 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator, the Senate Committee  
11 on Ethics shall not initiate any new investigation and shall  
12 suspend any ongoing investigation initiated pursuant to this  
13 Rule until the subject matter of the indictment that relates to  
14 the Senator's alleged unethical conduct is resolved.

15 (i) Alternative procedure.--In addition to action on formal  
16 complaints as provided in subsection (c), a majority of the  
17 members of the Senate Committee on Ethics may initiate a  
18 preliminary investigation of suspected unethical conduct in  
19 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
20 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator. If it is determined  
21 by a majority of the members of the committee that a violation  
22 may have occurred, the Senator in question shall be notified in  
23 writing of the alleged unethical conduct in question and the  
24 Rule, statute or constitutional provision allegedly violated.  
25 Within 15 days of the receipt of this information, the Senator  
26 may file a written answer with the committee. The lack of an  
27 answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or create an  
28 inference or presumption that the complaint is true. The lack of  
29 an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the members of the  
30 committee from either proceeding with a formal investigation or

1 dismissing the complaint. The committee shall have 30 days from  
2 the date that receipt of the answer to the complaint is to be  
3 provided to complete its preliminary investigation. For good  
4 cause, a majority of the members of the committee may vote to  
5 grant an additional 30 days to complete the committee's review.  
6 Upon conclusion of the preliminary investigation, by vote of a  
7 majority of the members of the committee, the committee shall  
8 determine whether to proceed with a formal investigation, which  
9 may include hearings. In the event that the committee vote is  
10 equally divided, the question falls.

11 (j) Closed session.--The committee shall conduct its  
12 preliminary investigations, hearings and meetings related to a  
13 specific investigation or a specific Senator in closed session  
14 unless the Senator subject to investigation advises the  
15 committee in writing that the Senator wants such meetings or  
16 hearings to be held publicly. In the event that the Senator in  
17 question makes such a request, the committee shall furnish the  
18 Senator with a public meeting or hearing.

19 (k) Formal investigation.--In the event that the Senate  
20 Committee on Ethics shall elect to proceed with a formal  
21 investigation of alleged unethical conduct by a Senator, the  
22 committee may employ an independent counsel to conduct a formal  
23 investigation. The committee and any independent counsel  
24 employed by the committee shall comply with the following  
25 procedural requirements at all stages of the investigation:

26 (1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics may  
27 continue any hearing for reasonable cause. Upon the vote of a  
28 majority of the members of the committee, or upon the request  
29 of the Senator subject to investigation, the Chair shall  
30 issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses

1 and the production of documentary evidence relating to any  
2 matter under formal investigation by the committee. The Chair  
3 of the committee may administer oaths or affirmations,  
4 examine and receive evidence, or rule on any objections  
5 raised during the course of a hearing.

6 (2) All testimony, documents, records, data, statements  
7 or information received by the committee in the course of any  
8 preliminary or formal investigation shall be private and  
9 confidential except in the case of public meetings or  
10 hearings or in a report to the Senate.

11 (3) All constitutional rights of any Senator under  
12 investigation shall be preserved, and the Senator shall be  
13 entitled to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, face  
14 the accuser and be represented by counsel.

15 (4) An oath or affirmation shall be executed in writing  
16 before any member of the committee, any independent counsel  
17 employed by the committee to conduct a preliminary or formal  
18 investigation, or any employee of the Senate related to the  
19 investigation may have access to information that is  
20 confidential pursuant to the rules of the committee as  
21 follows:

22 "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will not disclose,  
23 to any person or entity outside of the Senate Committee  
24 on Ethics, any information received in the course of my  
25 service with the committee, except as authorized by the  
26 committee or in accordance with the Rules of the Senate."  
27 Copies of the executed oath or affirmation shall be provided  
28 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate as part of the  
29 records of the Senate. Any Senator or other person who  
30 violates the confidentiality requirements of this subsection

1 shall be removed immediately from the committee and replaced  
2 by another Senator, counsel or employee of the Senate  
3 appointed in like manner as the person's original appointment  
4 or selection.

5 (l) Report.--No report regarding unethical conduct by a  
6 Senator shall be made to the Senate unless a majority of the  
7 members of the Senate Committee on Ethics determines that a  
8 finding of unethical conduct in violation of a Senate Rule,  
9 statute or constitutional provision governing the ethical  
10 conduct of a Senator has occurred. No finding of unethical  
11 conduct by a Senator in violation of a Senate Rule, statute or  
12 constitutional provision governing the ethical conduct of a  
13 Senator adopted by the Senate Committee on Ethics shall be valid  
14 unless signed by at least a majority of the members of the  
15 committee. Any such report may include a minority report. A  
16 report adopted by the committee that contains findings of  
17 unethical conduct by a Senator in violation of a Senate Rule,  
18 statute or constitutional provision governing the ethical  
19 conduct of a Senator shall not be filed with the Secretary-  
20 Parliamentarian of the Senate or released to the public until at  
21 least seven days after a copy of the report is sent by certified  
22 mail to the Senator under investigation.

23 (m) Distribution of report.--After the expiration of the  
24 seven-day notice requirement contained in subsection (l), the  
25 Senate Committee on Ethics shall file its report with the  
26 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate, who shall cause a copy  
27 of the report of the committee to be distributed to the members  
28 of the Senate. The report of the Senate Committee on Ethics  
29 shall be placed on the Senate Calendar and shall be acted upon  
30 by the Senate within 10 legislative days of the adoption of a

1 temporary rule setting forth rules of procedure for the orderly  
2 disposition of the report by the full Senate. A vote by a  
3 majority of the members elected to the Senate shall be necessary  
4 to adopt each finding set forth in the Ethics Committee Report.

5 (n) Sanction.--Should the full Senate vote to adopt an  
6 unethical conduct finding against a Senator as set forth in the  
7 Ethics Committee Report, that Senator may be subject to sanction  
8 by the full Senate. A sanction may include any of the following  
9 depending on the circumstances of the violation:

10 (1) a warning;

11 (2) a written reprimand;

12 (3) restitution for damages; or

13 (4) any other sanction provided for pursuant to the  
14 Rules of the Senate or the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

15 (o) Advisory opinion.--The Senate Committee on Ethics, at  
16 the request of a Senator or officer who has an ethical question  
17 or concern regarding the Senate Rules individually or in  
18 conjunction with others, may issue an advisory opinion seeking  
19 to clarify the ethical requirements of the Senate Rules. These  
20 advisory opinions, with such deletions and changes as shall be  
21 necessary to protect the identity of the persons involved or  
22 seeking the advisory opinions, may be published and shall be  
23 distributed to all members, officers and employees of the  
24 Senate. No action regarding unethical conduct may be taken  
25 against a Senator, officer or employee who has relied on a  
26 written advisory opinion, whether directly addressed to that  
27 person or not, which is reasonably construed as being applicable  
28 to the conduct in question.

29 (p) Committee member under investigation.--In the event that  
30 a member of the Senate Committee on Ethics shall be under

1 investigation, that Senator shall be temporarily replaced on the  
2 committee in a like manner to the Senator's original  
3 appointment.

4 (q) Costs and expenses.--Whenever the committee shall employ  
5 independent counsel to conduct a preliminary or formal  
6 investigation or shall incur other expenses pursuant to its  
7 duties pursuant to this Rule, payment of costs of such  
8 independent counsel or other expenses incurred by the committee  
9 pursuant to this Rule shall be paid by the Chief Clerk of the  
10 Senate upon submission of vouchers and necessary documentation.  
11 The vouchers shall be signed by both the Chair and Vice Chair of  
12 the committee. Included in such allowable expense items shall be  
13 travel and per diem for the members of the committee. The Chief  
14 Clerk shall pay such expenses out of funds appropriated to the  
15 Chief Clerk for incidental expenses.

16 Rule 35. Status of members indicted or convicted of a crime.

17 (a) Status generally.--When an indictment is returned  
18 against a member of the Senate, and the gravamen of the  
19 indictment is directly related to the Senator's conduct as a  
20 committee chair, ranking minority committee member or in a  
21 position of leadership, the Senator shall be relieved of such  
22 committee chairmanship, ranking minority committee member  
23 status, or leadership position until the indictment is disposed  
24 of, but the member shall otherwise continue to function as a  
25 Senator, including voting, and shall continue to be paid.

26 (b) Restoration.--If, during the same legislative session,  
27 the indictment is quashed, or the court finds that the Senator  
28 is not guilty of the offense alleged, the Senator shall  
29 immediately be restored to the committee chairmanship, ranking  
30 minority committee member status, or leadership position

1 retroactively from which that Senator was suspended.

2 (c) Resolution of expulsion.--Upon a finding or verdict of  
3 guilt by a judge or jury, a plea or admission of guilt or plea  
4 of nolo contendere of a crime by a member of the Senate, the  
5 gravamen of which relates to the member's conduct as a Senator,  
6 and upon imposition of sentence, the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
7 of the Senate shall prepare a resolution of expulsion under  
8 session, which shall appear on the Calendar on the next  
9 legislative session day following an imposition of sentence  
10 based upon a determination or admission of guilt or a plea of  
11 nolo contendere.

12 Rule 36. Status of officers or employees indicted or convicted  
13 of a crime.

14 (a) Suspension.--Whenever any officer or employee of the  
15 Senate is indicted or otherwise charged before a court of record  
16 with the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor, the gravamen  
17 of which relates to the officer's or employee's conduct or  
18 status as an officer or employee of the Commonwealth or the  
19 disposition of public funds, the officer or employee shall be  
20 suspended immediately without pay and benefits by the Chief  
21 Clerk of the Senate. After a finding or a verdict of guilt by a  
22 judge or jury, plea or admission of guilt, or plea of nolo  
23 contendere, and upon imposition of sentence, the employment  
24 shall be terminated.

25 (b) Termination of suspension.--If the indictment is  
26 quashed, or the court finds that the officer or employee is not  
27 guilty of the offense alleged, the suspension without pay shall  
28 be terminated, and the officer or employee shall receive  
29 compensation for the period of time during which the officer or  
30 employee was suspended, which compensation shall be reduced by



1 the amount of any compensation the officer or employee earned  
2 from other employment during the period of suspension.

3 (c) Appeal.--If the officer or employee or the supervising  
4 Senator of such employee disagrees with the decision of the  
5 Chief Clerk of the Senate as to whether an indictment for  
6 particular conduct shall be a crime requiring suspension or  
7 dismissal, the officer or employee in question or the  
8 supervising Senator of the employee may appeal the suspension to  
9 the Senate Committee on Ethics, which shall determine whether  
10 the conduct charged is an offense requiring suspension. Whenever  
11 an appeal of a suspension shall be taken to the committee, the  
12 suspension shall remain effective pending a decision by the  
13 committee.

14 Rule 37. Affiliation with nonprofit entities.

15 (a) Requirements.--In order for a Senator or Senate  
16 employee, including a family member of the Senator or Senate  
17 employee, to be affiliated with a nonprofit entity, the  
18 nonprofit entity must meet all of the following:

19 (1) Be a legal entity formed under the laws of this  
20 Commonwealth or another state that is qualified for nonprofit  
21 status.

22 (2) Have a formally established board of directors with  
23 at least four members that is fully accountable for the  
24 nonprofit entity's overall operation.

25 (3) Have a written set of bylaws or rules, approved by  
26 its board of directors, that establishes its composition and  
27 governance process.

28 (4) Require official action of the board of directors to  
29 be approved and executed in a manner consistent with its  
30 bylaws or rules.

1 (5) Not receive grant funding directly from the  
2 Commonwealth that comprises its sole source of operational  
3 funding.

4 (b) Prohibitions.--A Senator or Senate employee, including a  
5 family member of that Senator or Senate employee, who is  
6 affiliated with a nonprofit entity may not do any of the  
7 following with regard to a nonprofit entity with which that  
8 Senator or Senate employee, including a family member of that  
9 Senator or Senate employee, is affiliated:

10 (1) Exercise sole and unilateral control of a final  
11 action of the nonprofit entity regarding allocation or  
12 disbursement of grant funding that the nonprofit entity  
13 receives directly from the Commonwealth.

14 (2) Direct a Senate employee to staff or provide  
15 services to the nonprofit entity as a condition of  
16 employment.

17 (3) Direct the personnel or other resources of the  
18 nonprofit entity for the benefit of a Senator's campaign.

19 (4) Commingle funds from any Senate expense account with  
20 the funds of the nonprofit entity with the knowledge and  
21 intent that those funds are to be used for the direct  
22 reimbursement of expenses incurred by that nonprofit entity.

23 (5) Maintain a Senate district office within or  
24 contiguous to the same office as the nonprofit entity.

25 (c) Applicability.--A Senator or Senate employee, including  
26 a family member of that Senator or Senate employee, shall not be  
27 subject to the requirements of this Rule if the affiliated  
28 nonprofit entity receives no grant funding directly from the  
29 Commonwealth.

30 (d) Training.--To assure compliance with this Rule by

1 Senators and Senate employees, appropriate training measures  
2 shall be implemented by the Senate. Training shall be provided  
3 annually for all Senators and Senate employees.

4 (e) Definitions.--As used in this Rule, the following words  
5 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
6 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Affiliated." Serving:

- 8 (1) as an officer of a nonprofit entity;
- 9 (2) on the board of directors of a nonprofit entity;
- 10 (3) as a paid employee of a nonprofit entity; or
- 11 (4) as a contractor of a nonprofit entity.

12 "Family member." A spouse or child.

13 "Nonprofit entity." An entity that is qualified by the  
14 Internal Revenue Service as meeting the requirements of section  
15 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514,  
16 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)).

17 Rule 38. Remote participation.

18 (a) Committee meetings.--Notwithstanding Rule 14(h), members  
19 may remotely participate in committee meetings as follows:

20 (1) A quorum shall be established through a roll call.

21 (2) Technology employed for remote committee meetings  
22 must safeguard the integrity of the legislative process and  
23 maintain the deliberative character of the meeting by  
24 providing for simultaneous aural and verbal communication  
25 among all participants.

26 (3) In addition to the provisions of Rule 17, the  
27 following apply:

28 (i) Members participating remotely may cast votes  
29 for all measures considered and brought to a vote by the  
30 committee, as if the members were physically present at

1 the committee meeting.

2 (ii) The identity of the voting member must be  
3 verified by the Chair.

4 (iii) A member may also vote on matters before the  
5 committee pursuant to Rule 16(3).

6 (b) Session.--Notwithstanding Rule 20, members may remotely  
7 participate in the session of the Senate as follows:

8 (1) Members participating remotely may cast votes for  
9 all measures considered and brought to a vote during session,  
10 as if the members were physically present at the session of  
11 the Senate.

12 (2) The identity of the voting member must be verified  
13 by the presiding officer.

14 (3) Technology employed for remote participation in  
15 Senate session must safeguard the integrity of the  
16 legislative process and maintain the deliberative character  
17 of the session by providing for simultaneous aural and verbal  
18 communication among all participants.

19 (4) A member may also vote as provided in Rule 20(b)(1)  
20 and (2).

21 (c) Provision of technology.--Notwithstanding Rule 23, the  
22 Chief Clerk may provide for remote participation technology that  
23 enables members to participate in committee meetings and Senate  
24 session.

25 (d) Quorum for session.--Notwithstanding Rule 27, the  
26 following apply:

27 (1) Senators participating remotely in the session of  
28 the Senate shall be counted for the purpose of determining a  
29 quorum.

30 (2) A quorum shall be established through a roll call if

1 the identity of the voting member is identified by the  
2 presiding officer.

3 (e) Definitions.--As used in this Rule, the following words  
4 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
5 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Remote participation." Simultaneous, interactive  
7 participation in a committee meeting by committee members not  
8 physically present at the location of the meeting, through means  
9 of communication technologies designed to accommodate and  
10 facilitate such simultaneous, interactive participation.