

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 97-4606, by Representatives Lisk and Chopp

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives Rules
2 Committee shall meet no later than Monday, January 20, 1997, the
3 eighth legislative day, to consider and make recommendations on
4 permanent rules for the House of Representatives; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no later than Friday, January 24,
6 1997, the twelfth legislative day, the House of Representatives shall
7 meet to consider adoption of permanent rules for the Fifty-fifth
8 Legislature; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That permanent House Rules for the
10 Fifty-fifth Legislature be adopted as follows:

11 PERMANENT RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 FIFTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
13 1997-1998

14 **HOUSE RULE NO.**

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16 **Definitions**

17 **Rule 1.** "Absent" means an unexcused failure to attend.

18 "Term" means the two-year term during which the members as a
19 body may act.

20 "Session" means a constitutional gathering of the house in
21 accordance with Article 2 12 of the state Constitution.

22 "Committee" means any standing, conference, joint, or select
23 committee as so designated by rule or resolution.

24 "Bill" means bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or
25 concurrent resolution unless the context indicates otherwise.

26 **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

27 **Rule 2.** It shall be the duty of the chief clerk of the

1 previous term to call the house to order and to conduct the
2 proceedings until a speaker is chosen.

3 **Election of Officers**

4 **Rule 3.** The house shall elect the following officers at the
5 commencement of each term: Its presiding officer, who shall be
6 styled speaker of the house; a speaker pro tempore, who shall serve
7 in absence or in case of the inability of the speaker; and a chief
8 clerk of the house. Such officers shall hold office during all
9 sessions until the convening of the succeeding term: PROVIDED,
10 HOWEVER, That any of these offices may be declared vacant by the
11 vote of a constitutional majority of the house, the members voting
12 viva voce and their votes shall be entered on the journal. If any
13 office is declared vacant, the house shall fill such vacant office
14 as hereinafter provided. In all elections by the house a
15 constitutional majority shall be required, the members shall vote
16 viva voce and their votes shall be entered on the journal. (Art.
17 II 27)

18 **Powers and Duties of the Speaker**

19 **Rule 4.** The speaker shall have the following powers and
20 duties:

21 (A) The speaker shall take the chair and call the house to
22 order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting and if a quorum
23 be present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read
24 and shall proceed with the order of business.

25 (B) The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and in case
26 of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber or
27 legislative area, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the
28 same and may order the sergeant at arms to remove any person

1 creating any disturbance within the house chamber or legislative
2 area.

3 (C) The speaker may speak to points of order in preference to
4 other members, arising from the seat for that purpose, and shall
5 decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the house by
6 any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once
7 without leave of the house.

8 (D) The speaker shall sign all bills in open session. (Art.
9 II 32)

10 (E) The speaker shall sign all writs, warrants, and subpoenas
11 issued by order of the house, all of which shall be attested to by
12 the chief clerk.

13 (F) The speaker shall have the right to name any member to
14 perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall
15 neither extend beyond adjournment nor authorize the representative
16 so substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the
17 speaker.

18 (G) The speaker, in open session, shall appoint committee
19 chairs from the majority party of the house and shall appoint
20 members to committees in the same ratio as the membership of the
21 respective parties of the house, unless otherwise provided by law
22 or house rules.

23 (H) The speaker shall serve as chair of the rules committee.

24 (I) The speaker shall have charge of and see that all
25 officers, attaches, and clerks perform their respective duties.

26 (J) The speaker pro tempore shall exercise the duties, powers,
27 and prerogatives of the speaker in the event of the speaker's
28 death, illness, removal, or inability to act until the speaker's

1 successor shall be elected.

2 **Chief Clerk**

3 **Rule 5.** The chief clerk shall perform the usual duties
4 pertaining to the office, and shall hold office until a successor
5 has been elected.

6 The chief clerk shall employ, upon the recommendation of the
7 employment committee and, subject to the approval of the speaker,
8 all other house employees; the hours of duty and assignments of all
9 house employees shall be under the chief clerk's directions and
10 instructions, and they may be dismissed by the chief clerk with the
11 approval of the speaker. The speaker shall sign and the chief
12 clerk shall countersign all payrolls and vouchers for all expenses
13 of the house and appropriately transmit the same. In the event of
14 the chief clerk's death, illness, removal, or inability to act, the
15 speaker may appoint an acting chief clerk who shall exercise the
16 duties and powers of the chief clerk until the chief clerk's
17 successor shall be elected.

18 **Duties of Employees**

19 **Rule 6.** Employees of the house shall perform such duties as
20 are assigned to them by the chief clerk. Under no circumstances
21 shall the compensation of any employee be increased for past
22 services. No house employee shall seek to influence the passage or
23 rejection of proposed legislation.

24 **Admission to the House**

25 **Rule 7.** It shall be the general policy of the house to keep
26 the chamber clear as follows:

1 (A) The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following
2 individuals to the wings and adjacent areas of the house chamber
3 for the period of time beginning one-half hour prior to convening
4 and ending one-half hour following the adjournment of the house's
5 daily session:

6 The governor or designees, or both;
7 Members of the senate;
8 State elected officials;
9 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature;
10 Former members of the house who are not advocating any pending
11 or proposed legislation;
12 Representatives of the press;
13 Other persons with the consent of the speaker.

14 (B) Only members, pages, sergeants at arms, and clerks are
15 permitted on the floor while the house is in session.

16 (C) Lobbying in the house chamber or in any committee room or
17 lounge room is prohibited when the house or committee is in session
18 unless expressly permitted by the house or committee. Anyone
19 violating this rule will forfeit his or her right to be admitted to
20 the house chamber or any of its committee rooms.

21 **Absentees and Courtesy**

22 **Rule 8.** No member shall be absent from the service of the
23 house without leave from the speaker. When the house is in
24 session, only the speaker shall recognize visitors and former
25 members.

26 **Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions**

27 **Rule 9.** Any member desiring to introduce a bill shall file the

1 same with the chief clerk. Bills filed by 10:00 a.m. shall be
2 introduced at the next daily session, in the order filed:
3 PROVIDED, That if such introduction is within the last ten days of
4 a regular session, it cannot be considered without a direct vote of
5 two-thirds (2/3) of all the members elected to each house with such
6 vote recorded and entered upon the journal. (Art. II 36)

7 Any member or member-elect may prefile a bill with the chief
8 clerk commencing twenty (20) days before any session. Prefiled
9 bills shall be introduced on the first legislative day.

10 All bills shall be endorsed with a statement of the title and
11 the name of the member or members introducing the same. The chief
12 clerk shall attach to all bills a substantial cover bearing the
13 title and sponsors and shall number each bill in the order filed.
14 All bills shall be printed unless otherwise ordered by the house.

15 Any bill introduced at any session during the term shall be
16 eligible for action at all subsequent sessions during the term.

17 **Reading of Bills**

18 **Rule 10.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days:
19 PROVIDED, That this rule may be temporarily suspended at any time
20 by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present; and that on and
21 after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any
22 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the
23 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the
24 third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house
25 as established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended
26 by a majority vote.

27 (A) **FIRST READING.** The first reading of a bill shall be by
28 title only, unless a majority of the members present demand a
29 reading in full.

30 After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an
31 appropriate committee.

32 Upon being reported out of committee, all bills shall be

1 referred to the rules committee, unless otherwise ordered by the
2 house.

3 The rules committee may, by majority vote, refer any bill in
4 its possession to a committee for further consideration. Such
5 referral shall be reported to the house and entered in the journal
6 under the fifth order of business.

7 (B) SECOND READING. Upon second reading, the bill number and
8 short title and the last line of the bill shall be read unless a
9 majority of the members present shall demand its reading in full.
10 The bill shall be subject to amendment section by section. No
11 amendment shall be considered by the house until it has been sent
12 to the chief clerk's desk in writing, distributed to the desk of
13 each member, and read by the clerk. All amendments adopted during
14 second reading shall be securely fastened to the original bill.
15 All amendments rejected by the house shall be passed to the minute
16 clerk, and the journal shall show the disposition of such
17 amendments.

18 When no further amendments shall be offered, the speaker shall
19 declare the bill has passed its second reading.

20 (C) SUBSTITUTE BILLS. When a committee reports a substitute
21 for an original bill with the recommendation that the substitute
22 bill do pass, it shall be in order to read the substitute the first
23 time and have the same printed. A motion for the substitution
24 shall not be in order until the second reading of the original
25 bill.

26 (D) THIRD READING. Only the last line of bills shall be read
27 on third reading unless a majority of the members present demand a
28 reading in full. No amendments to a bill shall be received on
29 third reading but it may be referred or recommitted for the purpose
30 of amendment.

31 (E) SUSPENSION CALENDAR. Bills may be placed on the second
32 reading suspension calendar by the rules committee if at least two

1 minority party members of the rules committee join in such motion.
2 Bills on the second reading suspension calendar shall not be
3 subject to amendment or substitution except as recommended in the
4 committee report. When a bill is before the house on the
5 suspension calendar, the question shall be to adopt the committee
6 recommendations and advance the bill to third reading. If the
7 question fails to receive a two-thirds vote of the members present,
8 the bill shall be referred to the rules committee for second
9 reading.

10 (F) HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. House resolutions shall be filed with
11 the chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If
12 a rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time
13 necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority
14 leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to
15 the rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by
16 the house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a
17 sixty percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a
18 majority vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar
19 for consideration by the house.

20 (G) CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS. Reading of concurrent resolutions
21 may be advanced by majority vote.

22 **Amendments**

23 **Rule 11.** The right of any member to offer amendments to
24 proposed legislation shall not be limited except as provided in
25 Rule 10(E) and as follows:

26 (A) AMENDMENTS TO BE OFFERED IN PROPER FORM. The chief clerk
27 shall establish the proper form for amendments and all amendments
28 offered shall bear the name of the member who offers the same, as
29 well as the number and section of the bill to be amended.

1 (B) COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. When a bill is before the house on
2 second reading, amendments adopted by committees and recommended to
3 the house shall be acted upon by the house before any amendments
4 that may be offered from the floor.

5 (C) SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS. A house bill, passed by
6 the senate with amendment or amendments which shall change the
7 scope and object of the bill, upon being received in the house,
8 shall be referred to appropriate committee and shall take the same
9 course as for original bills unless a motion not to concur is
10 adopted prior to the bill being referred to committee.

11 (D) AMENDMENTS TO BE GERMANE. No motion or proposition on a
12 subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted
13 under color of amendment; and no bill or resolution shall at any
14 time be amended by annexing thereto or incorporating therein any
15 other bill or resolution pending before the house.

16 (E) SCOPE AND OBJECT NOT TO BE CHANGED. No amendment to any
17 bill shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of
18 the bill. This objection may be raised at any time an amendment is
19 under consideration. The speaker may allow the person raising the
20 objection and the mover of the amendment to provide brief arguments
21 as to the merits of the objection. (Art. II 38)

22 (F) NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE. No act shall ever be revised
23 or amended without being set forth at full length. (Art. II 37)

24 (G) TITLE AMENDMENTS. The subject matter portion of a bill
25 title shall not be amended in committee or on second reading.
26 Changes to that part of the title after the subject matter
27 statement shall either be presented with the text amendment or be
28 incorporated by the chief clerk in the engrossing process.

1 **Rule 12.** Rules relating to bills on final passage are as
2 follows:

3 (A) RECOMMITMENT BEFORE FINAL PASSAGE. A bill may be
4 recommitted at any time before its final passage.

5 (B) FINAL PASSAGE. No bill shall become a law unless on its
6 final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the
7 members voting for and against the same be entered on the journal
8 of each house, and a majority of the members elected to each house
9 be recorded thereon as voting in its favor. (Art. II 22)

10 (C) BILLS PASSED - CERTIFICATION. When a bill passes, it
11 shall be certified to by the chief clerk, said certification to
12 show the date of its passage together with the vote thereon.

13 **Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum**

14 **Rule 13.** (A) HOUR OF MEETING. The speaker shall call the
15 house to order each day of sitting at 10:00 A.M., unless the house
16 shall have adjourned to some other hour.

17 (B) ROLL CALL AND QUORUM. Before proceeding with business,
18 the roll of the members shall be called and the names of those
19 absent or excused shall be entered on the journal. A majority of
20 all the members elected must be present to constitute a quorum for
21 the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, seven
22 members with the speaker, or eight members in the speaker's
23 absence, having chosen a speaker pro tempore, shall be authorized
24 to demand a call of the house and may compel the attendance of
25 absent members in the manner provided in Rule 21(B). For the
26 purpose of determining if a quorum be present, the speaker shall
27 count all members present, whether voting or not. (Art. II 8)

28 (C) The house shall adjourn not later than 10:00 P.M. of each

1 working day. This rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

2 **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

3 **Rule 14.** The rules relating to the daily calendar and order of
4 business are as follows:

5 (A) DAILY CALENDAR. Business of the house shall be disposed
6 of in the following order:

7 First: Roll call, presentation of colors, prayer, and approval
8 of the journal of the preceding day.

9 Second: Introduction of visiting dignitaries.

10 Third: Messages from the senate, governor, and other state
11 officials.

12 Fourth: Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials,
13 joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.

14 Fifth: Committee reports.

15 Sixth: Second reading of bills.

16 Seventh: Third reading of bills.

17 Eighth: Floor resolutions and motions.

18 Ninth: Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances
19 addressed to the Legislature.

20 Tenth: Introduction of visitors and other business to be
21 considered.

22 Eleventh: Announcements.

23 (B) UNFINISHED BUSINESS. The unfinished business at which the
24 house was engaged preceding adjournment shall not be taken up until
25 reached in regular order, unless the previous question on such
26 unfinished business has been ordered prior to said adjournment.

27 (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as
28 follows:

29 (1) The order of business may be changed by a majority vote of

1 those present.

2 (2) By motion under the eighth order of business, a bill in the
3 rules committee may be placed on the calendar by the affirmative
4 vote of a majority of all members of the house.

5 (3) House resolutions and messages from the senate, governor,
6 or other state officials may be read at any time.

7 **Motions**

8 **Rule 15.** Rules relating to motions are as follows:

9 (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be
10 entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every
11 motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be
12 reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker
13 or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the
14 house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

15 (B) MOTIONS IN ORDER DURING DEBATE. When a motion has been
16 made and seconded and stated by the chair, the following motions
17 are in order, in the rank named:

18 (1) Privileged motions:

- 19 Adjourn
20 Adjourn to a time certain
21 Recess to a time certain
22 Reconsider
23 Demand for division
24 Question of privilege
25 Orders of the day

26 (2) Subsidiary motions:

- 27 First rank: Question of consideration
28 Second rank: To lay on the table
29 Third rank: For the previous question

1 Fourth rank: To postpone to a day certain
2 To commit or recommit
3 To postpone indefinitely
4 Fifth rank: To amend

5 (3) Incidental motions:
6 Points of order and appeal
7 Method of consideration
8 Suspension of the rules
9 Reading papers
10 Withdraw a motion
11 Division of a question

12 (C) THE EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT - MOTIONS TO POSTPONE OR
13 COMMIT. Once decided, no motion to postpone to a day certain, to
14 commit, or to postpone indefinitely shall again be allowed on the
15 same day and at the same stage of the proceedings. When a question
16 has been postponed indefinitely, it shall not again be introduced
17 during the session. The motion to postpone indefinitely may be
18 made at any stage of the bill except when on first reading.

19 (D) MOTIONS DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE. A motion to adjourn, to
20 recess, to lay on the table and to call for the previous question
21 shall be decided without debate.

22 All incidental motions shall be decided without debate, except
23 that members may speak to points of order and appeal as provided in
24 Rule 22.

25 A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable
26 except that the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose
27 of the motion and one member may briefly state the opposition to
28 the motion.

29 (E) MOTION TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn shall always be in
30 order, except when the house is voting or is working under the call
31 of the house; but this rule shall not authorize any member to move
32 for adjournment when another member has the floor.

1 **Members Right to Debate**

2 **Rule 16.** The methods by which a member may exercise his or her
3 right to debate are as follows:

4 (A) RECOGNITION OF MEMBER. When any member desires to speak
5 in debate or deliver any matter to the house, the member shall rise
6 and respectfully address the speaker and pause until recognized.

7 (B) ORDER OF SPEAKING. When two or more members arise at
8 once, the speaker shall name the one who is to speak.

9 (C) LIMITATION OF DEBATE. No member shall speak longer than
10 ten (10) minutes without consent of the house: PROVIDED, That on
11 and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of
12 any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of
13 the state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after
14 the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the
15 house as established by concurrent resolution, no member shall
16 speak more than three (3) minutes without the consent of the house.
17 No member shall speak more than twice on the same question without
18 leave of the house: PROVIDED, That the chair of the committee or
19 the mover of the question may close debate if it is consistent with
20 Rule 18 (Previous Question).

21 **Rules of Debate**

22 **Rule 17.** The rules for debate in the house are as follows:

23 (A) QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE. Any member may rise to a question
24 of privilege and explain a personal matter, by leave of the
25 speaker, but the member shall not discuss any pending question in
26 such explanations.

1 (B) WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION, BILL, ETC. After a motion is stated
2 by the speaker or a bill, memorial, resolution, petition, or
3 remonstrance is read by the clerk, it shall be deemed to be in
4 possession of the house, but may be withdrawn by consent of the
5 house at any time before decision or amendment.

6 (C) READING OF A PAPER. When the reading of any paper is
7 called for and is objected to by any member, it shall be determined
8 by a vote of the house.

9 (D) DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS. Any materials of any nature
10 distributed to the members' desks on the floor shall be subject to
11 approval by the speaker and shall bear the name of at least one
12 member granting permission for the distribution. This shall not
13 apply to materials normally distributed by the chief clerk.

14 (E) ORDER OF QUESTIONS. All questions, whether in committee
15 or in the house, shall be propounded in the order in which they are
16 named except that in filling blanks, the largest sum and the
17 longest time shall be put first.

18 (F) DIVISION OF POINTS OF DEBATE. Any member may call for a
19 division of a question which shall be divided if it embraces
20 subjects so distinct that one being taken away a substantive
21 proposition shall remain for the decision of the house; but a
22 motion to strike out and to insert shall not be divided. The
23 rejection of a motion to strike out and to insert one proposition
24 shall not prevent a motion to strike out and to insert a different
25 proposition.

26 (G) DECORUM OF MEMBERS. While the speaker is putting the
27 question, no member shall walk across or out of the house; nor when
28 a member is speaking shall any member entertain private discourse
29 or pass between the speaking member and the rostrum.

30 (H) REMARKS CONFINED. A member shall confine all remarks to

1 the question under debate and avoid personalities. No member shall
2 impugn the motive of any member's vote or argument.

3 (I) EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. If any member be
4 called to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the
5 member to order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall
6 be taken down in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be
7 held in answer or be subject to the censure of the house for words
8 spoken in debate if any other member has spoken before exception to
9 them shall have been taken.

10 (J) TRANSGRESSION OF RULES - APPEAL. If any member, in
11 speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the house the
12 speaker shall, or any member may, call the member to order, in
13 which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down
14 unless permitted to explain; and the house shall, if appealed to,
15 decide the case without debate; if there be no appeal, the decision
16 of the chair shall prevail.

17 If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, the
18 member shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case
19 shall require it, the member shall be liable to the censure of the
20 house.

21 **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

22 **Rule 18.** The previous question may be ordered by a two-thirds
23 (2/3) vote of the members present on all recognized motions or
24 amendments which are debatable.

25 The previous question is not debatable and cannot be amended.

26 The previous question shall be put in this form:
27 "Representative _____ demands the previous question. As many
28 as are in favor of ordering the previous question will say 'Aye';
29 as many as are opposed will say 'No'."

30 The results of the motion are as follows: If determined in the

1 negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never been
2 made; if decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of
3 cutting off all debate and bringing the house to a direct vote upon
4 the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered: PROVIDED
5 HOWEVER, That when a bill is on final passage or when the motion to
6 postpone indefinitely is pending, one of the sponsors of the bill
7 or the chair of the committee may have the privilege of closing
8 debate after the previous question has been ordered.

9 If an adjournment is had after the previous question is
10 ordered, the motion or proposition on which the previous question
11 was ordered shall be put to the house immediately following the
12 approval of the journal on the next working day, thus making the
13 main question privileged over all other business, whether new or
14 unfinished.

15 **Voting**

16 **Rule 19.** (A) PUTTING OF QUESTION. The speaker shall put the
17 question in the following form: "The question before the house is
18 (state the question). As many as are in favor say 'Aye'; and after
19 the affirmative vote is expressed, "as many as are opposed say
20 'No'."

21 (B) ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE. Every member who was in the house
22 when the question was put shall vote unless, for special reasons,
23 excused by the house.

24 All motions to excuse a member shall be made before the house
25 divides or before the call for yeas and nays is commenced; and any
26 member requesting to be excused from voting may make a brief and
27 verbal statement of the reasons for making such request, and the
28 question shall then be taken without further debate.

29 Upon a division and count of the house on the question, only
30 members at their desks within the bar of the house shall be
31 counted.

1 (C) CHANGE OF VOTE. When the electric roll call machine is
2 used, no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the
3 speaker has locked the roll call machine. When an oral roll call
4 is taken, no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after
5 the result has been announced.

6 (D) PRIVATE INTEREST. No member shall vote on any question
7 which affects that member privately and particularly. A member who
8 has a private interest in any bill or measure proposed or pending
9 before the legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of
10 which he is a member, and shall not vote thereon. (Art. II 30)

11 (E) INTERRUPTION OF ROLL CALL. Once begun, the roll call may
12 not be interrupted. No member or other person shall visit or
13 remain at the clerk's desk while the yeas and nays are being
14 called.

15 (F) YEAS AND NAYS - RECORDED VOTES. Upon the final passage of
16 any bill, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays and shall be
17 recorded by the electric voting system: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That an
18 oral roll call shall be ordered when demanded by one-sixth (1/6) of
19 the members present. (Art. II 21)

20 The speaker may vote last when the yeas and nays are called.
21 When the vote is by electric voting machine or by oral roll
22 call on any question, it shall be entered upon the journal of the
23 house. A recorded vote may be compelled by one-sixth (1/6) of the
24 members present. A request for a recorded vote must be made before
25 the vote is commenced.

26 (G) TIE VOTE, QUESTION LOSES. In case of an equal division,
27 the question shall be lost.

28 (H) DIVISION. If the speaker is in doubt, or if division is
29 called for by any member, the house shall divide.

1 **Reconsideration**

2 **Rule 20.** Notice of a motion for reconsideration on the final
3 passage of bills shall be made on the day the vote to be
4 reconsidered was taken and before the house has voted to transmit
5 the bill to the senate.

6 Reconsideration of the votes on the final passage of bills must
7 be taken on the next working day after such vote was taken:
8 PROVIDED, That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of
9 adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to
10 Article II, Section 12 of the state Constitution, or concurrent
11 resolution, or on and after the third day prior to the day a bill
12 must be reported from the house as established by concurrent
13 resolution, then reconsideration of votes on the final passage of
14 bills must be taken on the same day as the original vote was taken.

15 A motion to reconsider an amendment may be made at any time the
16 bill remains on second reading.

17 Any member who voted on the prevailing side may move for
18 reconsideration or give notice thereof.

19 A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in
20 the negative.

21 When a motion to reconsider has been carried, its effect shall
22 be to place the original question before the house in the exact
23 position it occupied before it was voted upon.

24 **Call of the House**

25 **Rule 21.** One-sixth (1/6) of the members present may demand a
26 call of the house at any time before the house has divided or the
27 voting has commenced by yeas and nays.

28 (A) DOORS TO BE CLOSED. When call of the house has been
29 ordered, the sergeant at arms shall close and lock the doors, and
30 no member shall be allowed to leave the chamber: PROVIDED, That
31 the rules committee shall be allowed to meet, upon request of the

1 speaker, while the house stands at ease: AND PROVIDED FURTHER,
2 That the speaker may permit members to use such portions of the
3 fourth floor as may be properly secured.

4 (B) SERGEANT AT ARMS TO BRING IN THE ABSENTEES. The clerk
5 shall immediately call a roll of the members and note the
6 absentees, whose names shall be read and entered upon the journal
7 in such manner as to show who are excused and who are absent
8 without leave.

9 The clerk shall furnish the sergeant at arms with a list of
10 those who are absent without leave, and the sergeant at arms shall
11 proceed to bring in such absentees; but arrests of members for
12 absence shall not be made unless ordered by a majority of the
13 members present.

14 (C) HOUSE UNDER CALL. While the house is under a call, no
15 business shall be transacted except to receive and act on the
16 report of the sergeant at arms; and no other motion shall be in
17 order except a motion to proceed with business under the call of
18 the house or a motion to excuse absentees. The motion to excuse
19 absent members shall not be adopted unless a majority of the
20 members elected vote in favor thereof.

21 **Appeal from Decision of Chair**

22 **Rule 22.** The decision of the chair may be appealed from by any
23 member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless
24 by leave of the house. In all cases of appeal, the question shall
25 be: "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the
26 house?"

27 **Standing Committees**

28 **Rule 23.** The standing committees of the house and the number

1 of members that shall serve on each committee shall be as follows:

2	1.	Agriculture & Ecology	11
3	2.	Appropriations	31
4	3.	Capital Budget	11
5	4.	Children & Family Services	11
6	5.	Commerce & Labor	9
7	6.	Criminal Justice & Corrections	13
8	7.	Education	11
9	8.	Energy & Utilities	13
10	9.	Finance	15
11	10.	Financial Institutions & Insurance	11
12	11.	Government Administration	13
13	12.	Government Reform & Land Use	11
14	13.	Health Care	11
15	14.	Higher Education	9
16	15.	Law & Justice	13
17	16.	Natural Resources	11
18	17.	Rules	19
19	18.	Trade & Economic Development	9
20	19.	Transportation Policy & Budget	27

21 Committee members shall be selected by each party's caucus. The
22 majority party caucus shall select all committee chairs.

23 **Duties of Committees**

24 **Rule 24.** House committees shall operate as follows:

25 (A) NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING. The chief clerk shall make
26 public the time, place and subjects to be discussed at committee
27 meetings. All public hearings held by committees shall be
28 scheduled at least five (5) days in advance and shall be given
29 adequate publicity: PROVIDED, That when less than eight (8) days
30 remain for action on a bill, the Speaker may authorize a reduction
31 of the five-day notice period when required by the circumstances,

1 including but not limited to the time remaining for action on the
2 bill, the nature of the subject, and the number of prior hearings
3 on the subject.

4 (B) COMMITTEE QUORUM. A majority of any committee shall
5 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

6 (C) SESSION MEETINGS. No committee shall sit while the house
7 is in session without special leave of the speaker.

8 (D) DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

9 (1) Only such bills as are included on the written notice of
10 a committee meeting may be considered at that meeting except upon
11 the vote of a majority of the entire membership of the committee to
12 consider another bill.

13 (2) A majority recommendation of a committee must be signed by
14 a majority of the entire membership of the committee in a regularly
15 called meeting before a bill, memorial, or resolution may be
16 reported out: PROVIDED, That by motion under the eighth order of
17 business, a majority of the members elected to the house may
18 relieve a committee of a bill and place it on the second reading
19 calendar.

20 Majority recommendations of a committee can only be "do pass,"
21 "do pass as amended," or that "the substitute bill be substituted
22 therefor and that the substitute bill do pass."

23 (3) Members of the committee not concurring in the majority
24 report may prepare a written minority report containing a
25 recommendation of "do not pass" or "without recommendation," which
26 shall be signed by those members of the committee subscribing
27 thereto, and submitted with the majority report.

28 (4) All committee reports shall be spread upon the journal.
29 The journal of the house shall contain an exact copy of all
30 committee reports, together with the names of the members signing
31 such reports.

32 (5) Every vote to report a bill out of committee shall be
33 taken by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for
34 and against, as well as the names of members absent, shall be

1 recorded on the committee report and spread upon the journal. Any
2 member may call for a recorded vote, which shall include the names
3 of absent members, on any substantive question before the
4 committee. A copy of all recorded committee votes shall be kept by
5 the chief clerk and shall be available for public inspection.

6 (6) All bills having a direct appropriation shall be referred
7 to the appropriate fiscal committee before their final passage.
8 For purposes of this subsection, fiscal committee means the
9 appropriations, capital budget, finance, and transportation policy
10 and budget committees.

11 (7) No standing committee shall vote by secret written ballot
12 on any issue.

13 (8) During its consideration of or vote on any bill,
14 resolution, or memorial, the deliberations of any standing
15 committee of the house of representatives shall be open to the
16 public.

17 (9) A standing committee to which a bill was originally
18 referred shall, prior to voting the bill out of committee, consider
19 whether the bill authorizes rule-making powers or requires the
20 exercise of rule-making powers and, if so, consider:

21 (a) The nature of the new rule-making powers; and

22 (b) To which agencies the new rule-making powers would be
23 delegated and which agencies, if any, may have related rule-making
24 powers.

25 **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

26 **Rule 25.** Regardless of whether the legislature is in session,
27 members of the house may receive from moneys appropriated for the
28 legislature, reimbursement for necessary travel expenses, and
29 payments in lieu of subsistence and lodging for conducting official
30 business of the house.

31 The standing committees of the house may have the powers of
32 subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue
33 commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the

1 provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. Before a standing committee of
2 the house may issue any process, the committee chairperson shall
3 submit for approval of the executive rules committee a statement of
4 purpose setting forth the name or names of those subject to
5 process. The process shall not be issued prior to approval by the
6 executive rules committee. The process shall be limited to the
7 named individuals.

8

Vetoed Bills

9 **Rule 26.** Veto messages of the governor shall be read in the
10 house and entered upon the journal. It shall then be in order to
11 proceed to reconsider the bill, refer it, lay it on the table, or
12 postpone its consideration to a day certain.

13 The merits of the bill may be debated before the vote is
14 taken, but the vote on a vetoed bill cannot be reconsidered.

15 In case of a bill containing several sections or items, one or
16 more of which has been objected to by the governor, each section or
17 item so objected to shall be voted upon separately by the house.

18 Action by the house upon all vetoed bills shall be endorsed
19 upon the bill and certified by the speaker.

20 Vetoed bills originating in the house, which have not been
21 passed notwithstanding the veto of the governor, shall remain in
22 the custody of the officers of the house until the close of the
23 term, after which they shall be filed with the secretary of state.

24

Suspension of Compensation

25 **Rule 27.** (1) Any member of the house of representatives
26 convicted and sentenced for any felony punishable by death or by
27 imprisonment in a Washington state penal institution shall, as of
28 the time of sentencing, be denied the legislative salary for future
29 service and be denied per diem, compensation for expenses, office
30 space facilities, and assistance. Any member convicted of a felony

1 and sentenced therefor under any federal law or the law of any
2 other state shall, as of the time of sentencing, be similarly
3 denied such salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance
4 if either (a) such crime would also constitute a crime punishable
5 under the laws of Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state
6 penal institution, or (b) the conduct resulting in the conviction
7 and sentencing would also constitute a crime punishable under the
8 laws of Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal
9 institution.

10 (2) At any time, the house may vote by a constitutional
11 majority to restore the salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and
12 assistance denied a member under subsection (1). If the conviction
13 of a member is reversed, then the salary, per diem, and expense
14 amounts denied the member since sentencing shall be forthwith paid,
15 and the member shall thereafter have the rights and privileges of
16 other members.

17 **Smoking**

18 **Rule 28.** Smoking of cigarettes, pipes, or cigars shall not be
19 permitted at any public meeting of any committee of the house of
20 representatives or within House facilities.

21 "No smoking" signs shall be posted so as to give notice of
22 this rule.

23 **Parliamentary Rules**

24 **Rule 29.** The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in
25 Reed's Parliamentary Rules shall govern all cases in which they are
26 not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the house.

27 **Standing Rules Amendment**

