

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4600, by Representatives Fitzgibbon and Corry

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That no later than Friday,  
2 January 31, 2025, the nineteenth legislative day, the House of  
3 Representatives shall meet to consider adoption of permanent House  
4 Rules for the Sixty-Ninth Legislature; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That temporary House rules for the Sixty-  
6 ninth Legislature be adopted as follows:

7 ((PERMANENT)) TEMPORARY RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
8 ((SIXTY-EIGHTH)) SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE ((2023-2024)) 2025-2026

9 **HOUSE RULE NO.**

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27 **Definitions**

28 **Rule 1.** (A) "Absent" means an unexcused failure to attend.

29 (B) "Bill" means bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or  
30 concurrent resolution unless the context indicates otherwise.

1 (C) "Committee" means any standing, conference, joint, or select  
2 committee as so designated by rule or resolution.

3 (D) "Fiscal committee" means the appropriations, capital budget,  
4 finance, and transportation committees.

5 (E) "Sergeant at arms" means the director of house security.

6 (F) "Session" means a constitutional gathering of the house in  
7 accordance with Article II, section 12 of the state Constitution.

8 (G) "Term" means the two-year term during which the members as a  
9 body may act.

#### 10 **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

11 **Rule 2.** It shall be the duty of the chief clerk of the previous  
12 term to call the house to order and to conduct the proceedings until  
13 a speaker is chosen.

#### 14 **Election of Officers**

15 **Rule 3.** The house shall elect the following officers at the  
16 commencement of each term: Its presiding officer, who shall be styled  
17 speaker of the house; a speaker pro tempore, who shall serve in  
18 absence or in case of the inability of the speaker; a deputy speaker  
19 pro tempore, who shall serve in absence or in case of the inability  
20 of the speaker and speaker pro tempore; and a chief clerk of the  
21 house. Such officers shall hold office during all sessions until the  
22 convening of the succeeding term: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any of  
23 these offices may be declared vacant by the vote of a constitutional  
24 majority of the house, the members voting viva voce and their votes  
25 shall be entered on the journal. If any office is declared vacant,  
26 the house shall fill such vacant office as hereinafter provided. In  
27 all elections by the house a constitutional majority shall be  
28 required, the members shall vote viva voce and their votes shall be  
29 entered on the journal. (Article II, section 27)

#### 30 **Powers and Duties of the Speaker**

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

32 (A) The speaker shall take the chair and call the house to order  
33 precisely at the hour appointed for meeting and if a quorum be

1 present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read and  
2 shall proceed with the order of business.

3 (B) The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of  
4 any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber or  
5 legislative area, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the  
6 same and may order the sergeant at arms to remove any person creating  
7 any disturbance within the house chamber or legislative area.

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

13 (D) The speaker may authorize members who are not elected as  
14 officers as provided in Rule 3 to perform the powers and duties of  
15 the speaker described in subsections (A) through (C) of this rule.

16 (E) The speaker shall sign all bills in open session. (Article  
17 II, section 32)

18 ((E)) (F) The speaker shall sign all writs, warrants, and  
19 subpoenas issued by order of the house, all of which shall be  
20 attested to by the chief clerk.

21 ((F)) (G) The speaker shall have the right to name any member  
22 to perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall  
23 neither extend beyond adjournment nor authorize the representative so  
24 substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the  
25 speaker.

26 ((G)) (H) The speaker, in open session, shall appoint committee  
27 chairs as selected by the majority party caucus, and shall appoint  
28 members to committees in the same ratio as the membership of the  
29 respective parties of the house, unless otherwise provided by law or  
30 house rules.

31 ((H)) (I) The speaker shall serve as chair of the rules  
32 committee and the executive rules committee.

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





1 Any returning member or member-elect may prefile a bill with the  
2 chief clerk commencing the first Monday in December preceding any  
3 regular session or twenty (20) days before any special session.  
4 Prefiled bills shall be introduced on the first legislative day.

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

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

12 No house bill may be introduced that is identical to any other  
13 pending house bill.

#### 14 **Reading of Bills**

15 **Rule 11.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days:  
16 PROVIDED, That this rule may be temporarily suspended at any time by  
17 a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present; and that on and after  
18 the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any  
19 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the  
20 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the  
21 third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as  
22 established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended by a  
23 majority vote.

24 A bill may be returned to second reading for the purpose of  
25 amendment by a suspension of the rules: PROVIDED, That on and after  
26 the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any  
27 session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the  
28 state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the  
29 third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as  
30 established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended and  
31 a bill returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment by a  
32 majority vote.

33 (A) FIRST READING. The first reading of a bill shall be by title  
34 only, unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in  
35 full.

36 After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an  
37 appropriate committee.

1       Upon being reported out of committee, all bills shall be referred  
2 to the rules committee, unless otherwise ordered by the house.

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

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

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

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

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

30       (E) SUSPENSION CALENDAR. Bills may be placed on the second  
31 reading suspension calendar by the rules committee if at least two  
32 minority party members of the rules committee join in such motion.  
33 Bills on the second reading suspension calendar shall not be subject  
34 to amendment or substitution except as recommended in the committee  
35 report. When a bill is before the house on the suspension calendar,  
36 the question shall be to adopt the committee recommendations and



1 advance the bill to third reading. If the question fails to receive a  
2 two-thirds vote of the members present, the bill shall be referred to  
3 the rules committee for second reading.

4 (F) HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. House resolutions shall be filed with the  
5 chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If a  
6 rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time  
7 necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority  
8 leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to the  
9 rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by the  
10 house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a sixty  
11 percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a majority  
12 vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar for  
13 consideration by the house. House resolutions are not subject to  
14 debate, except for resolutions necessary for the operation of the  
15 house, and resolutions commemorating Children's Day, Day of  
16 Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Guard Day, and  
17 President's Day.

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

#### 20 **Amendments**

21 **Rule 12.** The right of any member to offer amendments to proposed  
22 legislation shall not be limited except as provided in Rule 11(E) and  
23 as follows:

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

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

32 (C) SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS. A house bill, passed by the  
33 senate with amendment or amendments which shall change the scope and  
34 object of the bill, upon being received in the house, shall be  
35 referred to the appropriate committee and shall take the same course

1 as for original bills unless a motion not to concur is adopted prior  
2 to the bill being referred to committee.

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

8 (E) SCOPE AND OBJECT NOT TO BE CHANGED. No amendment to any bill  
9 shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of the bill.  
10 This objection may be raised at any time an amendment is under  
11 consideration. The speaker may allow the person raising the objection  
12 and the mover of the amendment to provide brief arguments as to the  
13 merits of the objection. (Article II, section 38)

14 (F) NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE. No act shall ever be revised or  
15 amended without being set forth at full length. (Article II, section  
16 37)

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

22 (H) DATE AND TIME FOR AMENDMENT SUBMISSION. To facilitate the  
23 orderly consideration of proposed legislation, the speaker, after  
24 consultation with the minority leader, may establish a date and time  
25 for submission of amendments.

### 26 **Final Passage**

27 **Rule 13.** Rules relating to bills on final passage are as follows:

28 (A) BUDGET BILLS. No final passage vote may be taken on an  
29 operating budget, transportation budget, or capital budget bill until  
30 twenty-four (24) hours after the bill is placed on the third reading  
31 calendar. The twenty-four (24) hour requirement does not apply to  
32 conference reports, which are governed by the Joint Rules of the  
33 Senate and the House of Representatives, or to bills placed on the  
34 third reading calendar by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members  
35 present.

1 (B) RECOMMITMENT BEFORE FINAL PASSAGE. A bill may be recommitted  
2 at any time before its final passage.

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

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

### 11 **Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum**

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

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

28 (C) The house shall adjourn not later than 10:00 P.M. of each  
29 working day. This rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

### 30 **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

31 **Rule 15.** The rules relating to the daily calendar and order of  
32 business are as follows:

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

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

3 Second: Introduction of visiting dignitaries.

4 Third: Messages from the senate, governor, and other state  
5 officials.

6 Fourth: Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials, joint  
7 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.

8 Fifth: Committee reports.

9 Sixth: Second reading of bills.

10 Seventh: Third reading of bills.

11 Eighth: Floor resolutions and motions.

12 Ninth: Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances  
13 addressed to the Legislature.

14 Tenth: Introduction of visitors and other business to be  
15 considered.

16 Eleventh: Announcements.

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

21 (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as  
22 follows:

23 (1) The order of business may be changed by a majority vote of  
24 those present.

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

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

### 30 Motions

31 **Rule 16.** Rules relating to motions are as follows:

32 (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be  
33 entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every  
34 motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be  
35 reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker

1 or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the  
2 house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

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

6 (1) Privileged motions:

7 Adjourn

8 Adjourn to a time certain

9 Recess to a time certain

10 Reconsider

11 Demand for division

12 Question of privilege

13 Orders of the day

14

15 (2) Subsidiary motions:

16 First rank: Question of consideration

17 Second rank: To lay on the table

18 Third rank: For the previous question

19 Fourth rank: To postpone to a day certain

20 To commit or recommit

21 To postpone indefinitely

22 Fifth rank: To amend

23

24 (3) Incidental motions:

25 Points of order and appeal

26 Method of consideration

27 Suspension of the rules

28 Reading papers

29 Withdraw a motion

30 Division of a question

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

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

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

14 Motions to adopt house resolutions shall be decided without  
15 debate, except as provided in Rule 11(F).

16 A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable  
17 except that the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose  
18 of the motion and one member may briefly state the opposition to the  
19 motion.

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

24 **Remote Participation and Voting Permitted Upon Authorization**

25 **Rule 17.** The majority leader and minority leader or their  
26 designees may authorize members of their respective caucuses to  
27 participate remotely in official house proceedings, including  
28 committee meetings and floor sessions, upon the request of a member  
29 who is experiencing a medical condition or illness that prevents in-  
30 person participation. Once authorized, any member participating  
31 remotely shall be considered present for purposes of a quorum and  
32 voting. Members participating remotely shall use the computer and  
33 virtual background provided by the house during all committee  
34 meetings and floor proceedings. The majority leader and minority  
35 leader or their designees shall determine when the member's  
36 authorization to participate remotely ends.

1 **Members' Right to Debate**

2 **Rule 18.** The methods by which a member may exercise their right  
3 to debate are as follows:

4 (A) RECOGNITION OF MEMBER. When any member desires to speak in  
5 debate or deliver any matter to the house, the member shall rise and  
6 respectfully address the speaker and pause until recognized. Any  
7 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in  
8 Rule 17 who desires to speak may request to be recognized by use of  
9 the request to speak button in the remote floor activity system.

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

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

24 **Rules of Debate**

25 **Rule 19.** The rules for debate in the house are as follows:

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

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

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

4 (D) DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS. Any materials of any nature  
5 distributed to the members' desks on the floor shall be subject to  
6 approval by the speaker and shall bear the name of at least one  
7 member granted permission for the distribution. Any member  
8 participating remotely as provided in Rule 17 who wishes to  
9 distribute materials subject to the speaker's approval may do so  
10 electronically. All materials approved for distribution shall be  
11 provided electronically to members participating remotely to the  
12 extent practicable. This shall not apply to materials normally  
13 distributed by the chief clerk.

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

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

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

29 (H) REMARKS CONFINED. A member shall confine all remarks to the  
30 question under debate and avoid personalities. No member shall impugn  
31 the motive of any member's vote or argument.

32 (I) EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. If any member be called  
33 to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the member to  
34 order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall be taken down  
35 in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be held in answer or



1 be subject to the censure of the house for words spoken in debate if  
2 any other member has spoken before exception to them shall have been  
3 taken.

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

11 If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, the  
12 member shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case  
13 shall require it, the member shall be liable to the censure of the  
14 house.

#### 15 **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

16 **Rule 20.** The previous question may be ordered by a two-thirds  
17 (2/3) vote of the members present on all recognized motions or  
18 amendments which are debatable.

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

20 The previous question shall be put in this form: "Representative  
21 \_\_\_\_\_ demands the previous question. As many as are in favor of  
22 ordering the previous question will say 'Aye'; as many as are opposed  
23 will say 'No'."

24 The results of the motion are as follows: If determined in the  
25 negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never been  
26 made; if decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of  
27 cutting off all debate and bringing the house to a direct vote upon  
28 the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered: PROVIDED  
29 HOWEVER, That when a bill is on final passage or when the motion to  
30 postpone indefinitely is pending, one of the sponsors of the bill or  
31 the chair of the committee may have the privilege of closing debate  
32 after the previous question has been ordered.

33 If an adjournment is had after the previous question is ordered,  
34 the motion or proposition on which the previous question was ordered  
35 shall be put to the house immediately following the approval of the

1 journal on the next working day, thus making the main question  
2 privileged over all other business, whether new or unfinished.

### 3 **Voting**

4 **Rule 21.** (A) PUTTING OF QUESTION. The speaker shall put the  
5 question in the following form: "The question before the house is  
6 (state the question). As many as are in favor say 'Aye'; and after  
7 the affirmative vote is expressed, "as many as are opposed say 'No'."

8 (B) ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE. Except as provided in subsection (G),  
9 every member who was in the house or participating remotely in house  
10 proceedings as provided in Rule 17 when the question was put shall  
11 vote unless, for special reasons, excused by the house.

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

17 (C) COUNT OF THE HOUSE. Upon a division and count of the house on  
18 the question, only members at their desks within the bar of the house  
19 or participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17  
20 shall be counted.

21 (D) CHANGE OF VOTE. When the electric roll call machine is used,  
22 no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the speaker  
23 has locked the roll call machine. When an oral roll call is taken, no  
24 member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the result has  
25 been announced.

26 (E) PRIVATE INTEREST. No member shall vote on any question which  
27 affects that member privately and particularly. A member who has a  
28 private interest in any bill or measure proposed or pending before  
29 the legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a  
30 member, and shall not vote thereon. (Article II, section 30)

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

34 (G) MOTIONS NOT REQUIRING A RECORDED ROLL CALL VOTE. Members in  
35 the house and members participating remotely in house proceedings as

1 provided in Rule 17 may vote on any motion not requiring a recorded  
2 roll call vote, including when the house divides. Members  
3 participating remotely may vote using the remote floor activity  
4 system.

5 (H) INABILITY TO VOTE USING REMOTE VOTING FUNCTION. A member  
6 participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17  
7 who is unable to vote using the remote voting function on any motion  
8 requiring a recorded roll call vote may vote orally. If a member is  
9 unable to vote using the remote voting function or orally, the  
10 rostrum staff shall contact the member by telephone and the member's  
11 vote may be taken by telephone to rostrum staff after the member  
12 answers security questions to verify the identity of the member. The  
13 rostrum staff will announce the vote of the member, which shall be  
14 recorded.

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

20 The speaker may vote last when the yeas and nays are called.

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

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

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

30 (L) STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL. A member whose recorded vote does not  
31 accurately reflect their intent may submit a written statement for  
32 the journal clarifying their intent to vote aye or nay. The statement  
33 must be submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the vote is  
34 taken. A member who is excused for one or more days of recorded votes  
35 may submit a written statement for the journal explaining the reason  
36 for their absence. The statement may not exceed 50 words and must be

1 submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the member returns. A  
2 member participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in  
3 Rule 17 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function,  
4 orally, or by telephone may submit a statement for the journal within  
5 48 hours indicating their intent to vote yea or nay.

### 6 **Reconsideration**

7 **Rule 22.** Notice of a motion for reconsideration on the final  
8 passage of bills shall be made on the day the vote to be reconsidered  
9 was taken and before the house has voted to transmit the bill to the  
10 senate.

11 Reconsideration of the votes on the final passage of bills must  
12 be taken on the next working day after such vote was taken: PROVIDED,  
13 That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine  
14 die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12  
15 of the state Constitution, or concurrent resolution, or on and after  
16 the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house  
17 as established by concurrent resolution, then reconsideration of  
18 votes on the final passage of bills must be taken on the same day as  
19 the original vote was taken: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any member  
20 participating remotely in house proceedings as provided in Rule 17  
21 who was unable to vote using the remote voting function, orally, or  
22 by telephone may require reconsideration of the vote on the final  
23 passage of bills the same day the vote is taken.

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

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

28 A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in  
29 the negative.

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

### 33 **Call of the House**

34 **Rule 23.** One-sixth (1/6) of the members present may demand a call  
35 of the house at any time before the house has divided or the voting  
36 has commenced by yeas and nays.

1 (A) DOORS TO BE CLOSED. When call of the house has been ordered,  
2 the sergeant at arms shall close and lock the doors, and no member  
3 shall be allowed to leave the chamber: PROVIDED, That the rules  
4 committee shall be allowed to meet, upon request of the speaker,  
5 while the house stands at ease: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the  
6 speaker may permit members to use such portions of the fourth floor  
7 as may be properly secured.

8 (B) SERGEANT AT ARMS TO BRING IN THE ABSENTEES. The clerk shall  
9 immediately call a roll of the members and note the absentees, whose  
10 names shall be read and entered upon the journal in such manner as to  
11 show who are excused and who are absent without leave. A member  
12 authorized to participate remotely in house proceedings as provided  
13 in Rule 17 who is visible at the time of the roll call through the  
14 remote floor activity system shall not be considered absent or absent  
15 without leave.

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

20 (C) HOUSE UNDER CALL. While the house is under a call, no  
21 business shall be transacted except to receive and act on the report  
22 of the sergeant at arms; and no other motion shall be in order except  
23 a motion to proceed with business under the call of the house, a  
24 motion to excuse absentees, or a motion to dispense with the call of  
25 the house. The motion to proceed with business under the call of the  
26 house and the motion to excuse absent members shall not be adopted  
27 unless a majority of the members elected vote in favor thereof. The  
28 motion to dispense with the call of the house may be adopted by a  
29 majority of the members present.

### 30 **Appeal from Decision of Chair**

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

### 35 **Standing Committees**

1 **Rule 25.** The standing committees of the house and the number of  
2 members that shall serve on each committee shall be as follows:

3	1. Agriculture & Natural Resources. . . . .	11
4	2. Appropriations. . . . .	31
5	3. Capital Budget. . . . .	<del>((29))</del> 19
6	4. Civil Rights & Judiciary. . . . .	<del>((11))</del> 13
7	5. Community Safety( <del>(, Justice, &amp; Reentry)</del> ). . . . .	9
8	6. Consumer Protection & Business. . . . .	<del>((13))</del> 15
9	7. <u>Early Learning &amp; Human Services.</u> . . . . .	11
10	8. <u>Education.</u> . . . . .	<del>((15))</del> 19
11	<del>((8-))</del> 9. Environment & Energy. . . . .	<del>((15))</del> 21
12	<del>((9-))</del> 10. Finance. . . . .	<del>((13))</del> 15
13	<del>((10-))</del> 11. Health Care & Wellness. . . . .	<del>((17))</del> 19
14	<del>((11-))</del> 12. Housing. . . . .	<del>((13))</del> 17
15	<del>((12. Human Services, Youth, &amp; Early Learning.</del> . . . . .	11
16	13. <del>Innovation, Community &amp; Economic Development, &amp;</del>	
17	<del>Veterans.</del> . . . . .	15
18	14-)) 13. Labor & Workplace Standards. . . . .	9
19	<del>((15))</del> 14. Local Government. . . . .	7
20	<del>((16))</del> 15. Postsecondary Education & Workforce. . . . .	<del>((15))</del> 17
21	<del>((17. Regulated Substances &amp; Gaming.</del> . . . . .	11
22	18)) 16. Rules. . . . .	24
23	<del>((19))</del> 17. State Government & Tribal Relations. . . . .	7
24	18. <u>Technology, Economic Development, &amp; Veterans.</u> . . . . .	13
25	<del>((20))</del> 19. Transportation. . . . .	<del>((29))</del> 27

26 Committee members shall be selected by each party's caucus. The  
27 majority party caucus shall select all committee chairs. (~~"Committee~~  
28 ~~chair" includes committee cochair.~~)

29 **Duties of Committees**

30 **Rule 26.** House committees shall operate as follows:

31 (A) NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING. The chief clerk shall make  
32 public the time, place and subjects to be discussed at committee  
33 meetings. All public hearings held by committees shall be scheduled  
34 with at least five (5) days' notice, including the day of notice and  
35 day of hearing, and shall be given adequate publicity: PROVIDED, That  
36 when less than eight (8) days remain for action on a bill, the

1 Speaker may authorize a reduction of the five-day notice period when  
2 required by the circumstances, including but not limited to the time  
3 remaining for action on the bill, the nature of the subject, and the  
4 number of prior hearings on the subject.

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

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

9 (D) DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

10 (1) Only such bills as are included on the written notice of a  
11 committee meeting may be considered at that meeting.

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

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

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

26 (4) Every recommendation and report shall be made by members of  
27 the committee during the regularly called meeting of the committee.  
28 No signatures are required.

29 (5) All committee reports shall be spread upon the journal. The  
30 journal of the house shall contain an exact copy of all committee  
31 reports, together with the names of the members joining in the  
32 majority and minority recommendations contained in such reports.

33 (6) Every vote to report a bill out of committee shall be taken  
34 by the yeas and nays, with the nays specifying "do not pass" or  
35 "without recommendation," and the names of the members voting for and  
36 against, as well as the names of members absent, shall be recorded on

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

6 (7) A member participating remotely in house proceedings as  
7 provided in Rule 17 who is unable to vote on a bill in committee for  
8 technical reasons may submit a statement for the bill file indicating  
9 their intent to have voted yea, nay-do not pass, or nay-without  
10 recommendation. The statement must be submitted to the chief clerk on  
11 the same day the vote is taken.

12 (8) All bills having a direct appropriation shall be referred to  
13 the appropriate fiscal committee before their final passage.

14 (9) No standing committee shall vote by secret written ballot on  
15 any issue.

16 (10) During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution,  
17 or memorial, the deliberations of any standing committee of the House  
18 of Representatives shall be open to the public.

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

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

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

27 (12) Insofar as practicable, testimony in public hearings should  
28 be balanced between those in support of and in opposition to proposed  
29 legislation, with consideration given to providing an opportunity for  
30 members of the public to testify within available time.

### 31 **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

32 **Rule 27.** Regardless of whether the legislature is in session,  
33 members of the house may receive from moneys appropriated for the  
34 legislature, reimbursement for necessary travel expenses, and  
35 payments in lieu of subsistence and lodging for conducting official  
36 business of the house.



1 The standing committees of the house may have the powers of  
2 subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue  
3 commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the  
4 provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. Before a standing committee of the  
5 house may issue any process, the committee chair shall submit for  
6 approval of the executive rules committee a statement of purpose  
7 setting forth the name or names of those subject to process. The  
8 process shall not be issued prior to approval by the executive rules  
9 committee. The process shall be limited to the named individuals.

### 10 **Vetoed Bills**

11 **Rule 28.** Veto messages of the governor shall be read in the house  
12 and entered upon the journal. It shall then be in order to proceed to  
13 reconsider the bill, refer it, lay it on the table, or postpone its  
14 consideration to a day certain.

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

17 In case of a bill containing several sections or items, one or  
18 more of which has been objected to by the governor, each section or  
19 item so objected to shall be voted upon separately by the house.  
20 Action by the house upon all vetoed bills shall be endorsed upon the  
21 bill and certified by the speaker.

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

### 26 **Suspension of Compensation**

27 **Rule 29.** (1) Any member of the House of Representatives convicted  
28 and sentenced for any felony punishable by death or by imprisonment  
29 in a Washington state penal institution shall, as of the time of  
30 sentencing, be denied the legislative salary for future service and  
31 be denied per diem, compensation for expenses, office space  
32 facilities, and assistance. Any member convicted of a felony and  
33 sentenced therefor under any federal law or the law of any other  
34 state shall, as of the time of sentencing, be similarly denied such  
35 salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance if either (a)  
36 such crime would also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of

1 Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution,  
2 or (b) the conduct resulting in the conviction and sentencing would  
3 also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of Washington by  
4 death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution.

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

### 11 **Smoking and Vaping**

12 **Rule 30.** To provide a safe and healthy environment for all  
13 members, employees, and the public, smoking and vaping shall not be  
14 permitted at any public meeting of the House of Representatives or  
15 within house facilities. Smoking includes the lighting of cigarettes,  
16 pipes, or cigars. Vaping includes the use of electronic nicotine  
17 delivery systems or electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes,  
18 e-pipes, or e-cigars.

### 19 **Liquor**

20 **Rule 31.** The House of Representatives shall strictly adhere to  
21 the liquor laws of the state of Washington, including provisions  
22 relating to banquet and special occasion permits. The proper permits  
23 must always be obtained before consumption of liquor in any house  
24 facility.

### 25 **Parliamentary Rules**

26 **Rule 32.** The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Reed's  
27 Parliamentary Rules shall govern all cases in which they are not  
28 inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the house.

### 29 **Standing Rules Amendment**

30 **Rule 33.** Any standing rule may be rescinded or changed by a  
31 majority vote of the members elected: PROVIDED, That the proposed  
32 change or changes be submitted at least one day in advance in writing  
33 to the members together with notice of the consideration thereof. Any  
34 standing rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds (2/3) vote  
35 of the members present except as provided in Rule 11.

1 **Rules to Apply for Assembly**

2 **Rule 34.** The permanent house rules adopted at the beginning of  
3 the term are to govern all acts of the house during the course of the  
4 term unless amended or repealed.

5 **Legislative Publications**

6 **Rule 35.** The House of Representatives directs the house executive  
7 rules committee to adopt procedures and guidelines to ensure that all  
8 legislative publications at public expense are for legitimate  
9 legislative purposes.

10 **Emergency Resolution Authorized**

11 **Rule 36.** If the executive rules committee determines through a  
12 majority vote that physically convening all members and staff in a  
13 single location presents a danger to the health or safety of members,  
14 staff, and the public or is impractical because of an emergency,  
15 disaster, or catastrophic incident under RCW 42.14.010, the house  
16 shall adopt a resolution establishing the rules and procedures  
17 governing any special or regular legislative session. For purposes of  
18 adopting the house resolution required by this rule, some or all  
19 members may vote using the remote voting function or other process  
20 established by the chief clerk. Members are considered in attendance  
21 within the bar of the house when using the remote floor activity  
22 system or following the established process, including for purposes  
23 of establishing quorum. To the extent practicable, a member  
24 participating remotely or otherwise under this rule has the same  
25 privileges, rights, and responsibilities under the house rules as if  
26 the member were physically present.

27  
28 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
29 Resolution 4600 adopted by the House of Representatives  
30 January 13, 2025  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35

36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk