

1 **JOINT RULES RESOLUTION -- CONFERENCE**

2 **COMMITTEES**

3 2016 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Kevin T. Van Tassell**

6 House Sponsor: Michael E. Noel

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This rules resolution requires public notice for conference committee meetings.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This resolution:

13 ▶ requires the president or speaker to ensure that oral and electronic notice are
14 provided that identify the members of a conference committee and the time and
15 place that the conference committee will meet.

16 **Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Legislative Rules Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20 **JR3-2-601**

21 **JR3-2-602**

23 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

24 Section 1. **JR3-2-601** is amended to read:

25 **JR3-2-601. Appointment and chairs -- Notice.**

26 (1) (a) If the Senate refuses to concur in the House amendments to a Senate bill, the
27 secretary of the Senate shall notify the House of the refusal and ask the House to recede from
28 its amendments.

29 (b) Either house may recede from its position on any difference existing between the

30 two houses by a majority vote of its members.

31 (c) (i) If the House refuses to recede, the speaker shall appoint a conference committee
32 of three.

33 (ii) After making the appointment, the speaker shall:

34 (A) publicly announce the House members of the conference committee and the time
35 and place that the conference committee will meet;

36 (B) ensure that no more than two of the appointees are members of the majority party;
37 and

38 (C) direct House staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the House members of
39 the conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.

40 (d) If the speaker does not immediately appoint a conference committee, the president
41 may appoint a conference committee as provided in Subsection (2)(c).

42 [~~(e) Whenever the president or speaker appoint a conference committee, the secretary
43 of the Senate or chief clerk of the House shall:]~~

44 [~~(i) immediately notify the other house of the action taken; and]~~

45 [~~(ii) request the appointment of a like committee.]~~

46 [~~(f) After receiving the notice and request, the presiding officer of the other house shall
47 appoint a conference committee of three.]~~

48 (2) (a) If the House refuses to concur in the Senate amendments to a House bill, the
49 chief clerk of the House shall notify the Senate of the refusal and ask the Senate to recede from
50 its amendments.

51 (b) Either house may recede from its position on any difference existing between the
52 two houses by a majority vote of its members.

53 (c) (i) If the Senate refuses to recede, the president shall appoint a conference
54 committee of three.

55 (ii) After making the appointment, the president shall:

56 (A) publicly announce the Senate members of the conference committee and the time
57 and place that the conference committee will meet;

58 (B) ensure that no more than two of the appointees are members of the majority party;
59 and

60 (C) direct Senate staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the Senate members
61 of the conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.

62 (d) If the president does not immediately appoint a conference committee, the speaker
63 may appoint a conference committee as provided in Subsection (1)(c).

64 ~~[(e)]~~ (3) (a) Whenever the president or speaker appoint a conference committee, the
65 secretary of the Senate or chief clerk of the House shall:

- 66 (i) immediately notify the other house of the action taken; and
- 67 (ii) request the appointment of ~~[a like]~~ conference committee members from that other
68 house.

69 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) After receiving the notice and request, the presiding officer of the other house
70 shall:

- 71 (i) appoint a conference committee of three;
- 72 (ii) publicly announce the members of the conference committee from that house and
73 the time and place that the conference committee will meet; and
- 74 (iii) direct staff to provide electronic notice that identifies the members of the
75 conference committee and the time and place of the conference committee meeting.

76 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) The first senator named on the conference committee is the Senate chair of
77 the committee, and the first representative named on the conference committee is the House
78 chair.

79 (b) ~~[No more than two members of the conference committee may be members of the~~
80 ~~majority party. (c)]~~ The conference committee chairs shall ~~[(i) arrange the time and place of all~~
81 ~~meetings; and (ii)]~~ direct the preparation of ~~[reports]~~ the conference committee report.

82 Section 2. **JR3-2-602** is amended to read:

83 **JR3-2-602. Conference committee procedures.**

- 84 (1) The chair from the house of origin of the bill shall chair meetings of the committee.
- 85 (2) Staff from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel may attend the

86 conference committee meeting to assist in the preparation of the committee report.

87 (3) (a) Subject to Subsection (3)(b), conference committee meetings are open to the
88 public.

89 (b) Public comment may not be received or made during a conference committee
90 meeting unless a majority of committee members from one house and at least 50% from the
91 other house vote to receive public comment.

92 (4) (a) A majority of committee members from each house must approve a conference
93 committee report in order for it to be presented to the Legislature.

94 (b) (i) If the conference committee cannot reach an agreement, the committee shall
95 report the failure to agree to both houses.

96 (ii) Upon notice that a conference committee has failed to agree, the presiding officer
97 of each house may either appoint a new committee by following the requirements of [JR3-2-601](#)
98 or reappoint the former committee and announce the time and place of the committee's
99 meeting.

100 (5) Before a bill being considered by a conference committee is abandoned, not to be
101 reviewed again by either house during the remainder of the session, each house shall vote to
102 refuse further conferences by the same committee or a new committee.