

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 7

Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, JANUARY 3, 2023

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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.

18 The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate.

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

2 Rule 3. Duties of the President.

3 The President shall:

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

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

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

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

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

29 (6) Sign resolutions, orders, writs, warrants and
30 subpoenas issued by order of the Senate. The signature shall

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

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

14 Rule 4. President Pro Tempore.

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

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

29 Rule 5. Duties of President Pro Tempore.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Rule 6. Duties of the Secretary-Parliamentarian.

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

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

30 (1) Assist the presiding officer in conducting the

1 business of the session.

2 (2) Act in the capacity of Parliamentarian.

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

6 (1) Direct the following functions:

7 (i) Amending bills in the Senate.

8 (ii) Preparing and publishing the Senate Calendar.

9 (iii) Publication of the Senate History.

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

14 (v) Printing of bills.

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

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

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

28 (4) Transmit all bills, joint resolutions, concurrent
29 resolutions and other communications to the House of
30 Representatives within one legislative day of final passage

1 or adoption, and each shall be accompanied by a message
2 stating the title to the measure being transmitted and
3 requesting concurrence of the House, as required.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 Rule 9. Order of Business.

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

- | | | |
|----|---------|----------------------------------|
| 11 | First | Call to Order. |
| 12 | Second | Prayer by the Chaplain and |
| 13 | | Pledge of Allegiance. |
| 14 | Third | Reading of Communications. |
| 15 | Fourth | Receiving reports of committees. |
| 16 | Fifth | Asking of leaves of absence. No |
| 17 | | Senator shall absent himself |
| 18 | | without leave of the Senate, |
| 19 | | first obtained, unless prevented |
| 20 | | from attendance by sickness, or |
| 21 | | other sufficient cause. |
| 22 | Sixth | Approval of Journals of |
| 23 | | preceding session days. |
| 24 | Seventh | Offering of original |
| 25 | | resolutions. |
| 26 | Eighth | Introduction of Guests. |
| 27 | Ninth | Consideration of the Calendar. |
| 28 | | Any bill or resolution on the |
| 29 | | Calendar not finally acted upon |
| 30 | | within 10 legislative days shall |

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

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

23 Rule 10. Order and decorum.

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

29 (b) Avoiding personal references.--Any Senator addressing
30 the Senate shall confine remarks to the question under debate,

1 avoiding personal references or questions as to motive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (i) Use of tobacco products.--No tobacco products, including

1 cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco, shall be used in
2 the Senate Chamber or in Senate Committee Rooms.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (10) Commit or recommit.

2 (11) Amend.

3 (12) Main motion.

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

5 (1) Adjourn sine die.

6 (2) Recess.

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

8 (4) Previous question.

9 (5) Orders of the day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (f) Recessing and convening.--

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

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

30 (3) The Senate shall not convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.

1 unless the Senate adopts a motion that sets forth the need to
2 convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

28 (j) Reconsideration.--

29 (1) When a question has once been made and carried in
30 the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order to move the

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Rule 12. Bills.

29 (a) Passage of bills.--

30 (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill

1 shall be so altered or amended, on its passage through either
2 House, as to change its original purpose. (Const. Art. III,
3 Sec. 1)

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

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

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

20 (d) Consideration of bills.--

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

1 Members elected to each House is recorded thereon as voting
2 in its favor. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 4)

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

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

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

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

24 (g) Appropriation bills.--

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

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

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

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

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

22 (i) Land transfer legislation.--

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

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

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

1 Services.

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

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

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

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

28 (m) Printing of amended bills.--

29 (1) All bills reported or re-reported from committee, if
30 amended by the committee, and all bills on the Calendar, if

1 amended by the Senate, shall be reprinted and a new printer's
2 number assigned thereto before any action is taken thereon.

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

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

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

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

12 (1) The following apply:

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

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

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

30 (iv) No bills appropriating money for charitable or

1 benevolent purposes shall be considered finally until
2 after the general appropriation bill shall have been
3 reported from committee.

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

9 (2) The following apply:

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

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

18 (q) Prefiling of bills, joint resolutions and resolutions.--

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

29 (r) Normal filing of bills, joint resolutions and
30 resolutions.--Senators may introduce bills, joint resolutions

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

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

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

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

22 Rule 13. Amendments.

23 (a) When in order.--

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

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

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

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

1 the motion to amend.

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

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

13 (c) Concurrence in House amendments.--

14 (1) The following apply:

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

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

28 (2) The following apply:

29 (i) Any bill or resolution containing House
30 amendments which is returned to the Senate shall be

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

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

1 Rule 14. Committees.

2 (a) Standing committees.--

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

12 Aging and Youth - 10 members

13 Agriculture and Rural Affairs - 10 members

14 Appropriations - 22 members

15 Banking and Insurance - 14 members

16 Communications and Technology - 10 members

17 Community, Economic and Recreational Development - 14
18 members

19 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure - 14
20 members

21 Education - 10 members

22 Environmental Resources and Energy -- 10 members

23 Finance -- 10 members

24 Game and Fisheries -- 10 members

25 Health and Human Services -- 10 members

26 Intergovernmental Operations -- 10 members

27 Judiciary - 14 members

28 Labor and Industry -- 10 members

29 Law and Justice -- 10 members

30 Local Government -- 10 members

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

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

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

17 (b) Members-ex-officio.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 witnesses who shall appear before the committee to testify.

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

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

12 (e) Notice of meetings.--

13 (1) The following apply:

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

1 on the day preceding its intended publication.

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

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

24 (iv) Whenever the Chair of any standing committee
25 fails to call a hearing on a resolution or bill, the
26 Minority Chair of the standing committee may call a
27 hearing by providing written notice to members of the
28 standing committee and to the Secretary-Parliamentarian
29 of the Senate, setting the time and place of such
30 hearing, not later than 72 hours before the hearing is to

1 be scheduled. Such notice shall be read in the Senate and
2 the same posted by the Secretary-Parliamentarian in the
3 Senate. Thereafter, the hearing shall be held at the time
4 and place specified in the notice. In addition, any such
5 hearing shall comply with all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S.
6 Ch. 7.

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

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

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

24 (g) Public meetings or hearings.--

25 (1) The following apply:

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

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

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

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

27 (h) Quorum of committee.--A committee is actually assembled
28 only when a quorum constituting a majority of the members of
29 that committee is present in person. A majority of the quorum of
30 the whole committee, including at least one Senator of the

1 Minority party, shall be required to report any bill, resolution
2 or other matter to the Floor for action by the whole Senate.

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

9 (j) Consideration of legislation.--

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

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

24 (k) Discharging committees.--

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

30 (2) Such discharge shall be by resolution which shall

1 lie over one day for consideration upon introduction and
2 which may be considered under the Order of Business of
3 Resolutions on the Calendar.

4 Rule 15. Committee officers.

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

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

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

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

30 (e) Vote of Chair, Vice Chair.--The Chair and Vice Chair

1 shall vote on all matters before such committee; Provided, That
2 the name of the Chair shall be called last.

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

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

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

16 Rule 16. Committee members.

17 Members, attendance and voting shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

4 Rule 17. Committee voting.

5 Taking the vote shall be as follows:

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

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

13 Rule 18. Motions in committees.

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

16 Rule 19. Conference Committees.

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

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

23 (c) Report of Conference Committee.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) Capitol leave.--A Senator who is performing a

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

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

30 (3) Military leave.--A Senator who is on active duty or

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

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

21 (c) Excused from voting.--

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

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

1 and ask the presiding officer to decide whether or not the
2 Senator must vote. The question shall be decided by the
3 presiding officer without debate.

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

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

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

30 (g) Majority vote defined.--A majority of the Senators

1 elected shall mean a majority of the Senators elected, living,
2 sworn and seated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Rule 21. Correspondents.

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

20 (b) Photographs in Senate Chamber.--

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

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

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

29 (1) Persons seated in the Senate Press Gallery shall be
30 dressed appropriately and shall, at all times, refrain from

1 loud talking or causing any disturbance which tends to
2 interrupt the proceedings of the Senate.

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

7 Rule 22. Radio and television.

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

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

17 Rule 23. Video feed and audio feed.

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

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

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

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

1 permit any control over the video cameras and microphones in
2 the Senate Chamber to be exercised by anyone but the
3 appropriate Senate officers and employees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) The video feed and audio feed, and any television or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (f) Other recording prohibited.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Rule 25. Rules.

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

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

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

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

27 (e) Alteration, change or amendment of Rules by
28 resolution.--All alterations, changes or amendments to Senate
29 Rules shall be by resolution which shall not be considered
30 unless first referred to and reported from the Rules and

1 Executive Nominations Committee.

2 Rule 25.1. Mandatory interrogation.

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

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

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

13 Rule 27. Quorum.

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

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

1 shall be publicly reprimanded by the presiding officer for
2 neglect of duty.

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

18 Rule 28. Executive nominations.

19 (a) Presentation and reference.--

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

30 (2) Nominations shall, after being read, without a

1 motion, be referred by the presiding officer to the Committee
2 on Rules and Executive Nominations. After having been
3 reported by the committee, the final question on every
4 nomination shall be: "Will the Senate advise and consent to
5 this nomination?"

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

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

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

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

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

17 Rule 29. Resolutions.

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

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

27 (1) All Senate concurrent resolutions and House
28 concurrent resolutions, excepting resolutions in reference to
29 adjournment sine die, recesses and resolutions recalling
30 bills from the Governor, which shall be regarded as

1 privileged.

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

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

9 (c) Printing in Senate History.--

10 (1) (Reserved).

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

14 (d) Joint Resolutions.--

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

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

23 Rule 29.1. Citations.

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

29 (b) Filing.--The citation request shall be filed with the
30 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate and automatically

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

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

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

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

13 Rule 31. Veto.

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

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

27 Rule 32. Division of a question.

28 Any Senator may call for a division of a question by the
29 Senate if the question includes points so distinct and separate
30 that, one of them being taken away, the other will stand as a

1 complete proposition. The motion to strike out and insert is
2 indivisible.

3 Rule 33. Coordination with other Senate Rules.

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

7 Rule 34. Committee on Ethics.

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

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

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

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

1 held at the time and place specified in the notice.

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

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

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

14 (1) be submitted in writing;

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

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

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

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

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

29 (g) Confidentiality.--Prior to the commencement of a formal
30 investigation, the fact that a preliminary investigation is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 by another Senator, counsel or employee of the Senate
2 appointed in like manner as the person's original appointment
3 or selection.

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

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

1 disposition of the report by the full Senate. A vote by a
2 majority of the members elected to the Senate shall be necessary
3 to adopt each finding set forth in the Ethics Committee Report.

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

9 (1) a warning;

10 (2) a written reprimand;

11 (3) restitution for damages; or

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

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

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

1 committee in a like manner to the Senator's original
2 appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 from other employment during the period of suspension.

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

13 Rule 37. Affiliation with nonprofit entities.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (5) Not receive grant funding directly from the

1 Commonwealth that comprises its sole source of operational
2 funding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (d) Training.--To assure compliance with this Rule by
30 Senators and Senate employees, appropriate training measures

1 shall be implemented by the Senate. Training shall be provided
2 annually for all Senators and Senate employees.

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 "Affiliated." Serving:

7 (1) as an officer of a nonprofit entity;

8 (2) on the board of directors of a nonprofit entity;

9 (3) as a paid employee of a nonprofit entity; or

10 (4) as a contractor of a nonprofit entity.

11 "Family member." A spouse or child.

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

16 Rule 38. Remote participation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) A quorum shall be established through a roll call if
30 the identity of the voting member is identified by the

1 presiding officer.

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

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