

RULES  
of the  
NEBRASKA  
UNICAMERAL  
LEGISLATURE



One Hundred Eighth Legislature  
2023-2024



**RULES**  
**of the**  
**NEBRASKA**  
**UNICAMERAL**  
**LEGISLATURE**

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**RULES OF THE NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL**

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## RULE 1 – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

### A. Election of Officers

**Section 1. Officers to be Elected.** (a) At the commencement of each regular session in odd-numbered years the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot the following officers:

Speaker  
Chairperson of Committee on Committees  
Chairperson of Executive Board  
Vice Chairperson of Executive Board  
6 Members of Executive Board (See footnote)

Before the ballot is taken each person so nominated may make a public statement to the Legislature indicating what the Legislature may expect from him or her in the area of the responsibility of such office. The officers so elected shall hold such office for a period of two years.

*The Legislature elects two from Legislative Districts 2, 3, 15, 16, 19, 21 through 29, 45, and 46; two from Legislative Districts 4 through 14, 18, 20, 31, 36, 39, and 49; and two from Legislative Districts 1, 17, 30, 32 through 35, 37 and 38, 40 through 44, 47, and 48. Speaker is member of Board; Chairperson of Appropriations is nonvoting member. RRS 50-401.01. These six members of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the positions represent, subject to approval of the Legislature.*

(b) In the event a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the following shall apply:

(i) The Vice Chairperson shall serve as acting Chairperson upon the resignation or death of the Chairperson until the commencing of the next regular session of the Legislature, at which time the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot a Chairperson of the Executive Board for the balance of the original term.

(ii) Upon the resignation or death of the Speaker, during the interim, said position shall remain vacant until the next regular session or special session the Legislature convenes, at which time a Speaker shall be nominated from the floor and elected by secret ballot for the balance of the original term.

Upon the resignation or death of the Speaker during the session, a Speaker shall immediately be nominated from the floor and elected by secret ballot for the balance of the term.

(iii) In the event there is a vacancy of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board during the interim, said vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Rule 3, Section 8(c) until the commencing of the next regular session of the Legislature at which time the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot a Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board for the balance of the original term.

(iv) During session, a vacancy among the remaining six members of the

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Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the vacancy occurred, subject to approval of the Legislature. The individual so selected shall serve for the balance of the original term.

During the interim, a vacancy among the remaining six members of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the vacancy occurred, subject to approval of the Executive Board. The individual so selected shall serve for the balance of the original term.

**Sec. 2. Officers to be Approved.** In addition, the Legislature shall advise and consent to the recommendations of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council for the following officers:

Chief Clerk of the Legislature  
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature  
Sergeant at Arms

*Officers and employees recommended by the Executive Board. RRS 50-111.*

**Sec. 3. Voting on and Removal of Officers.** (a) A majority vote of the elected members shall be required for the election of all officers of the Legislature. All officers shall hold their office until a successor is chosen or they are removed.

(b) Any officer of the Legislature may be recalled upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members elected to the Legislature provided no such recall shall be voted on until five legislative days after the motion to do so is placed in the Journal. The vacancy thus created shall be filled by a majority vote of the members.

**Sec. 4. Officer's Oath.** Each permanent officer shall take an oath to support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the State of Nebraska, and to discharge faithfully the duties of his or her office according to the best of his or her ability.

### **B. Presiding Officer**

**Sec. 5. President of the Legislature.** The Lieutenant Governor shall preside as President of the Legislature. The Speaker shall serve as acting President and preside when the Lieutenant Governor shall be absent, incapacitated, or shall be acting as Governor. All references herein made to the President shall be construed as meaning also the Speaker whenever he or she may preside.

*Prohibited from presiding when acting as Governor. Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.  
Duties and powers. RRS 50-113.*

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**Sec. 6. Presiding Officer, Order in Designating.** In the absence of both the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker, the order of the presiding officer of the Legislature shall be as follows:

Chairperson of the Executive Board  
Chairperson of Committee on Committees  
Chairperson of Committee on Judiciary  
Chairperson of Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
Chairperson of Committee on Appropriations  
Chairperson of Committee on Revenue  
Chairperson of Committee on Education  
Chairperson of Committee on Banking, Commerce and Insurance  
Chairperson of Committee on Natural Resources  
Chairperson of Committee on Agriculture  
Chairperson of Committee on Health and Human Services  
Chairperson of Committee on General Affairs  
Chairperson of Committee on Business and Labor  
Chairperson of Committee on Urban Affairs  
Chairperson of Committee on Transportation and Telecommunications

**Sec. 7. Powers of Presiding Officer, Restrictions.** All the powers herein conferred on the President shall be exercised by the presiding officer, except the authority to sign bills or resolutions passed by the Legislature.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.  
Duties. RRS 50-113.*

**Sec. 8. Alternate Presiding Officers.** The President may name any member to perform the duties of the presiding officer, but such delegation shall not extend beyond adjournment.

**Sec. 9. Convening of Legislature, Quorum.** The President shall take the chair each legislative day at the hour to which the Legislature shall have adjourned at the last sitting. He or she shall call the Legislature to order, and a quorum being present, shall proceed in the manner and order prescribed by these Rules. A majority of the members elected to the Legislature shall constitute a quorum.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

**Sec. 10. Absence of Quorum.** If the President finds that a number less than a quorum is present, he or she shall so state, and a majority of the members present, if five in number, may compel the presence of all members subject to a call of the house.

**Sec. 11. Order and Decorum.** The President shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries, or in the lobby, may cause the same to be cleared.

*Consent to enter chamber. Rule 2, Section 3.*

## RULE 1

**Sec. 12. Overrule Ruling of the Chair.** The President may speak to a point of order in preference to members, and shall decide the questions or order, subject to a challenge to the Legislature by any member, on which challenge no member may speak more than once, unless by leave of the Legislature. No member may yield time to another member. In the event of a challenge to a ruling of the chair, the ruling shall be restated and the question shall be phrased: "Shall the Chair be overruled?" A majority of those present shall be required to overrule the chair.

**Sec. 13. Signing of Bills and Resolutions.** The President shall sign, in the presence of the Legislature, while the same is in session and capable of transacting business, all bills and resolutions passed by the Legislature. All writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the Legislature shall be under his or her hand and seal, and attested to by the Clerk.

*Only Lieutenant Governor or Speaker may sign bills. Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 14. Lieutenant Governor Voting, When.** The Lieutenant Governor, when presiding, shall vote only when the Legislature is equally divided.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

### C. Speaker

**Sec. 15. Speaker, Presiding, Privilege.** The Speaker shall preside over the Legislature at such times and circumstances as is above set forth. He or she shall be privileged to speak at any stage of proceedings at any time incident to the duties and responsibilities of his or her office.

*Distribution of material by Clerk. Rule 2, Section 3g.  
Excuse attendance at committee hearing. Rule 2, Section 4.  
Power to refer bill back to committee. Rule 6, Section 3g.  
Signing of bills. Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 16. Report Order of Bills.** (a) The Speaker, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall report to the Legislature the order in which bills and resolutions shall be considered on General File. The Speaker's orders, as approved, are final unless changed by a three-fifths vote of the elected members of the Legislature. General appropriation bills shall be given precedence over all other bills.

(b) The Speaker may, when sound judgment would so dictate, postpone the scheduled reconvening of the Legislature for up to forty-eight hours when (1) an emergency exists due to adverse weather or other causes, or (2) a quorum cannot be assembled within one half hour after the time to which the Legislature was to have convened.



## RULE 1

(c) The Speaker shall prepare a daily legislative agenda and shall make every effort possible to deliver the agenda to the members of the Legislature not less than one day prior to the day for which the agenda was prepared.

**Sec. 17. Speaker's Major Proposals.** The Speaker shall be authorized to:  
(a) Designate up to five bills, or resolutions proposing to amend the Constitution, as major proposals during each legislative session. Determinations made by the Speaker pursuant to this subsection shall be limited to bills or resolutions previously designated as a committee priority, senator priority, or a general appropriation bill and approved by a vote of two-thirds of the Executive Board.

(b) Require each committee to which a major proposal has been referred to:  
(1) hold a public hearing by a date certain as agreed to by the Speaker and committee chairperson.  
(2) take action, including voting to advance the measure with or without amendments to the full Legislature, voting to indefinitely postpone the measure, or taking a vote on the measure that does not result in the measure's advancement or indefinite postponement. Committee action as defined above must be taken by a date certain as determined by the Speaker and committee chairperson.

(c) Determine the scheduling of the proposal and the order of amendments and motions to be considered.

### D. Clerk of the Legislature

**Sec. 18. Duties, Journal, Report on Employees.** (a) The Clerk of the Legislature shall attend sessions, call the roll, and keep journal of proceedings.

(b) The Clerk of the Legislature shall print no paper or document, except bills and the daily Journal, unless authorized by a majority vote of the elected members of the Legislature, or by the Executive Board.

*Preprinting of bills. Rule 5, Section 3.*

(c) The Clerk of the Legislature shall have general charge, except as may be provided by law or by rule, of such parts of the Capitol and its passages as are or may be set apart for the use of the Legislature and its officers and employees.

(d) No communications or letters shall be read by the Clerk of the Legislature unless authorized by the Speaker or the Executive Board Chairperson.

*General duties. RRS 50-114.*

*Distribute material, when authorized. Rule 2, Section 3g.*

*Fiscal notes, attach to bills. Rule 5, Sections 7a and 7d.*

## RULE 1

**Sec. 19. Journal, Governor's Messages, Amendments.** (a) The Clerk shall prepare a daily Journal of the proceedings of the Legislature, which shall be printed and placed each day upon the desks of the members, and the presiding officer shall call in the regular order of business for corrections thereof. After corrections, if any are made, the Journal shall stand approved without motion.

*Order of business. Rule 7, Section 1b.*

(b) The Clerk shall enter in the daily Journal messages of the Governor in full, titles of bills, every vote, including the yeas and nays, and a brief statement of the contents of each resolution, petition, memorial, communication, or other paper received from other states presented for the consideration of the Legislature.

*Constitutional amendment, print in full. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 1.*

(c) The hour at which the Legislature adjourns shall be entered in the daily Journal.

(d) All amendments for which a vote is taken shall be entered in the daily Journal.

(e) All amendments and motions filed with the Clerk prior to the day a bill or resolution is considered shall be recorded in the daily Journal with the name of the introducer or introducers. The text of any amendment whose length is no more than ten pages shall be printed in the daily Journal. All amendments which are approximately ten pages or more, or such amendments which contain tables, charts, graphics, or other components which are incompatible with current Journal software, shall be noted in the daily Journal as on file in the bill room or the Clerk's office.

(f) Additional copies of the daily Journal, to be mailed at the Clerk's direction, shall be supplied for the use of each member in such manner as shall be provided by the Legislature.

(g) The bound Journal of the session shall be prepared from the corrected daily Journal.

(h) A verbatim record of all debate and questions on all bills and resolutions, and amendments offered thereto, shall be made, transcribed, and preserved under the direction of the Clerk.

(i) A list of lobbyists who are registered shall be set forth in the Journal.

*On registration of lobbyists. RRS 49-1480 through 49-1492.01.*

(j) An acknowledgement shall be entered in the daily Journal that a member has filed a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement under the Nebraska

## RULE 1

Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, and that such statement is on file in the Clerk of the Legislature's office.

**Sec. 20. Assistant Clerk, Duties.** The Assistant Clerk shall, in the absence of the Clerk, be authorized to exercise all the duties herein prescribed for the Clerk of the Legislature, including the signing of those papers which may require the signature of the Clerk of the Legislature.

*RRS 50-115.*

### E. Other Offices

**Sec. 21. Sergeant at Arms.** (a) The Sergeant at Arms shall attend the Legislature during its sittings, to execute the commands of the Legislature from time to time, together with all such processes issued by authority thereof as shall be directed to him or her by the presiding officer, and shall enforce strictly the rules as they relate to privileges of the legislative chamber.

*RRS 50-116.*

(b) The Assistant Sergeant at Arms shall assist the Sergeant at Arms and in the absence of the latter, shall perform all of the duties herein prescribed for the Sergeant at Arms.

(c) Such other security guards as may be necessary shall be under the direction of the Speaker.

*Compel attendance. Rule 2, Section 4.*

**Sec. 22. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.** The Clerk's office shall arrange for prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each day of the legislative session. In addition to members of the body, a person who served in the active military, naval, air, space service, or those who are serving active or reserve duty in the military may be invited to lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk's Office shall set procedures regarding individuals who may recite the prayer or pledge and shall have authority to enforce those procedures, including repudiation of the scheduled recitation.

**Sec. 23. Other Employees, Hiring of.** The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall hire all employees of the Legislature except those subject to the procedure in Rule 1, Section 2. The salaries of permanent employees shall be determined by the Executive Board subject to the limits of the appropriation bill.

*RRS 50-112.*



## RULE 2 – RULES OF PROCEDURE

**Section 1. Rules, Matters Not Covered.** (a) At the commencement of each regular session in odd-numbered years, a motion shall be offered to adopt the rules of the preceding session as temporary rules. The motion to adopt temporary rules shall require a majority vote of the members. The temporary rules shall be in effect until such time as the permanent rules are adopted which shall govern the Legislature for a period of two years. The motion to adopt permanent rules and amendments to that motion shall require a majority vote of the elected members. In all matters not covered herein, the Legislature shall decide as to the procedure to be followed, the same to require the concurrence of a majority of the elected members.

(b) In the absence of a controlling rule to cover a specific situation and in the absence of controlling custom, usage, and/or precedent, the presiding officer may utilize Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure as authority.

*Overruling the chair. Rule 1, Section 12.  
Presiding officer, duties. RRS 50-113.*

**Sec. 2. Rules, Suspension, Amendment.** The rules may only be suspended by a three-fifths majority of the elected members by a machine vote, and such a motion shall not be amendable or divisible. A vote to suspend the rules shall always be recognized as a separate vote from any subsequent motion for which the rules are suspended. The permanent rules may be amended by a three-fifths majority vote of the members elected; provided, any proposed amendment must first be referred to the Committee on Rules for consideration and report.

**Sec. 3. Chamber, Guests, Distribution of Material.** (a) The legislative chamber shall consist of the entire floor of the legislative chamber including the space under the balcony on either side adjacent thereto, or any other space designated by the Legislature or the Executive Board thereof.

(b) No person shall be admitted to the floor of the Legislature, as described in this rule, except the following:

- (i) Members of the Legislature and their immediate families.
- (ii) Officers and employees of the Legislature.
- (iii) Reporters of regularly accredited newspapers and broadcasting stations.

(c) With the permission of the chair, members may invite guests to the legislative chamber to sit in those specially designated areas located in the rear of the chamber. When exercising this privilege, members should be sensitive to the matter under discussion on the floor and not have guests seated within the chamber who have a direct interest in the matter being discussed.

## **RULE 2**

Any member may object to the presence of a guest within the chamber on the grounds that the guest has an interest in the matter being debated. If the chair concurs with this judgment, the guest shall be asked to leave the chamber.

No registered lobbyist shall be admitted to the chamber.

(d) The Governor, state officers, former legislators, and other distinguished visitors may be admitted to the floor upon permission from the chair.

*State officials appearing before committees. Rule 3, Section 15.*

(e) No one shall be permitted to be seated beside members of the Legislature except members of their immediate families upon permission from the chair. When bills are being read on Final Reading, no one other than members of the Legislature shall be permitted on the floor of the Legislature, except for employees of the Clerk of the Legislature's office or as provided in Section 3(h) of this rule.

(f) No person, other than those hereinbefore excepted, shall be admitted to the members' cloak room or post office, unless accompanied by a member.

(g) No printed or written material of any nature may be placed on the desks of the members or distributed to them in the legislative chamber, unless such material clearly indicates on its face the person responsible for its distribution. The distribution must be approved by at least one member of the Legislature. The Speaker may authorize the Clerk to distribute material prepared by state agencies.

(h) Members shall remain in their seats during the final reading of a bill and until the vote thereon has been announced, except when excused by the President. During discussion of amendments or motions offered pursuant to Rule 6, Section 8, officers and employees of the Legislature shall be permitted on the floor of the Legislature and members may move about the legislative environs subject to a quorum call request by any member pursuant to Rule 7, Section 5. For purposes of this rule, legislative environs shall mean the legislative chamber, the senate lounge, and the hallway connecting those areas.

(i) No individual, other than a senator or officer of the Legislature, shall be allowed to address the Legislature except from the podium.

(j) The smoking of any tobacco product by any member or any other individual within the State Capitol is prohibited.

(k) Any mobile or wireless communication device shall be silenced prior to entering the Legislative Chamber, so as to prevent any emitting of an audible sound or signal. The Clerk shall designate areas for phone and video calls, so as to maintain decorum and avoid distraction.

## RULE 2

**Sec. 4. Attendance at Sessions.** (a) Every member shall be present within the legislative chamber during the meetings of the Legislature and shall attend the regular meeting of the standing committee of which he or she is a member, unless excused by the Legislature, the Speaker, or the committee chairperson. Members who have been excused by the Legislature or the Speaker shall notify their committee chairperson that they will be absent.

(b) The presence of any member may be compelled, if necessary, by sending the Sergeant at Arms, or such other person or persons as the membership present may authorize, at the expense of such absent member, unless such excuse for nonattendance is made as the Legislature may judge sufficient, and in that case the expense shall be paid out of the contingent fund.

**Sec. 5. Absent Members, Explanation of Vote.** Members who are shown as excused and not voting may have inserted into the Journal how he or she would have voted had he or she been present.

**Sec. 6. Expulsion of Members.** No member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to the Legislature, and no member shall be twice expelled for the same offense.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

**Sec. 7. Senator Desiring to Speak.** (a) When a member desires to speak in debate or to deliver any matter to the Legislature, he or she shall rise from his or her seat and respectfully address himself or herself to "Mr. or Madame President." A member shall speak only when recognized and shall confine his or her remarks to the question before the Legislature.

(b) No member shall interrupt the business of the Legislature nor speak to another who has the floor, except when he or she may yield to a question. No guest will be introduced during the legislative session except dignitaries and such dignitaries shall only be introduced by the presiding officer, provided that the presiding officer can announce the presence of visiting groups or organizations at his or her discretion. Those individuals and groups not introduced may be inserted in the Journal by request. No member shall use profane or abusive language when speaking to or about another member.

**Sec. 8. Transgression of Rules, Call Member to Order.** If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the Legislature, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, call such member to order, in which case he or she shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the Legislature shall, if appealed to, decide the case without debate. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he or she shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise, and if the case requires it, he or she shall be liable to censure or such punishment as the Legislature may deem proper.

## **RULE 2**

**Sec. 9. Words Excepted To.** If a member is called to order for words spoken in debate, the member calling him or her to order shall indicate the words excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the Legislature, but he or she shall not be held to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the Legislature therefore, if further debate or other business shall have intervened.

**Sec. 10. Time Limit on Speaking.** The introducer of the matter pending may speak for ten minutes when he or she first presents the matter to the Legislature. Each member shall be allowed to speak up to three times for not more than five minutes on each occasion, upon any one question in deliberation during the legislative day, without leave of the Legislature, unless he or she be the introducer of the matter pending in which case he or she shall be permitted to close after every other member choosing to speak shall have spoken or after a motion to cease debate has prevailed. The introducer's close shall be included within the three opportunities permitted for speaking to an issue.

**Sec. 11. Personal Privilege.** Personal privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights, dignity, and integrity of the Legislature collectively; and second, the rights, reputation, and conduct of members individually. They shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn. Personal privilege shall not be used to permit any discussion or debate pertaining to any measure pending before the Legislature. All questions of privilege shall be channeled through the presiding officer, who shall determine their order of consideration.



## RULE 3 – COMMITTEES

**Section 1. Committees in General.** (a) Each committee of the Legislature is authorized to hold such hearings, to sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Legislature, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems advisable. Each committee may make investigation into any matter within its jurisdiction, may report such hearings as may be had by it, and may present to the Legislature for its consideration any final reports and recommendations for action resulting from such investigations.

(b) A committee's subject-matter jurisdiction extends to all matters specified in the act creating the committee, or to all matters reasonably comprehended in the name of the committee. A committee's particular jurisdiction extends to any bill, resolution, or other measure referred to it by the Legislature, until final report of the measure has been made by the committee to the Legislature. A committee's particular jurisdiction shall also include review of the budgets of agencies, boards, and commissions reasonably encompassed in its subject-matter jurisdiction.

(c) No committee may exercise any of the above mentioned powers in a manner contrary to the Rules of the Legislature or in a manner which exceeds the scope of the act defining the purpose of the committee.

(d) A committee may adopt the Model Committee Rules (Appendix A to Rule 3) as the rules to be used in governing the committee's activities.

*Model Committee Rules-Appendix A on file in the Clerk's office and available digitally.*

**Sec. 2. Appointment of Committees.** (a) At the commencement of each biennium, the Legislature shall elect a Committee on Committees to consist of thirteen members, one at large who shall be chairperson, and four from Districts Number 2, 3, 15, 16, 19, 21 through 29, 45, and 46; four from Districts Number 4 through 14, 18, 20, 31, 36, 39, and 49; and four from Districts Number 1, 17, 30, 32 through 35, 37 and 38, 40 through 44, 47, and 48. These twelve members of the Committee on Committees shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the positions represent, subject to approval of the Legislature.

(b) Immediately following chairmanship and Committee on Committees membership elections, the committee shall meet and, by a majority vote of all its members, submit to the Legislature a preliminary report of appointments to the remaining standing and select committees, each with the number of members as hereinafter set forth, unless otherwise provided for by rule or by statute. On the following day the Committee on Committees shall meet and, by a majority vote of all its members, submit to the Legislature a final report for its approval, appointments to the standing and

**RULE 3**

select committees, each with a number of members as hereinafter set forth, unless otherwise provided for by rule or by statute. Once the final report is presented to the Legislature, no amendments shall be considered. If the Legislature, by majority of the elected members, fails to adopt the final report of the Committee on Committees, such report shall be returned to the committee for further action.

(c) The membership of all standing and select committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each session beginning in odd-numbered years and shall continue until the regular session in the next subsequent odd-numbered year.

(d) During session, all vacancies on standing or select committees created by the death or resignation of a member shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the Committee on Committees unless otherwise provided for by rule or statute. A vacancy within the Committee on Committees shall be filled by a meeting of the caucus established pursuant to Rule 3, Section 2(a).

During the interim, all vacancies on standing or select committees created by the death or resignation of a member shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the Executive Board.

**Sec. 3. Standing Committees.** (a) The standing committees of the Legislature shall be as follows:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Agriculture                               | 8 members |
| Appropriations                            | 9 members |
| Banking, Commerce and Insurance           | 8 members |
| Business and Labor                        | 7 members |
| Education                                 | 8 members |
| General Affairs                           | 8 members |
| Government, Military and Veterans Affairs | 8 members |
| Health and Human Services                 | 7 members |
| Judiciary                                 | 8 members |
| Natural Resources                         | 8 members |
| Nebraska Retirement Systems               | 6 members |
| Revenue                                   | 8 members |
| Transportation and Telecommunications     | 8 members |
| Urban Affairs                             | 7 members |

(b) The Speaker shall not be a regular member of a standing committee.

**Sec. 4. Select Committees.** (a) The select committees of the Legislature shall be as follows:

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Committee on Committees | 13 members |
| Enrollment and Review   | 1 member   |
| Reference               | 9 members  |
| Rules                   | 6 members  |

### RULE 3

(b) The Speaker of the Legislature shall serve as one of the six members and shall be an ex officio member of the Rules Committee. Select committees shall be subject to the same procedural rules as standing committees insofar as they are applicable. In addition, the following provisions shall apply:

(c) Committee on Committees.

(i) The Committee on Committees shall have authority to call before it a committee chairperson and discuss the workload of said committee. It shall hear and dispose of all written complaints filed with said committee by a senator against any committee chairperson. The Committee on Committees shall conduct said hearing in accordance with its own rules.

(d) Enrollment and Review.

(i) The Chairperson of Enrollment and Review shall report bills which have been engrossed for Final Reading and passage. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Chairperson shall select from the membership of the Legislature one or more Vice Chairpersons to assume the duties of the Chairperson of the Enrollment and Review Committee.

(ii) The bill drafting service shall have supervision of and provide legal services for the Enrollment and Review Committee.

(iii) The Chairperson of Enrollment and Review shall have authority, without being required to include the same specifically in his or her reports and recommendations to the Legislature, in accord with accepted usage:

- (A) To correct the spelling of words, to correct erroneous division and hyphenation of words, to capitalize or decapitalize words, to convert masculine or feminine referents to neutral gender when appropriate, and to change numbers from words to figures or from figures to words, in new and independent acts, in the new matter of amendatory acts, in standing committee reports, and in General File, Select File, and specific amendments.
- (B) To underscore or remove underscoring, as the case requires, in standing committee reports and in General File, Select File, and specific amendments.
- (C) When an amendment to add the emergency clause, the severability clause, or provide an operative date is adopted on Select File which does not spell out the standard clause or section and make the necessary change in the title, the Chairperson of Enrollment and Review shall also have the authority to add to the engrossed bill the standard clause or section, assigning to it the appropriate section number, and make the necessary change in the title as a matter of course without including such action in his or her reports and recommendations to the Legislature or making any special record thereof.
- (D) To add and/or delete names of introducers to reflect action on the bill while the bill remains in the possession of the Legislature at any stage of consideration.
- (E) To reflect votes on Final Reading as they may occur pursuant to Rule 6, Section 10 and Rule 6, Section 15.

### RULE 3

(e) Reference Committee.

(i) The Executive Board shall constitute the Reference Committee. The Reference Committee shall review each bill and resolution and either refer the matter to the appropriate committee or to General File. The appropriate committee is that committee which has subject-matter jurisdiction over the issue or which has traditionally handled the issue.

(ii) All nominations made to the Legislature by the Governor, requiring confirmation by the Legislature shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee and the same procedure shall be followed as governs the handling of other matters before standing committees, unless the Legislature shall otherwise direct by unanimous vote.

(iii) The Clerk of the Legislature's office shall be responsible for the collection of pertinent information on gubernatorial appointments. That information will be distributed to the appropriate standing committee prior to the time of the confirmation hearing. The Clerk's office shall be the "depository" for background information on the individual, a statement of financial interests if applicable, and other biographical information that the committee chair feels is appropriate for the committee to have before it during the confirmation process.

(iv) The committees to which a gubernatorial appointee has been referred for confirmation shall conduct a confirmation hearing. Each appointee shall be required to appear in person before the committee conducting the confirmation hearing. The appearance of the appointee may be waived for good cause as determined by the chair of the committee.

The committee shall prepare a report which approves, rejects, or makes no recommendation on the appointment. Said report shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature. The Legislature shall then have the opportunity to accept or reject the report of the committee.

If the Legislature fails to adopt a report to approve an appointment by a majority vote of the elected members, the appointment is thereby rejected.

If the report coming from the committee is to reject the appointment, and the Legislature fails to adopt the report by a majority vote of the elected members, then the appointment is thereby approved provided the report receives a majority vote in the negative.

In the event that the committee files a report making no recommendation on the appointment, the report shall be considered by the Legislature within five legislative days, and no later than the scheduled adjournment sine die of the current legislative session. The Legislature shall consider a motion to approve the appointment, which shall require a majority of the elected members for approval. If the Legislature fails to approve the motion, the appointment is thereby rejected.

In the event a motion on a report fails to receive either in the affirmative or negative a majority vote of the elected members, then such appointment shall be deemed rejected.

(v) Any appointment letter received by the Clerk of the Legislature during the last ten calendar days of any regular legislative session shall not be acted upon. Acknowledgment of receipt of the appointment shall be deferred until the next regular or special session of the Legislature.

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(f) Rules Committee.

All proposed rules changes shall be set for public hearing within five legislative days after their referral to the committee. The hearing shall take place within fifteen legislative days after the referral, and the committee shall take final action on the proposal within ten legislative days after the hearing. The committee shall provide public notice of proposed rules changes at least three calendar days prior to conducting a public hearing.

(g) Investigating Committees.

The Committee on Committees may appoint other select committees when authorized by the Legislature. No investigating committee of the Legislature shall be created except by resolution which shall set forth, with supporting statements, the reasons for and the purposes of the investigation, and no committee thus established shall function except during the interim between legislative sessions.

**Sec. 5. Special Committees.** (a) Special committees shall include all authorized committees other than standing and select committees. Unless otherwise specifically provided, special committees shall not have jurisdiction over legislative bills, but shall be subject to the same procedural rules as standing committees, insofar as they are applicable.

(b) The special committees authorized by statute as of January 12, 2011, are as follows:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Building Maintenance. RRS 81-185                             | 6 members |
| Education Commission of the States. RRS 79-1504              | 3 members |
| Executive Board of the Legislative Council.<br>RRS 50-401.01 | 9 members |
| Legislative Performance Audit. RRS 50-1204                   | 7 members |
| Legislature's Planning. RRS 50-1402                          | 9 members |
| Midwestern Higher Education Commission. RRS 85-1302          | 2 members |
| State-Tribal Relations. RRS 50-445                           | 7 members |

(c) The following special provisions shall be in force with regard to the following special committees:

(i) The Executive Board is authorized to exercise jurisdiction over legislative bills and resolutions and hold hearings regarding such legislation when the issue presented by the legislative bill or resolution is one of general import to the Legislature and its operations as a whole. Such legislative hearings shall comply with the provisions in Rule 3, Section 14.

(ii) The Legislative Performance Audit Committee is authorized to hold hearings, at the committee's discretion, to receive testimony regarding topics it has selected for review. Such hearings shall comply with the provisions in Rule 3, Section 14. In order to protect confidential information pertaining to a potential or actual performance audit, the committee may, by a majority vote of all its members, determine that a meeting in which confidential

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information will be discussed should not be open to the public, including members of the news media. Such meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken.

**Sec. 6. Redistricting Committee.** (a) The Redistricting Committee of the Legislature shall be established as a special committee of the Legislature in January of each year ending in one. The committee is authorized to introduce and exercise jurisdiction over legislative bills and resolutions relating to redistricting and hold hearings regarding such legislation.

(b) The committee shall be comprised of nine members of the Legislature, three from each congressional district existing on January 1 of each year ending in zero. The Executive Board shall appoint the members of the committee in January of each year ending in one. No more than five members appointed to the committee shall be affiliated with the same political party. A vacancy on the committee shall be filled by the Executive Board as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs.

(c) At the first meeting of the committee, the members shall select from among themselves by majority vote one member to serve as chairperson of the committee and one member to serve as vice chairperson of the committee. The chair and vice chair shall not be a member of the same political party.

(d) The committee shall continue in existence until all bills containing redistricting plans for which the Legislature has responsibility are passed and signed by the Governor. In the event of a successful legal challenge to any part of a redistricting plan, the committee shall be reconstituted for purposes of reformulating the challenged redistricting plan.

(e) The committee shall receive staff support from the office of the director of Legislative Research.

(f) The committee shall, after reviewing previous redistricting guidelines used by the Legislature, adopt substantive and procedural guidelines that will guide the Legislature's redistricting process. During the legislative session of each year ending in one, the substantive guidelines adopted by the committee shall be presented to the Legislature for approval.

(g) The committee shall at the earliest feasible time make available to the public the substantive guidelines prepared by the committee.

(h) The committee, with approval of a majority of its members, may introduce bills at any time during the legislative session of each year ending in one.

(i) Based upon the information received from the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, the committee shall formulate redistricting plans for congressional districts and other districts. The statistics and redistricting plans shall be made available to the Legislature and the public.

(j) After the statistics and redistricting plans are made available to the Legislature and the public, the committee shall schedule and conduct, as expeditiously as reasonably possible, at least one public hearing in each congressional district for the purposes of soliciting input on the proposed redistricting plans. Video and other methods may be used in addition to the

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procedures outlined for public hearings but not in substitution for such procedures.

(k) In addition to the above procedures, legislation introduced for the purpose of complying with the decennial redistricting process in years ending in one, shall follow the normal procedures for any legislation introduced in the Nebraska Legislature.

**Sec. 7. Meeting Times.** (a) After consultation with the Speaker, the Committee on Committees shall publish a schedule of standing committee meetings, in such manner as to avoid, as far as possible, conflicts in the assignment of members to committees. Standing committees shall meet at 1:30 p.m. on weekdays, unless otherwise approved by the Legislature, except for the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee, which shall meet as called by the chairperson.

(b) A standing committee which decides not to hold meetings on the appointed day shall report that decision to the Clerk of the Legislature.

(c) Any legislative committee shall be subject to the call of its chairperson or to the call of a majority of its members, in accordance with the notice and procedural requirements set forth in its committee rules.

**Sec. 8. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson.** (a) The chairperson of each standing and select committee shall be selected by secret ballot on the floor of the Legislature.

(b) The chairperson of a special committee shall be selected in the manner provided by the act authorizing the committee, or if not specified, by the Executive Board.

(c) Each committee shall elect from its membership a vice chairperson to serve in the absence of the chairperson.

(d) The chairperson may, at his or her discretion, assume the title of chairman, chairwoman, or chair for legislative purposes.

**Sec. 9. Committee Quorum.** A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present for the transaction of any committee business except a public hearing.

**Sec. 10. Quorum at Committee Hearings.** A quorum of committee members should be maintained throughout all committee hearings.

**Sec. 11. Conduct During Committee Hearings.** The use of any mobile, portable, or wireless communication device, other than those authorized by the Legislative Council is prohibited in legislative hearing rooms during a meeting of a legislative committee, unless allowed by the committee chairperson.

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**Sec. 12. Temporary Appointments.** (a) When a member is unable to serve, the chairperson of the committee, after a majority vote of the remaining members, shall request that such vacancy be filled by the Committee on Committees.

(b) A temporary appointment may be made by the Chairperson of the Committee on Committees for only one day when requested by a chairperson of a standing committee which lacks a quorum. When a member is appointed from an eight-member committee, the consent of the member to be appointed shall first be obtained. The temporary appointee shall have the right to vote only on the bill or bills that actually have been heard by the appointee and provided that the vote is taken on such bills on the day the bill or bills are heard. When such appointment is made in case of an incapacitated member, such appointee shall cease to be a member of such committee upon the return of the incapacitated member for whom he or she was appointed.

**Sec. 13. Consideration and Correlation of Bills and Resolutions.** (a) Committees shall consider and report without unnecessary delay all bills and resolutions referred to them. Committees shall be authorized to combine and to correlate the provisions of different bills and resolutions referred to them and related to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the committee. Committees may, before taking final action on any bill or resolution, adopt amendments thereto, for the consideration of the Legislature.

(b) The chairperson of each committee shall set for hearing all bills and resolutions referred to the committee, except as provided for in Rule 1, Section 17.

**Sec. 14. Public Hearing, Notice.** Before taking final action on a bill, resolution, or gubernatorial appointment, a committee shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall give at least seven calendar days' notice, after the bill or pronouncement of the appointee shall have been printed, by publication in the Legislative Journal. No bill or resolution having been set for public hearing shall be withdrawn nor the hearing canceled within seven calendar days of the date set for said public hearing.

**Sec. 15. State Officials Appearing Before Committees.** State officials and department heads or their designees and state employees are encouraged to appear before any legislative committee to comment upon bills having an impact on the operations of the administrative agency or department for which they work.

**Sec. 16. Executive Sessions and Closed Meetings.** (a) Executive session shall mean any meeting or portion of a meeting which is closed to the general public, and the proceedings of which are not electronically recorded and transcribed, unless the committee so provides, but the records of which shall be available for public inspection. Executive sessions shall be open to



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members of the news media who may report on action taken and on all discussions in executive session.

(b) Except as provided in Rule 3, Section 5(c)(ii), all other meetings of a committee shall be public unless the committee, by a majority vote of all of its members, determines that a meeting should not be open to the public, including members of the news media, in a particular instance, due to rare and extraordinary circumstances. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken.

**Sec. 17. Report of Bill to Legislature.** (a) In reporting a bill to the Legislature, whether with or without amendments, a committee shall by vote of a majority of its members, recommend that the bill be placed on General File or that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

(b) A report on a bill or resolution must be made to the Legislature within eight calendar days after the committee has taken final action upon the particular measure. Final action shall mean an affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members to advance a bill to General File with or without committee amendments or an affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members to indefinitely postpone the bill. A committee may reconsider any final action prior to the committee making a report on the bill or resolution to the Legislature, provided the reconsideration takes place within eight calendar days of the final action.

(c) No bill shall be reported by the committee to be placed on General File unless the amendments, if any, are approved as to form and draftsmanship by the Bill Drafter.

**Sec. 18. Indefinitely Postponed Bills.** If the committee action on a bill be to postpone indefinitely, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed; except that such bill may be placed on General File or referred back to the committee by a three-fifths vote of the elected members upon motion made within three legislative days after the committee makes its report to the Legislature, or by a two-thirds vote of the elected members upon motion made more than three legislative days after such committee report. Not more than one bill shall be raised from committee on any one motion. A motion to raise cannot be amended to include any other bill or subject matter. A motion to raise must be disposed of by the Legislature within five legislative days after the motion is available for consideration or it shall be deemed defeated.

**Sec. 19. Committee Statement.** (a) The chairperson of each committee with the assistance of the legislative staff shall, when reporting a bill, submit with such bill a committee statement which shall contain, but need not be limited to, the following information:

- (1) the one-line title and number of the bill;
- (2) a roll call vote of final committee action taken on the bill;

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- (3) the date of the public hearing on the bill;
- (4) a list of all individuals testifying for and against the bill and any organization they represent;
- (5) a summary of the bill's purpose and a description of all major provisions for change in the bill as written and as amended by the committee;
- (6) if committee amendments are to be introduced, a copy of the amendments and an explanation thereof.

(b) A copy of the proposed statement shall be distributed to each committee member within five days after final action on the bill has been taken by the committee. A minority or concurring statement bearing the signature or signatures of its proponents and setting forth objections to the bill, to proposed amendments, or to the majority statement may be filed by its author(s) with the Clerk of the Legislature at any time prior to the first hearing of the bill on General File.

(c) A copy of the committee statement and any minority statements submitted shall be distributed to each senator after filing with the Clerk of the Legislature. Copies of such statements shall be made available to the public.

**Sec. 20. Request From Committee, Bills Held.** (a) Except for the general appropriation bills necessary for the support of the state government for the biennium, the Legislature may, by vote of a majority of the elected members, request a status report from any committee at any time after said committee shall have been in possession of a bill or resolution for twenty legislative days.

(b) Any senator may move that a bill be placed on General File twenty calendar days or more after the committee hearing, if the committee has not taken final action on the bill, and by a vote of a majority of the elected members, said bill shall be placed on General File. Final action taken by the committee following a motion filed pursuant to this subsection, and prior to when debate is initiated on the motion by the Legislature, shall take precedence over such motion. If, at the expiration of eight calendar days from the date final action was taken, the chairperson has not reported the bill, any senator may file with the Speaker a motion that the chairperson be compelled to submit a report. After determining that final action on the bill has been taken at least eight calendar days prior to the date the motion was submitted, the Speaker shall accept the motion and compel the chairperson to file the committee's report on the matter.

(c) Any amendment, other than a committee amendment, offered which is substantially the same as a pending bill shall require a three-fifths vote of the elected members if offered prior to the public hearing or within ten days after the public hearing.

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(d) Any time any member attempts to take a bill from committee to be placed on General File, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed and shall not be subject to reconsideration if the motion fails to receive a majority vote of the members elected to the Legislature. The introducer of the bill must concur with any motion offered under this rule.

**Sec. 21. Subpoena Procedure.** It is within the inherent power of any legislative committee to gather information pursuant to its regular functions, and to conduct investigations of matters within its subject-matter jurisdiction.

A committee's power of subpoena should not be exercised unless the committee has determined that no other method of securing the desired information would be successful or practicable, and that the matter is of primary importance to the welfare of the State of Nebraska.

A committee of the Legislature conducting an investigation and gathering information, whether pursuant to legislative direction or pursuant to its regular functions of oversight and bill preparation, shall observe the following procedures in addition to regular committee procedures whenever subpoenas are issued:

(A) Issuance of Subpoenas.

(i) A committee may, by a majority vote of all of its members taken at a meeting properly called, issue a subpoena requiring a person to appear before the committee and be examined in reference to any matter within the scope of the inquiry or investigation being conducted by the committee, but only when the committee has received prior approval by a majority vote of the Executive Board to issue subpoenas in connection with the specific inquiry or investigation in question.

(ii) The committee may, in the same manner, issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum requiring any person to appear before the committee and bring with him or her any books, papers, or other documents pertinent thereto.

(iii) While the Legislature is in session, a committee deciding to issue subpoenas must promptly report each issuance to the Legislature. A record shall be made in the Journal reflecting the date the subpoena was issued, to whom it was issued, for what purpose it was issued, and the date on which testimony or production of documents is to take place. Under extraordinary circumstances, the identity of the person subpoenaed may be withheld from publication if necessary to protect the safety of an individual or the confidentiality of the matters to be heard.

(iv) A person subpoenaed to attend a hearing of a committee shall receive the same fees and allowances as a person subpoenaed to give testimony in an action pending in a court of record.

(B) Notice to Witnesses.

(i) Service of a subpoena requiring the attendance of a person at a hearing of a committee shall be made in the manner provided by law for the service of subpoenas in civil actions at least seven days prior to the date of the hearing unless a shorter period of time is authorized by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee in a particular instance when, in their opinion, the giving of seven days' notice is not practicable; but if a shorter

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period of time is authorized, the person subpoenaed shall be given reasonable notice of the hearing, consistent with the particular circumstances involved.

(ii) Any person who is served with a subpoena to attend a hearing of a committee shall also be served with a copy of the act defining the purpose of the committee, a copy of the rules under which the committee functions, a general statement informing him or her of the subject matter of the committee's investigation or inquiry, and a notice that he or she may be accompanied at the hearing by counsel of his or her own choosing.

#### (C) Conduct of the Hearing.

(i) No committee which has issued a subpoena directing a witness to appear at a hearing shall question the witness unless a quorum is present throughout the questioning.

(ii) The hearing shall be public unless the committee, by a majority vote of all of its members, determines that a hearing should not be open to the public in a particular instance, due to rare and extraordinary circumstances consistent with Legislative Rule 3, Section 16(b) regarding closed meetings.

(iii) The chairperson of the committee shall preside at all hearings and shall conduct the examination of witnesses himself or herself or supervise the examination by other members of the committee. The committee may, by a majority vote of all its members, authorize the questioning of a witness by the committee's counsel or by special counsel.

#### (D) Right to Counsel and Submission of Questions.

(i) Every witness at the hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who may advise the witness of his or her rights, subject to reasonable limitations which the committee may prescribe to prevent obstruction of or interference with the orderly conduct of the hearing.

(ii) Any witness at the hearing, or a witness' counsel, may submit to the committee proposed questions to be asked of the witness or any other witness relevant to the matters upon which there has been any questioning or submission of evidence, and the committee shall ask such of the questions as it deems appropriate and relevant to the subject matter of the hearing.

#### (E) Testimony.

(i) The committee shall cause a verbatim record to be made of all proceedings in which testimony or other evidence is demanded or offered, which record shall include rulings of the chair, questions of the committee and its counsel, the testimony or responses of witnesses, sworn written statements submitted to the committee and read into the record, and such other matters as the committee or its chair may direct.

(ii) All testimony given or offered at the hearing shall be under oath or affirmation if the witness has been subpoenaed, and in other cases if a majority of the committee members present at the hearing so decide.

(iii) The presiding member at the hearing may direct a witness to answer any relevant question or furnish any relevant book, paper, or other document, the production of which has been required by subpoena duces tecum. Unless the direction is overruled by a majority vote of the committee members present, disobedience shall constitute a contempt.

(iv) A witness at the hearing or his or her counsel, with the consent of a majority of the committee's members present at the hearing, may file with

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the committee for incorporation into the record of the hearing sworn written statements relevant to the purpose, subject matter, and scope of the committee's investigation or inquiry.

(v) Testimony and other evidence given or offered at a hearing closed to the public shall not be made public unless authorized by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee, which authorization shall also specify the form and manner in which the testimony or other evidence may be released.

(vi) A witness at a closed hearing, upon request and at his or her own expense, shall be furnished a transcript of his or her testimony at the hearing.

#### (F) Interested Persons.

(i) Any person whose name is mentioned or who is otherwise identified during the hearing and who, in the opinion of the committee, may be adversely affected thereby, may, upon his or her request or upon the request of any member of the committee, appear personally before the committee and testify in his or her own behalf, or, with the committee's consent, may file a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record thereof.

(ii) Upon the consent of a majority of its members, a committee may invite any other person to appear at a hearing or submit a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record thereof. No invitation to appear, and no request to appear, appearance, or submission of evidence shall limit in any way the committee's power of subpoena.

(iii) Any person who appears before a committee pursuant to this section shall have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a witness provided to all other witnesses.

#### (G) Contempt.

A person shall be in contempt if he or she:

(i) Fails or refuses to appear in compliance with a subpoena or, having appeared, fails or refuses to testify under oath or affirmation;

(ii) Fails or refuses to answer any relevant question or fails or refuses to furnish any relevant book, paper, or other document subpoenaed by or on behalf of a committee; or

(iii) Commits any other act or offense against a committee which, if committed against the Legislature, would constitute a contempt.

The chairperson of a committee may apply to the Legislature or, during the interim, to the district court of any county to compel obedience by proceedings for contempt.

#### (H) Penalties.

(i) A person guilty of contempt under the provision of these rules shall be subject to punishment pursuant to RRS 50-105 and 50-106 during the session, or to RRS 50-407 when the Legislature is not in session.

(ii) If a committee fails in any material respect to comply with the requirements of these rules, any person subject to a subpoena or a subpoena duces tecum who is injured by such failure shall be relieved of any requirement to attend the hearing for which the subpoena was issued or, if present, to testify or produce evidence therein; and such failure shall be a

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complete defense in any proceeding against such person for contempt or other punishment.

(iii) Any member or employee of the Legislature, other than the witness concerned or his or her counsel who knowingly violates subsections of these rules concerning the publication of testimony taken at a closed hearing, shall be in contempt of the Legislature or, if a member of the Legislature, shall be subject to sanction or suspension according to the statutes governing the Legislature. The Speaker on his or her own motion or on the application of any person claiming to have been injured or prejudiced by an unauthorized disclosure may institute proceedings for the determination of the issue and for the imposition of penalties provided herein. Nothing in this subsection shall limit any power which the Legislature may have to discipline a member or employee or to impose a penalty in the absence of action by a prosecuting officer or court.

(I) Limitation of Rules.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit the acquisition of evidence or information by any committee by any lawful means not provided for herein.

## RULE 4 – RESOLUTIONS

**Section 1. Identification.** A resolution shall be designated as Legislative Resolution \_\_\_\_\_. All resolutions shall be numbered consecutively for each Legislature. All resolutions shall be introduced and read by the Clerk upon introduction and shall be printed in the Legislative Journal. Individual members shall be limited to eight resolutions per session. This limitation shall not apply to resolutions subject to Rule 4, Section 2 or resolutions proposing interim studies.

*73-74 Attorney General Opinion No. 13--Resolutions must be printed and read before a vote is taken.*

**Sec. 2. When Considered as a Bill.** Resolutions which propose amendments to the state constitution, propose the ratification or rejection of amendments to the federal Constitution, or memorialize the Congress with regard to amendments to the U.S. Constitution, shall be considered and adopted in the same manner as bills.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14; Art. XVI, Sec. 1.  
Cannot appropriate funds by resolution. Const. Art. III, Sec. 25.*

**Sec. 3. Study Resolutions: Introduction; Referral; Standing Committees; Select Committees; Results.** (a) Any senator or committee may introduce resolutions proposing interim studies. The resolutions shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature on a form prescribed by the Clerk, printed in the Journal, and referred to the Executive Board.

(b) Study resolutions may be introduced up to and including the 80th legislative day in odd-numbered years and the 50th legislative day in even-numbered years. However, each standing committee may introduce one additional study resolution prior to adjournment sine die. The Executive Board shall refer the study resolutions to the appropriate standing committees or to select interim committees created by it to conduct such studies.

(c) Study resolutions shall be prioritized by the chairperson of the committee to which they are referred, and a report on those priorities shall be filed with the Clerk, on a form prescribed by the Clerk, prior to adjournment sine die. Also, the chairperson of each committee may file with the Clerk, on a form prescribed by the Clerk, his or her committee's study plan for any study resolution referenced to such committee. Unless otherwise agreed to, staff to interim studies conducted by standing committees shall be headed by the respective committee counsels. Legislative aides whose senators serve on such standing committees and legislative aides of other interested senators may be invited by the respective committee counsels to participate as staff in the conduct of the interim studies. The provisions of this section shall in no way limit the standing committees in their traditional prerogatives to

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conduct hearings and oversee matters and agencies that are within their subject-matter jurisdiction.

(d) The Executive Board may, on its own behalf, conduct interim studies or create select interim committees to do so. Before creating a select interim committee, the Board shall consider whether the subject matter proposed for study by such a committee lies within the jurisdiction of one or more standing committee. To the extent possible, the jurisdiction of a select interim committee created by the Board shall be limited to subject matters that do not lie wholly within the jurisdiction of one or another standing committee. Membership on a select interim committee shall, to the extent possible, include senators who are both interested in serving on such a committee and are from the standing committees that have the most direct concern with the subject matter proposed for study. Select interim committees shall meet no later than five legislative days prior to adjournment sine die to organize and to review study plans. Staff to select interim committees shall be drawn from the Legislature's division staffs (e.g., fiscal, research, bill drafting), be based upon a joint plan submitted to the Executive Board by the division directors, may include other interested legislative staff, and shall be coordinated by the Office of Legislative Audit and Research, and the chairpersons of the standing committees involved with the select interim committee.

(e) The Executive Board shall retain its traditional prerogatives to consider and refer study proposals arising from extraordinary circumstances after the deadlines established in this section.

(f) The chief sponsor of a study resolution, if not otherwise a member of the committee to which the resolution is referred, shall be an ex officio member of the committee during and only for the conduct of the study.

(g) On or before December 1 of each year, each standing and select interim committee shall file a report, on a form prescribed by the Clerk, with the Executive Board on the disposition of the study resolutions referred to them. These reports shall be printed in the Journal at the beginning of the next session of the Legislature.

(h) The results or final reports of studies conducted by standing committees may be prepared in a format of their choosing. Nine copies of each completed standing committee report shall be filed with the Legislative Reference Library. The results or final reports of studies conducted by select interim committees shall be prepared and published in a format prescribed by the Office of Legislative Audit and Research and copies of such studies will be indexed and filed with the Legislative Reference Library.

*RRS 50-404.*



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**Sec. 4. Enrollment and Review, Amended Resolutions.** All resolutions, if amended, shall pass through the process of Enrollment and Review in the regular course of their consideration.

**Sec. 5. Vote Required for Adoption.** (a) All resolutions shall be adopted, individually or in groups as determined by the Speaker, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting except for those specified in Section 2; provided, upon the request by any member prior to the commencement of the vote, a resolution shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members. Resolutions specified in Section 2 shall be considered and adopted in the same manner as bills.

(b) Any resolution which is congratulatory or ceremonial in nature or which expresses the condolences of the Legislature shall be presumed adopted if, after five calendar days, following its being listed once on the daily agenda with a notation that such resolution is eligible for adoption pursuant to this rule, no member has requested that the resolution be scheduled for debate on the Speaker's agenda.

**Sec. 6. Resolutions, Lay Over Requirement.** Resolutions shall not be considered on the same day as introduction.

**Sec. 7. Engrossed Resolutions.** Only those resolutions specified in Sections 2 and 4 of this rule shall be engrossed unless otherwise ordered by the Legislature or unless the Clerk determines the nature of the resolution is such that upon its adoption it must be engrossed to properly achieve the purpose for which it was presented. All resolutions which are engrossed shall be enrolled and signed by the Lieutenant Governor or Speaker and certified to by the Clerk as to the date of final passage.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 8. Reference to Committee.** Resolutions other than those covered by Sections 2 and 3 of this rule shall, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the Legislature, be referred to the Reference Committee for referencing to the appropriate committee.

**Sec. 9. Reviving Resolution Killed by Committee.** If the standing committee report on a resolution be to postpone indefinitely, the resolution shall stand indefinitely postponed; provided, that such resolution may be considered by the members of the Legislature if a majority vote of the elected members so direct, provided the motion is made within three legislative days after the committee makes its report to the Legislature. A motion to raise cannot be amended to include any other resolution or subject matter. The provisions of this section shall not apply to resolutions considered as bills pursuant to Rule 4, Section 2.

**Sec. 10. Committee Statement.** A committee, when reporting out a resolution, shall attach thereto a statement setting forth what is sought to be

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accomplished and the committee vote. The statement shall be set out in full in the Journal.

## RULE 5 – BILLS–GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Drafting of Bills.** The Bill Drafter shall prepare all bills and amendments in proper form when requested by members of the Legislature, newly elected members of the Legislature, or heads of executive departments. No bills or major amendments shall be introduced or considered unless the same has been approved as to form and draftsmanship by the Bill Drafter. In order to shorten the length of sections, the Bill Drafter shall, in the drafting of new sections, make each paragraph a separate section except when to do so would be contrary to sound bill drafting practice. The Bill Drafter shall make available a continuing compilation of sections to which amendments are proposed so as to reduce unnecessary duplication of bills. This section index of bills drafted shall be available to all senators, newly elected senators, and other persons entitled to have bills drafted. After January 1 of each year no bill shall be drafted by the Bill Drafter unless requested or authorized by a member of the Legislature.

**Sec. 2. Content and Form of Bills.** (a) A bill shall be designated as Legislative Bill \_\_\_\_\_.

*Style of bill. Const. Art. III, Sec. 13.*

(b) No bill shall contain more than one subject and the same shall be clearly expressed in the title. No law shall be amended, unless the new act contains the section or sections as amended, and the section or sections so amended shall be repealed.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

(c) An amendatory bill or constitutional provision shall be so prepared and printed as to show the new matter proposed, old matter to be retained, and old matter to be omitted from the statutes or constitution.

(d) Appropriations bills and "A" bills shall contain the following elements:

- (1) the phrase "there is hereby appropriated";
- (2) a specific fund type shall be identified and the fund shall be appropriated;
- (3) the amount to be appropriated from such fund shall be identified;
- (4) a specific budget program or a specific statement reflecting the purpose for expending such funds shall be identified; and
- (5) the time period during which such funds shall be expended shall be identified.

*RRS 49-804.*

**Sec. 3. Revisor Correctional Bills, Preprinting.** (a) Preceding each legislative session, the Chairperson or any member of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, or if the Executive Board so requests, the senator who, in the preceding session served as Chairperson of the Judiciary

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Committee, shall sign as introducer the Revisor of Statutes' correctional bills. The Clerk of the Legislature shall number these bills consecutively beginning with number 1 and shall show the committee reference to be General File. The Clerk of the Legislature shall have these bills printed before the convening of the next regular session.

(b) In addition to causing to be printed the revisor bills, the Clerk shall number and cause to be printed all bills delivered to him or her by the Executive Board, provided said Board has referred said bills to a standing committee. No bill so printed shall be withdrawn until after the Legislature convenes.

**Sec. 4. Introducers Signing Bills.** (a) Members shall introduce only such bills as they are willing to endorse and support personally. The last name and district shall be used, unless an initial or name is necessary to identify the introducer. Any member may request to have his or her name added as cointroducer of a bill but only if the principal introducer has concurred, in writing or electronically, to that request.

(b) A standing committee or special committee may introduce a bill for any purpose, including at the request of another senator, provided said bill receives the endorsement of a majority of the committee members whose names shall be on the bill.

(c) No bill shall be introduced after the tenth legislative day of any session, except:

1. "A" bills, appropriation bills, and bills introduced at the request of the Governor may be introduced at any time;

2. A standing or special committee may request that the Legislature consider introduction of a bill. A vote of three-fifths of the elected members of the Legislature shall be required for such bill to be introduced, and a copy of the statement of intent for such bill must be placed on each member's desk before introduction of the bill is voted upon.

3. The Appropriations Committee may introduce bills enabling the appropriations recommendations contained in the annual report required by Rule 8, Sections 2 and 3. Such bills shall be introduced no later than the fifth legislative day following the presentation of the report as required by Rule 8, Section 3.

(d) Starting with the 2025 legislative session, individual members shall be limited to no more than 20 bills introduced at any one session. Each committee shall be limited to 10 bills each session. Bills introduced as a result of an interim study of the Legislative Council shall be included within the limitations prescribed by this section. Special committees created as a result of an interim study resolution and as authorized by the Executive Board shall be considered as separate committees for purposes of the limitations prescribed by this section. Bills introduced under Rule 5, Section

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3(a), Rule 5, Section 4(c)(3), and bills introduced at the request of the governor will not be included in the limitation.

(e) The introducers of all bills must submit a statement of intent for each bill to the appropriate committee chairperson at least three calendar days prior to the bill's hearing. The statement of intent should discuss clearly and completely the purposes and effects of the bill.

**Sec. 5. Scheduling of Bills, Priority Bills.** (a) Each senator may designate one bill as a priority bill. Such priority bill need not be the designator's bill, but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made.

(b) Each chairperson of those committees which are authorized to hold public hearings on bills may designate as priority bills two of the bills referenced to that committee and on which the committee has held a public hearing, but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made.

(c) The Legislative Performance Audit Committee may designate as priority bills two bills resulting from a performance audit or involving the performance audit process, but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made.

(d) The Legislature's Planning Committee may designate one bill consistent with the committee's jurisdiction as a priority bill but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made.

(e) The State-Tribal Relations Committee may designate one bill consistent with the committee's jurisdiction as a priority bill but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made.

(f) The Speaker may designate up to 25 additional priority bills. The principal introducer may decline the designation as a speaker priority bill and the Speaker shall not withdraw the designation once made.

(g) Priority bill designations may be made at any time prior to the annual designation deadline which shall be set each year by the Speaker. The designation deadline shall be between the 40th legislative day and the 45th legislative day in the ninety-day session and between the 25th legislative day and the 30th legislative day in the sixty-day session.

(h) A senator or committee may withdraw a priority designation at any time, but will not be allowed to designate another bill as a priority bill in its place. The Speaker may withdraw a priority designation made by the Speaker.

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(i) All committees shall schedule priority bills for public hearing ahead of all unscheduled, nonpriority bills unless the person or committee making the priority designation shall otherwise agree.

(j) All bills not designated as priority bills shall be heard on General File in the order in which they are reported to the floor by the committees, unless the introducer of the bill and the Speaker agree to delay the hearing of a particular bill. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the Speaker from placing bills reported out of committee with no dissenting votes on a consent calendar.

(k) Priority bills shall generally be considered ahead of all other bills at each stage of debate, except as provided for in Rule 1, Section 17. Priority bills requiring the expenditure of appropriated funds shall be held on Final Reading until such time as the annual appropriations bills have been passed. A priority bill which fails to advance after two votes on General File, or after one vote on Select File, shall return to nonpriority status.

(l) No priority bill designated under this rule shall have priority over appropriations bills.

**Sec. 6. Consent Calendar.** (a) The Speaker shall have the authority to place on consent calendar any bills advanced out of committee with no dissenting votes. The Speaker shall exercise sole discretion in determining both when to implement consent calendar and which bills complying with the requirements of this section shall be placed on it.

(b) A bill placed on consent calendar shall be announced on the agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to any action being taken regarding it on consent calendar.

(c) Any bill placed on consent calendar shall be removed at the written request of five or more senators. Such request must be filed with the Clerk prior to reading of the bill at each stage of debate, on the bill to be removed.

(d) A bill on consent calendar shall be allotted fifteen minutes for introduction and debate. Upon either the completion of debate or the expiration of fifteen minutes, whichever comes first, a vote shall be taken to advance the bill. If there is a pending motion or amendment before the body when either the debate ends or the fifteen minutes expire, a vote shall be taken on the pending matter followed by an immediate vote to advance the bill. If the pending matter is an amendment to an amendment, following a vote on the amendment to the amendment, a vote shall be taken on the original amendment. If the original amendment has been divided, then the vote shall be on the original undivided amendment being considered.

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**Sec. 7. Fiscal Analyst.** (a) A copy of every bill introduced shall be transmitted by the Clerk to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall review each bill and make an estimate of the anticipated change in state, county, or municipal expenditures or revenue under the provisions of the bill. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare a statement to be known as a fiscal note for each bill prior to its public hearing by a committee, or its first consideration on General File if the bill is referred directly to General File. The fiscal note shall set forth the fiscal impact of the bill and the governmental subdivision affected by the fiscal impact as determined by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. No bill which has a fiscal impact shall be heard by a committee or considered on General File unless the fiscal note is available.

(b) In determining the fiscal impact of any bill, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall request the appropriate department or other entity of state government or subdivision thereof, or appropriate association which will be affected by the bill, to prepare the fiscal note within five calendar days.

(c) The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall review the fiscal note so prepared and shall also request a review of such fiscal note by the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services. The statement by the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services shall be attached to and become a part of the fiscal note. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall include in the fiscal note any exceptions to the conclusions of the department or other entity and of the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(d) The fiscal note shall be transmitted by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to the Clerk electronically at least twenty-four hours prior to the public hearing on the bill or, in the event the bill is referred directly to General File, twenty-four hours prior to the first consideration of the bill on General File. The principal introducer shall be presented the fiscal note electronically. If extenuating circumstances prevent the Legislative Fiscal Analyst from meeting this deadline, he or she shall present to the principal introducer an unofficial summary of all available fiscal information on the bill by this deadline and deliver to the Clerk the fiscal note when it is available.

(e) When amendments to a bill are adopted by the Legislature and such amendments would change the fiscal impact of the bill, the appropriate changes shall be made in the fiscal note each time the bill is advanced to Enrollment and Review or upon the written request of a member of the Legislature.

(f) When any bill proposes adoption of a new program or change of an existing program either of which would require an appropriation to implement in the ensuing fiscal year, an appropriation bill for the purposes of funding the provisions of such bill shall be prepared from the information

## RULE 5

contained in the fiscal note. Such appropriation bill shall be prepared at the direction of the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee. Such bill shall be placed on General File and considered as introduced by the introducer of the original bill or by the committee which offered the amendments creating the expenditure, and shall bear the number of the original bill with the letter "A" added, and shall accompany the original bill through all stages of the legislative process. All bills for which an "A" bill is prepared shall be bracketed on Final Reading until the "A" bill is advanced to Final Reading.

(g) The authorization bill shall first be considered and if it should be passed on Final Reading then the "A" bill shall be read and voted on for final passage.

(h) The fiscal note shall be factual in nature, as brief and concise as may be, and shall, if possible, provide a reliable estimate in dollars and, in addition, it shall include both the immediate effect and, if determinable or reasonably foreseeable, the long range effect of the measure. If, after investigation, it is determined that no dollar estimate is possible, the fiscal note shall contain a statement to that effect, setting forth the reasons why no dollar estimate can be given.

(i) No comment or opinion shall be included in the fiscal note with regard to the merits of the measure for which the note is prepared, however, technical or mechanical defects may be noted.

(j) The subject matter of bills submitted to boards, commissions, departments, agencies, or other entities of the state by the Fiscal Analyst shall be kept in strict confidence by said agencies and by the office of Fiscal Analyst together with the content of the fiscal note itself and no information relating thereto shall be divulged by any official or employee prior to its introduction in the Legislature.

(k) To implement the provisions of and assure compliance with Art. III, Sec. 22 of the Nebraska Constitution (deficiency appropriations), and Art. IV, Sec. 7 of the Nebraska Constitution (appropriations in excess of Governor's request), the Appropriations Committee shall advise the Legislature of the number of votes required to assure passage of the same.

*For creation of position. RRS 50-418.*

*For duties of position. RRS 50-419.*

**Sec. 8. Governor's Budget Bill.** The budget bill prepared by the Governor shall be shown as introduced by the Speaker of the Legislature at the request of the Governor.

*Governor's budget message. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 7.*

**Sec. 9. Reading Title of Bills, Printing.** Every bill and resolution shall be read by title when introduced, and a printed copy thereof provided for the



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use of each member. The bill and all amendments thereto shall be printed and presented before the vote is taken upon its final passage and shall be read at large unless three-fifths of all of the members elected to the Legislature vote not to read the bill and all amendments at large.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 10. Engrossment of Bills.** All bills, before being advanced to Final Reading and passage, shall be engrossed, and copies thereof showing new and stricken matter shall be made available to members.

**Sec. 11. Expenditure of Legislative Funds.** Those expenditures on which the Legislature votes shall require the approval of the majority of the elected members.

**Sec. 12. Withdrawal of Bills.** No bill, having been introduced, may be withdrawn except upon motion of the first introducer with the consent of his or her cointroducers. Such motion, when made, shall not be considered prior to the next succeeding legislative day, and, for its adoption, shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those voting upon the question.

*Withdrawal of bills set for hearing. Rule 3, Section 14.*

**Sec. 13. Division of Bills, Prohibited.** No bill shall be divided into two or more bills.

**Sec. 14. Holding of Bills.** Unless otherwise disposed of, all bills on which no final action has been taken by the time of adjournment of the regular session in odd-numbered years shall be held over for consideration at the regular session convening in even-numbered years.

**Sec. 15. Public Retirement Plans and Actuarial Studies.** (a) Commencing with the 1997 legislative session, any bill proposing a structural change which impacts the benefits or funding status provided under a public retirement plan, or any bill proposing the creation of a new public retirement plan, shall be introduced only during the first ten days of a 90 day session.

(b) No bill for which an actuarial study is necessary to determine the cost of such proposed changes shall be enacted until an actuarial study has been conducted and the results reported to the Legislature.

(c) (i) The Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee may introduce amendments to an appropriations bill to fund actuarial studies for only those retirement systems which are or would be administered by the state. If such amendments are enacted, the results of the actuarial studies shall be reported to the Legislature by November 15 of that calendar year.

(ii) Actuarial studies required for changes to other public systems under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee but not administered by the state shall not be funded by the state.



## RULE 6 – BILLS–STAGES OF CONSIDERATION

**Section 1. Introduction of Bills.** Starting with regular sessions in odd-numbered years, bills shall be numbered consecutively starting with the number 1. Bills introduced in regular sessions in even-numbered years shall start with the number following the number of the last bill introduced in the preceding regular session of an odd-numbered year, (bills introduced in any special session shall start with the number 1) and shall be numbered consecutively as read by the Clerk. After introduction, bills requiring reference shall be delivered to the Reference Committee.

**Sec. 2. Objection to Reference of Bills.** (a) Any member may object to the reference of any bill or other proposition, and correction in case of error in reference may be made by the Legislature by unanimous consent when offered by the primary introducer or by the vote of a majority of the elected members.

(b) Those bills and resolutions placed on General File by the Reference Committee will be bracketed for five calendar days, and if one senator requests a public hearing on one or more of these matters, they will then be referred to a committee. Bills on General File for which public hearings have not been requested will be handled as all bills on General File.

**Sec. 3. General File.** (a) The Clerk of the Legislature shall read the number and the title of the bill and the name of the principal introducer as it comes up for consideration on General File.

(b) Each section shall be open to amendment. Following the reading of the title of the bill, the introducer shall first be recognized for ten minutes to move to advance and explain the bill. The amendments, if any, recommended by standing committees, shall then be introduced. After the introduction of the bill and the introduction of the committee amendment, other priority motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged under Rule 7, Section 3, except as provided for in Rule 1, Section 17. Motions to adjourn or recess shall remain in order except as limited by Rule 7, Section 9. The introducer's amendments, if any, shall be introduced following the consideration of the standing committee amendments and any amendments thereto. Further amendments will be considered in the order in which they are filed with the Clerk.

(c) Bills shall be listed and considered on General File in the order in which they shall be reported from the standing committees, except as modified by the Speaker; provided, that any bill that comes up for debate for a second time, with the introducer present, shall be placed by the Clerk at the bottom of General File if said introducer asked for further time, unless otherwise directed by the Speaker.

*Speaker determine order of bills. Rule 1, Section 16.*

## **RULE 6**

(d) During consideration of bills on either General or Select File, any member may move that the bill be passed over once and if the motion is carried by a majority of those voting, the bill shall be passed over and shall retain its place on the file.

(e) At any stage of consideration of a bill, a motion to bracket or to unbracket to a day certain or to unbracket shall, if made by the primary introducer of the bill, require a majority of those voting. If made by other than the primary introducer, there shall then be required a majority vote of the elected members. A unanimous consent motion to bracket or to unbracket to a date certain may only be offered by the primary introducer or, if a committee bill, by the committee chairperson.

(f) In the event a motion to indefinitely postpone a bill is made before the bill is read on General File, such motion shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members. The principal introducer shall be allowed to open on the bill with the indefinitely postpone motion having previously been filed under this rule being taken up after the introducer's remarks, but prior to the opening on the committee amendments.

(g) In the event a bill has become substantially a new and different bill by reason of amendments having been adopted, the Speaker may refer said bill to the Reference Committee who must refer the said bill to a proper committee for a public hearing; provided, that a majority of the elected members may overrule the decision of the Speaker.

(h) If, in the opinion of the Speaker, the bill is in such form that it should properly be referred back to committee for further action, he or she may by order direct the same; provided, that a majority of the elected members may overrule the decision of the Speaker. Any motion to amend a bill or any motion to amend an amendment shall require a majority vote of the elected members, except amendments which are substantially the same as any bill indefinitely postponed shall require a three-fifths vote of the elected members, unless proposed as part of a committee amendment.

(i) Any bill failing to receive 25 votes to be advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial after three attempts shall be indefinitely postponed.

**RULE 6**

**The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions affecting bills on General File:**

*MEM--Majority of Elected Members*  
*MTV--Majority of Those Voting*

**GENERAL FILE**

|   |     | Rule-Sec. |
|---|-----|-----------|
| On introduction of bill                           |     |           |
| Withdraw bill                                     | MTV | 5-12      |
| On consideration of bill on General File          |     |           |
| Move to pass over                                 | MTV | 6-3d      |
| Move to change order                              | 3/5 | 1-16      |
| Move to indefinitely postpone before bill is read | MEM | 6-3f      |
| Move to indefinitely postpone after bill is read  | MTV |           |
| Move to advance to E & R for review               | MEM | 6-4       |
| Move to return to committee                       | MEM |           |
| Move to reconsider                                |     |           |
| within one legislative day thereafter             | MEM | 7-7a      |
| if after one legislative day, by suspension of    |     |           |
| the rules only                                    | 3/5 | 7-7a      |
| Move to amend                                     | MEM | 6-3h      |
| Move to amend the amendment                       | MEM | 6-3h      |
| Move to withdraw bill by first introducer         | MTV | 5-12      |

**Sec. 4. Enrollment and Review.** Bills when advanced to Enrollment and Review shall be reviewed for recommendations relative to arrangement, phraseology, and correlation. Advancement to Enrollment and Review from General File for such purpose shall require a majority of the elected members.

**Sec. 5. Select File.** When the Legislature considers bills on Select File, any of the following motions shall be in order.

(a) The Select File Enrollment and Review amendments, as prepared by the Revisor’s Office, shall be neither debatable, amendable, nor divisible prior to its initial adoption, except that the primary introducer may be recognized to speak for five minutes prior to a vote on the Enrollment and Review amendments. The amendment shall not be read by the Clerk. Amendments to make changes to the language in an enrollment and review amendment shall be offered as amendments to the bill and ordered pursuant to the provisions in these rules, following the initial adoption of the enrollment and review amendment.

(b) When the Legislature considers bills on Select File, any of the following motions shall be in order, after adoption or rejection of the Enrollment and

**RULE 6**

Review Amendments, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 7, Section 3:

(i) A motion to adopt an amendment to a bill or an amendment to an amendment which shall require a majority vote of the elected members, except amendments which are substantially the same as any bill indefinitely postponed shall require a three-fifths vote of the elected members.

(ii) A motion to recommit to the proper standing committee.

(iii) A motion to postpone indefinitely. After a motion to indefinitely postpone a bill has been offered, and the introducer of the motion has made his or her opening remarks on the motion, the principal introducer of the bill shall immediately be permitted to speak for five minutes on such motion.

(iv) Motions made pursuant to subsections i, ii, and iii hereof may be adopted only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members.

(v) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this section, if the Enrollment and Review Committee returns a bill to Select File from engrossment, then only the specific Enrollment and Review Committee amendments may be considered.

(vi) Any bill failing to receive 25 votes to be advanced to Enrollment and Review Final after two attempts shall be indefinitely postponed.

**The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions affecting bills on Select File:**

*MEM--Majority of Elected Members*  
*MTV--Majority of Those Voting*

**SELECT FILE**

|   |     | Rule-Sec. |
|---|-----|-----------|
| Motion to advance to E & R for engrossing if machine vote requested | MEM | 2-1       |
| Motion to amend   | MEM | 6-5i      |
| Motion to recommit to a standing committee                          | MEM | 6-5ii     |
| Motion to indefinitely postpone                                     | MEM | 6-5iii    |
| On bill returned from E & R for engrossing & Final Reading          |     |           |
| Motion to return for specific amendment                             | MEM | 6-6       |
| Motion to adopt specific amendment                                  | MEM | 6-6       |

**Sec. 6. Return to Select File.** (a) On a motion to return a bill to Select File for a specific amendment, a majority of the elected members must concur.

## RULE 6

No other amendment shall be considered when the bill is so returned. Such amendment when considered may be adopted by a majority vote of the elected members, except an amendment which is substantially the same as any bill indefinitely postponed shall require a three-fifths vote of the elected members. Both a motion to return a bill to Select File for a specific amendment, and the specific amendment once the bill has been returned to Select File, are neither divisible nor amendable.

(b) A point of order to determine the germaneness of a specific amendment may be considered during a motion to return a bill to Select File for that specific amendment.

**Sec. 7. Final Reading.** No bill shall be voted on for final passage until:

(a) After five legislative days following the introduction of the bill.

(b) One legislative day after its reference to Final Reading.

(c) The bill in its final form, as amended, shall have been available to members for at least one legislative day.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 8. Final Reading, Motions.** (a) On Final Reading the bill shall be read at large with all amendments thereto before the vote is taken, unless three-fifths of all of the members elected to the Legislature vote to dispense with the at large reading under this section. The Speaker shall designate on the published agenda which bills will be considered for a vote without an at large reading. This vote shall be taken on each bill individually without amendment, motion, or debate. If the Legislature confirms the Speaker's designation, the title of the bill will be read, and the final vote will be taken with voting being held open for one minute. If the motion on any bill fails to receive the support of three-fifths of the elected members of the Legislature, then such bill and all amendments thereto will be read at large prior to the vote being taken.

(b) At any time before the roll call shall have begun on Final Reading of the bill, it shall be in order to move:

(1) To recommit the bill to Enrollment and Review to correct an error and for reengrossment.

(2) To recommit the bill to the proper standing committee, with or without instructions.

(3) To recommit the bill to Select File for specific amendment, which amendment may be adopted by a vote of a majority of the elected members.

(4) Any bill returned to Select File for a specific amendment, may if the amendment is rejected, be readvanced to Final Reading without going through Enrollment and Review. A motion to so advance shall require the concurrence of a majority of the elected members.

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*Members to remain in their seat. Rule 2, Section 3h.  
 No one to be seated beside member during Final Reading. Rule 2, Section 3e.*

**The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions affecting bills on Final Reading:**

*MEM--Majority of Elected Members  
 MTV--Majority of Those Voting*

**FINAL READING**

|  |     | Rule-Sec. |
|--|-----|-----------|
| To return to standing committee                            | MEM | 6-8       |
| To return to E & R to correct an error                     | MEM | 6-8       |
| To return to Select File for specific amendment            | MEM | 6-6       |
| To pass on Final Reading                                   | MEM | 6-9       |
| With emergency clause attached                             | 2/3 | 6-10      |
| Creation of state office<br><i>Const. Art. IV, Sec. 27</i> | 2/3 |           |
| Motion to reconsider                                       |     |           |
| when failed on Final Reading                               | 3/5 | 7-7       |
| when failed with emergency clause                          | 2/3 | 7-7       |
| Override Governor's veto                                   | 3/5 | 6-11      |
| "A" bills considered                                       |     | 5-7       |

**Sec. 9. Question on Final Reading.** The question after the Final Reading of a bill shall be: "All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, 'Shall the bill pass?'" If the emergency clause is contained in the bill, the words "with the emergency clause attached" shall be added to the question.

*Majority of elected members required. Const. Art. III, Sec. 13.*

**Sec. 10. Emergency Clause, Votes Required.** When a bill containing the emergency clause does not receive the required two-thirds constitutional majority on Final Reading, then the emergency clause shall be considered stricken, and the bill without the emergency clause shall be pending on Final Reading, and the question then shall be, "Shall the bill pass with the emergency clause stricken?"

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 27.*

**Sec. 11. Governor's Veto, Further Legislative Action.** (a) Upon the day of receipt of a message from the Governor announcing his or her veto of a bill, or on any of the next five legislative days in the same annual session, any member may move that the bill so vetoed be taken up for passage in the form presented to the Governor. The Legislature shall decide upon the



## RULE 6

motion no later than five legislative days, in the same annual session, after receipt of the message from the Governor announcing his or her veto of the bill, whereupon the question shall be, "Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?" No bill vetoed by the Governor shall be taken up by the Legislature for any purpose other than passage of the bill notwithstanding the objections of the Governor or for override of a line-item veto.

*Three-fifths vote of the elected members required to pass bill over Governor's veto. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 15. See also Art. IV, Sec. 7.*

The Governor may disapprove any item or items of appropriation contained in bills passed by the Legislature, and the item or items so disapproved shall be stricken therefrom, unless repassed in the manner prescribed in case of disapproval of bills.

*Const. Art. IV, Sec. 15.*

(b) On the sixth legislative day following the receipt of a veto message, or within five calendar days following the sine die adjournment of a legislative session, the Clerk shall transmit to the Secretary of State all vetoed bills and line-item vetoed bills wherein no motion to override has been offered, or upon which a motion to override has been unsuccessful.

**Sec. 12. Bills, Passed Over Governor's Veto.** Should the Legislature pass a bill over the objections of the Governor by the necessary constitutional majority, it shall so certify and deposit the same with the Secretary of State.

*RRS 84-503.*

**Sec. 13. Certificates.** Whenever the Legislature shall override a line-item veto, on any bill as provided for in Article IV, Section 15, the Clerk of the Legislature shall cause to be placed on such bill a certificate in content and form as provided for in RRS 84-503 and shall list the items so overridden by section, page, and line.

In addition to such certificate, the Clerk of the Legislature shall note on each line, when the Legislature votes to override, a stamp reading "line-item veto overridden" and place thereon the date and his or her initials.

**Sec. 14. Appropriations Bills, Procedure After Veto.** (a) Whenever the Governor shall have vetoed more than one item in an appropriation bill, the Appropriations Committee shall review said veto and the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee shall report within one legislative day to the Legislature on its fiscal implications, and affect on operations. If the Appropriations Committee by majority vote decides to recommend to the Legislature an override of the veto on any portion of such an appropriation bill, the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee or his/her designee

## **RULE 6**

shall first be permitted an opportunity to move that the entire bill become law notwithstanding the line-item veto therein.

(b) If such motion fails or is not offered, the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee or his/her designee shall then introduce motions to override selected portions of the vetoed bill.

(c) Any member of the Legislature may then offer a motion to override the veto of the bill or any portion thereof if the Appropriations Committee by majority action decides not to recommend overriding the veto of the bill or the veto of that portion of the bill.

(d) It shall require 30 votes of the elected members to amend a veto override motion that includes another line-item veto.

**Sec. 15. Constitutional Amendments, Votes Required.** When the submitting of a proposed constitutional amendment at a special election does not receive the required four-fifths constitutional majority, then the special election language of the resolution/bill shall be stricken, and the question shall be, "Shall the resolution/bill pass for the submission of such proposed constitutional amendment at the next general election?"

*Amendments proposed by the Legislature; failure to receive required vote of members for special election; place on Final Reading. RRS 49-236.*

## RULE 7 – PROCEEDINGS AND MOTIONS

### (A) Order of Business

**Section 1. Meeting Time, Restrictions.** (a) The Legislature shall meet annually at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January of each year and thereafter on each legislative day at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of its members present and voting thereon. The Legislature shall remain in session until it shall adjourn sine die, but in no event shall it remain in session for longer than ninety (90) legislative days in odd-numbered years or sixty (60) legislative days in even-numbered years. This limitation may be suspended by a four-fifths vote of the elected senators. Each day the Legislature convenes shall be considered a legislative day.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

(b) The order of business of the Legislature shall be as follows, except as otherwise provided by the Speaker.

- a. Prayer by the Chaplain
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll call
- d. Call for correction of the Journal
- e. Petitions and memorials
- f. Notice of committee hearings and reports
- g. Bills on Final Reading
- h. Resolutions
- i. Introduction of bills and reading by title
- j. Consideration of bills on Select File
- k. Motions to reconsider
- l. Motions to advance bills from committee
- m. Other pending motions
- n. Unfinished business, including messages on President's desk
- o. Consideration of bills on General File
- p. Miscellaneous business

(c) Messages from the Governor may be received at any stage of the proceedings.

(d) Upon call for the introduction of bills, any member or any standing or special committee may introduce one or more bills.

*Introduction of bills. Rule 6, Section 1.*

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### **(B) Voting Machine**

**Sec. 2. Voting, Electric Roll Call.** (a) All votes shall be taken viva voca unless otherwise provided for herein. Questions shall be distinctly put in this form, to wit: "Those who are in favor of the question say 'aye'; those who are opposed to the question say 'nay.' "

(b) If a machine vote is called for or if the presiding officer is in doubt, he or she shall cause the result to be obtained by means of the electric roll call system, and in such event shall accept only machine tallied votes except that voice votes shall be accepted on a motion before the house while the house is under call. The presiding officer may vote by voice. Only the totals shall be printed in the Journal. Once having voted aye or nay, senators may call in a change to not voting prior to the locking of the voting board.

(c) Upon the final passage of a bill, or of a resolution if the same required the same consideration as a bill, the vote shall be by yeas and nays, and the electric roll call system shall be used. Voice votes shall be accepted on Final Reading.

(d) Whenever the "ayes" and "nays" are taken by machine vote, no member shall be permitted to vote after the decision is announced by the presiding officer or the Clerk. Votes not registered on the electric roll call system shall not be counted for or against a proposition. In announcing such vote, the Clerk shall announce the ayes, the nays, those present and not voting, those absent and not voting, and those excused and not voting, and on any action to advance or amend bills, these totals shall be set forth in the Journal. Voice votes shall be accepted on roll call or record votes. All roll call votes of the comprised membership shall be taken in alphabetical order starting with the first name that begins with the letter "A" or the letter closest to "A," except that any member may request a roll call vote in reverse alphabetical order unless the introducer of the motion or amendment under consideration objects to the form of a roll call. A roll call in reverse alphabetical order shall start with the member's name that begins with "Z" or the letter closest to "Z."

(e) Only senators physically in the legislative chamber may vote.

### **(C) Motions**

**Sec. 3. Motion, in Writing, Withdrawal.** (a) A motion shall be either stated by the presiding officer or read by the Clerk before a vote is taken. All motions shall be submitted in writing if requested by the presiding officer or any senator.

Once motions are stated they may be withdrawn or modified by the mover before a decision, amendment, or ordering of a vote has been made. A motion to reconsider may be withdrawn only with unanimous consent or a majority vote of the elected members.

## RULE 7

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be considered except one of the following, which motions shall take precedence in the order stated.

- a. To recess
- b. To adjourn
- c. For cloture
- d. To reconsider
- e. For the previous question
- f. To postpone to a time certain
- g. To recommit to a committee
- h. To amend
- i. To postpone indefinitely

Such motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged except as provided for in Rule 1, Section 17. Motions to postpone indefinitely and amend do not yield to each other.

When any of the following motions shall be made, any action on such motion shall be delayed at least one legislative day and the motion shall be printed in the Legislative Journal:

- a. Motion to postpone indefinitely on General File or Select File, unless the introducer(s) of the bill, or the committee chairperson in the case of committee bills, request(s) that the motion to postpone indefinitely be considered immediately without the one day delay.
- b. Motion to place on General File pursuant to Rule 3, Section 20(b).
- c. Motion to place bills on General File, notwithstanding the action of a standing committee.

(b) When a motion or other proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order.

(c) Amendments to the title shall be made by the Enrollment and Review Committee.

(d) No motion, proposition, or subject, different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment. Any amendment that is not germane is out of order. Germane amendments relate only to details of the specific subject of the bill and must be in a natural and logical sequence to the subject matter of the original proposal. A nongermane amendment includes one that relates to a substantially different subject.

(e) Any member may call for the division of a question, which shall be divided if it comprehends propositions in substance so distinct that, one being taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Legislature. Once a division is ordered by the presiding officer, each component shall be treated as a separate and distinct proposition. For purposes of germaneness, even if a question is germane prior to a request for

## **RULE 7**

division, each and every other component or proposition of the divided question will be subject to germaneness rulings. Once a vote or change has occurred on any of the divisible questions, the remaining divided sections may not be withdrawn without a majority of those voting or without unanimous consent. A motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed indivisible, but a motion to strike out being lost, shall not preclude an amendment or a motion to strike out or insert. Such call for division shall not be allowed when considering motions under Rule 6, Section 6. Such a call for division shall not be allowed for bills listed under Rule 8, Section 1(b).

(f) When motions are made for reference of the same subject to a select committee and to a standing committee, the question on reference to the standing committee shall be considered first.

**Sec. 4. Shall the Debate Cease.** The previous question shall be in this form, "Shall the debate now close?"

The previous question shall be made only in the normal course of speaking order and shall be in order when demanded by five or more members, and must be sustained by the vote of a majority of the elected members, and until decided shall, except as provided in this section of this rule, preclude further debate and all amendments and motions, except one motion to adjourn. The presiding officer may rule the previous question out of order if in the presiding officer's opinion a full and fair debate has not been afforded, due to the complexity of the subject matter. The ruling of the presiding officer shall be subject to overrule in accordance with Rule 1, Section 12 of these rules.

On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order, arising after a motion is made for a previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

When the previous question shall have been ordered on a proposition under debate, the mover, proponent, or introducer of such proposition shall be given the right to close the debate thereon.

**Sec. 5. Call of the House.** (a) A call of the house may be made by any member in the manner following: "I move for a call of the house." The presiding officer shall direct that the board be cleared and the members shall then vote on placing themselves under call. If a majority of the senators present and voting, vote in favor of such a motion, then the Legislature shall be deemed to be under call. Each member present shall indicate his or her presence upon the electric roll call system and shall remain in his or her seat during the call. After the Clerk shall note the names of the absentees, proceedings under the call may be suspended at any time by a majority vote of the members then present, and when so suspended shall not again be ordered on the proposition pending, except by a majority vote of the

## RULE 7

members elected. The President may declare a motion to place the house under call out of order if all of the absentees were to vote on one side of the question and if their combined vote would be insufficient to change a result of the vote.

(b) When a member is recognized to close on a motion and requests a call of the house, the time spent waiting for the members to record their presence shall be counted against the member's closing time.

*Lieutenant Governor votes only when Legislature equally divided. Rule 1, Section 14.*

*Voice vote while house under call. Rule 7, Section 2b.*

**Sec. 6. Offering of Debatable Priority Motions.** No motion to postpone to a time certain, to recommit, or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed at the same stage of the bill or proposition. Such motion may be withdrawn only with unanimous consent. A motion offered in writing and withdrawn prior to being introduced shall not preclude a subsequent motion.

**Sec. 7. Reconsideration.** (a) When a question has been decided, it shall be in order for any member voting with the prevailing side, or not voting, to move for a reconsideration thereof. A motion to reconsider must be made on the same day the original question was decided or on the next legislative day, except when it be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on Final Reading. In such case, it must be made on the same day the original question was decided or on one of the next three legislative days. A motion to reconsider must be disposed of by the Legislature within five legislative days after making the same or it shall be deemed defeated. A motion to reconsider may be withdrawn only with unanimous consent or a majority vote of the elected members. If the Legislature shall refuse to reconsider, or upon reconsideration shall affirm its first decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order unless by unanimous consent.

*Motion to reconsider cannot be withdrawn without leave. Rule 7, Section 3.*

(b) Every motion to reconsider shall take preference over all other questions, except a motion to recess, to adjourn, or for cloture.

(c) For its adoption, a motion to reconsider shall require the vote of a majority of the elected members, except:

- i Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on a Final Reading, then a three-fifths vote shall be required for adoption.

## RULE 7

- ii Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on a Final Reading with the emergency clause attached, but which received the constitutional majority with the emergency clause stricken and the purpose of the motion is to again add the emergency clause, then a two-thirds vote of the elected members shall be required for adoption.
- iii Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a motion to pass a bill notwithstanding the objections of the Governor or for override of a line-item veto, then a three-fifths vote shall be required for adoption.
- iv Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a motion to suspend the rules, then a three-fifths vote shall be required for adoption.

(d) For a bill on General File, no motion to reconsider shall be in order until the bill has failed to advance three times; for a bill on Select File, no motion to reconsider shall be in order until the bill has failed to advance two times; for a bill passed on Final Reading, no motion to reconsider shall be in order except by the introducer of the bill, for technical or clarifying amendments.

(e) Whenever a bill is returned from the Governor for further action pursuant to the Legislature's request for such return, motions for reconsideration necessarily incident to opening a bill for further action shall be admitted regardless of the time limitation otherwise imposed by this rule.

**Sec. 8. Strike the Enacting Clause.** A motion to strike the enacting clause, if adopted, is equivalent to rejection of the bill. It shall not have precedence over a motion to amend nor a motion to indefinitely postpone.

**Sec. 9. Motions to Adjourn or Recess.** A motion to adjourn shall be in order, except:

- a. While a member is speaking.
- b. When a motion to adjourn or recess has just been defeated.
- c. After the Final Reading of a bill and during roll call thereon.

A motion to adjourn to a time certain shall have precedence over a motion to adjourn. A motion to recess shall take precedence over either of such motions. Successive motions to adjourn or recess are never in order for dilatory purposes.

When a motion to adjourn or recess has been made, the Speaker shall be privileged to speak to the motion prior to any vote on such motion. A motion to adjourn or recess is not debatable.

A motion to adjourn or recess shall be adopted if approved by a majority of members voting.



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**Sec. 10. Cloture.** At any stage of consideration the principal introducer of the bill, resolution, or main motion under consideration, a cointroducer with the consent of the principal introducer, or the chairperson of the committee, or the vice chair of the committee in the absence of the committee chair, if the bill, resolution, or main motion is introduced by that committee, may move for cloture to the presiding officer, except that motions to adopt permanent or temporary rules or amendments to the permanent or temporary rules may not be subject to cloture. The presiding officer may rule a motion for cloture out of order if, in the presiding officer's opinion, a full and fair debate has not been afforded. Such ruling by the presiding officer shall not be subject to challenge. Whenever a motion for cloture is offered, the presiding officer shall immediately recognize such introducer or chairperson and shall then order debate on the pending amendment or motion to cease. A vote on the cloture motion shall be taken immediately. A two-thirds majority of the elected members shall be for the cloture motion to be successful. A motion for cloture shall be in order except while a member is speaking, and a motion for cloture is not debatable. If the motion for cloture is successful, a vote on the pending matter shall be taken immediately, without debate. If the pending matter is an amendment to an amendment, following a vote on the amendment to the amendment, a vote shall be taken on the original amendment. If the original amendment has been divided, then the vote shall be on the original undivided amendment being considered. Finally, a vote on the advancement of the bill shall be taken.

A motion for cloture shall have precedence over all other motions except a motion to recess or adjourn.

**Sec. 11. Motions and Amendments for Dilatory Purposes.** Motions and amendments shall not be filed for dilatory purposes. If more than two amendments and/or motions are offered to a bill or resolution, the principal introducer of the bill or resolution may raise a point of order stating that he or she believes the amendments and/or motions are being used for dilatory purposes. If, in the opinion of the Speaker, the motions and/or amendments are not dilatory, debate on the pending measure shall continue. If the Speaker has reason to believe that one or more of the amendments and/or motions are dilatory, the Speaker shall consult with the principal introducer of the original bill or resolution and the principal introducers of the amendment and/or motions in an attempt to reach an accord as to which amendments and/or motions should be considered by the Legislature. For that purpose, the Speaker may temporarily remove the entire bill or resolution from the agenda. After consultation, the Speaker shall forthwith decide which, if any, amendments and/or motions are dilatory and shall rule such amendments and/or motions out of order. A motion to overrule the chair on any decision made pursuant to this section is not in order except that a ruling of the chair may be challenged by an introducer of amendments and/or motions ruled to be dilatory in which instance the challenge shall be

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to all amendments and/or motions included in the Speaker's ruling. The consultation and the Speaker's ruling subsequent to consultation provided for in this section, shall in no case result in a bill or resolution being removed from the agenda for more than the current legislative day. Any amendment and/or motion ruled out of order by the Speaker shall not in any form, version, or substance be in order if again offered by any member at the same stage of debate. A motion to overrule the chair after a ruling is out of order.

## RULE 8 – APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

**Section 1. Purpose.** (a) The purpose of this rule is to provide a procedure for the Legislature to develop appropriations for all state agencies, boards, and commissions. Such procedure shall consider the need to (1) continue the services and financial assistance provided by state agencies and programs, (2) restrict the growth in state appropriations, and (3) provide for the efficient and effective use of state revenue by utilizing standing committee subject-matter expertise in the review of agency, board, and commission budget requests.

(b) For purposes of these rules, the appropriations bills shall consist of the mainline budget bill, the deficit bill, the capital construction bill, the funds transfer bill, the bill making appropriations for the pay of members of the Legislature, the bill making appropriations for the salaries of constitutional officer of the Government, and the cash reserve fund transfer bill. The appropriations bills shall also include any instances of the aforementioned bills for the purposes of mid-biennium adjustments. These bills shall always be referred to the Appropriations Committee for purposes of public hearing and review.

(c) The bill changing judges' salaries as part of the standard biennial budgeting process shall be considered at each stage of floor debate following the appropriations bills listed above, followed by bills providing for approval and disapproval of claims against the state.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations Committee Report.** The Legislature's Appropriations Committee, by majority vote of its members, shall annually prepare a report summarizing the preliminary total General Fund appropriation recommendations for each year of the following biennium. Such report shall include information based upon the committee's initial review of (1) state agency, board, and commission budget requests, (2) the Governor's budget, (3) the estimated revenue receipts for each year of the following biennium, (4) General Fund reserve requirements, (5) express obligations, (6) legislation that would be required to enable recommended appropriations, and (7) economic conditions affecting the State of Nebraska.

**Sec. 3. Report, When Required.** The report required in Section 2 of this rule shall be printed in the Legislative Journal and presented to each member of the Legislature by the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee between twenty and thirty legislative days after the Governor presents his or her budget during sessions in odd-numbered years and between fifteen and twenty legislative days after the Governor's budget presentation during session in even-numbered years.

**Sec. 4. Standing Committee Appropriations Review.** (a) Each standing committee may hold a budget request review hearing on the agency, board,

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and commission budgets reasonably encompassed in its subject-matter jurisdiction. Any such review hearing shall not be held until the Appropriations Committee has held its public hearing on that agency, board, or commission. The chairperson of the standing committee shall coordinate the scheduling of such hearings with the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee. The standing committee shall obtain a determination from the Executive Board that the budget to be reviewed is within its subject-matter jurisdiction. The standing committee may recommend to the Legislature amendments to proposed appropriations.

(b) Standing committee amendments, if any, must be filed by the sixth legislative day following the placement of appropriations bills on General File. Standing committee amendments shall be printed in the Journal and shall be considered by the Legislature no sooner than the eighth legislative day following the placement of the appropriations bills on General File. Standing committee amendments shall be considered by the Legislature after Appropriations Committee amendments but before all other amendments. Standing committee amendments shall be considered in the order of filing.

(c) The Appropriations Committee shall make available to the appropriate standing committee all currently available information at its disposal.

**Sec. 5. Bills, Held on Final Reading.** The report of the Appropriations Committee shall include a recommended dollar amount of the General Fund biennium appropriation which shall be allocated for the funding of "A" bills, bills that result in the net reduction of revenue to the General Fund, tax expenditure bills, and amendments to the appropriations bills as reported to General File by the Appropriations Committee. During a 90 day session, all "A" bills which, when considered with their companion bill, appropriate general funds resulting in a net loss; all bills resulting in the reduction of revenue to the General Fund; all bills containing a transfer to or from the Cash Reserve Fund; and all tax expenditure bills shall not be read on Final Reading until the appropriations bills are passed by the Legislature. Provided the Appropriations Committee shall place appropriations bills on General File no later than the 70th legislative day in a 90 day session and the 40th legislative day in a 60 day session. If this deadline is not met, the Legislature shall consider the appropriations bills as introduced by the Governor. During a 60 day session, all "A" bills which, when considered with their companion bill, appropriate general funds resulting in a net loss; all bills resulting in the reduction of revenue to the General Fund; all tax expenditure bills; all bills containing a transfer to or from the Cash Reserve Fund; and all appropriations bills shall not be read on Final Reading prior to the 45th legislative day. The appropriations bills shall be passed no later than the 80th legislative day in a 90 day session and the 50th legislative day in a 60 day session. The appropriations provided for in an "A" bill shall be for not less than two fiscal years.

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**Sec. 6. Bill, Setting Tax Rates.** The Legislature's tax rate bill shall be passed no later than the 85th legislative day in a 90 day session and the 55th legislative day in a 60 day session.

**Sec. 7. Financial Status Report.** Beginning with the legislative day following the reporting of the appropriations bills to General File, there shall be attached to the daily agenda of the Legislature a General Fund Financial Status, prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst under the supervision of the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. The Financial Status shall include current estimates of beginning funds available, plus estimated revenue, less the Appropriations Committee recommended budget and express obligations for the biennial period under consideration, to arrive at the calculated variance from the minimum reserve for the General Fund as specified by law. The Financial Status shall also include a listing of other legislation on Select File and Final Reading, and Speaker's Major Proposals on General File that would deduct from or add to General Funds available above the minimum reserve requirement, should the bills pass.

In addition to data for the budget period under consideration, the Financial Status shall include data for the ensuing two years following the biennial budget period. Such data shall consist of projections of available balances, annual net receipts, and annual expenditures, based on the assessment of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst of the provisions of current law as it may relate to projected revenues and expenditures. Prior to attaching the first Financial Status to the agenda, the data and the assumptions for the ensuing years beyond the budget biennium and methods for arriving at estimates shall be reviewed by the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Appropriations and Revenue committees and shall be approved by a majority of the membership of each such committee. Upon mutual agreement by the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee and Revenue Committee, the projections may be reconsidered pursuant to the provisions of this section.



## RULE 9 – SPECIAL SESSIONS

**Section 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this rule is to establish special procedures for the Legislature to utilize during a special session. This rule recognizes the necessity of the Legislature to address the business for which it is called together in an expeditious and fair fashion and provides that certain legislative procedures established for regular sessions shall not unduly burden the activities of the Legislature during a special session.

**Sec. 2. Convening of the Legislature.** Pursuant to the directive contained in the proclamation issued by the Governor, either upon the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the Legislature according to the procedure established by Section 50-125 or upon the call of the Governor under the authority of Article IV, Section 8, of the Nebraska Constitution, the Legislature shall convene in special session. The first item of business shall be the introduction of bills and resolutions, both of which shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number one. Bills and resolutions offered by the Speaker at the request of the Governor or offered pursuant to the statement filed with the Secretary of State and agreed to by two-thirds of the members of the Legislature shall be introduced ahead of all other proposals. After introduction, all bills and resolutions shall be handled in the manner provided in this rule. Bills shall be introduced only during the first three days of the session. Resolutions which are not considered and adopted in the same manner as bills may be introduced at any time during the session.

**Sec. 3. Resolution Considered as a Bill.** Resolutions which propose amendments to the state constitution, propose the ratification or rejection of amendments to the federal Constitution, or memorialize the Congress with regard to amendments to the U.S. Constitution, shall be considered and adopted in the same manner as bills.

**Sec. 4. Committee Hearings.** Within one legislative day following the introduction of bills and resolutions, or pronouncement of a gubernatorial appointment, the Reference Committee shall review each bill, resolution, and gubernatorial appointment and refer the matter to the appropriate standing committee. The committee to which the bill, resolution, or gubernatorial appointment is referred shall provide as much public notice of the time and place of the hearing on the matter as is reasonable under the circumstances by publication in the Legislative Journal, but in no case shall the hearing be more than five calendar days after the date the bill, resolution, or gubernatorial appointment has been referred to the committee.

**Sec. 5. Report of Bill or Resolution to Legislature.** The committee to which a bill or resolution has been referred shall make a report on the bill or resolution to the Legislature within twenty-four hours after the committee has taken final action on the matter. If, at the expiration of twenty-four hours from the time final action was taken, the chairperson has not reported the bill or resolution, any senator may file with the Speaker a motion that the chairperson be compelled to submit a report. After determining that final

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action on the bill or resolution has been taken at least twenty-four hours prior to the time the motion was submitted, the Speaker shall accept the motion and compel the chairperson to file the committee's report on the matter.

**Sec. 6. Indefinitely Postponed Bills and Resolutions.** If the committee action on a bill or resolution is to postpone indefinitely, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed, except that such bill or resolution may be placed on General File or referred back to the committee by a majority vote of the elected members. Not more than one bill or resolution shall be raised from committee on any one motion. A motion to raise shall not be amended to include any other bill, resolution, or subject matter. A motion to raise must be disposed of by the Legislature within three legislative days after the motion is available for consideration or it shall be deemed defeated.

**Sec. 7. Bills and Resolutions Held by Committee.** If the committee has not taken final action on a bill or resolution within two legislative days after the committee hearing, any senator may move that the bill or resolution be placed on General File. If a majority of the elected members vote in favor of the motion, the bill shall be placed on General File.

**Sec. 8. Pending Proposals Indefinitely Postponed.** At the conclusion of a special session, all bills and resolutions which have not been enacted shall stand indefinitely postponed and shall not carry over to the next legislative session.

**Sec. 9. Rules Controlling When Conflict Exists.** When a conflict exists between the provisions of this rule and other provisions of the Rules of the Nebraska Legislature, the provisions of this rule shall apply.



## **RULE 10 – ELECTION CONTESTS AND QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGES**

**Section 1. Committee Selection.** (a) Each qualifications challenge and election contest shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature. Within seven days of filing, the Clerk of the Legislature shall refer the qualifications challenge or election contest to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, who in turn shall refer the matter to a specially created committee to consider such challenge. The committee shall consist of members appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The specially created committee shall have no fewer than five members and no more than nine members.

(b) The special committee may adopt rules to govern election contests and qualifications challenges, provided that such committee rules shall be consistent with the Nebraska Constitution, Nebraska statutes, and the Rules of the Legislature and such adopted rules shall be filed with the Clerk within twenty-four hours of adoption and shall be made available to all parties and to the public.

(c) The committee shall give notice of all rules, timetables, or deadlines adopted by the committee. Notice under this subsection shall be in writing and shall be given either personally with receipt or by certified mail (return receipt requested) addressed to the party at his or her place of residence. If a party is represented by counsel, such notice shall also be given to his or her attorney of record.

**Sec. 2. Contests and Challenges - Due Process.** (a) Election contests and qualifications challenges shall be heard and determined in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rules of the Legislature, Nebraska statutes, the Nebraska Constitution, and the United States Constitution. Judicial decisions which bear on a point of law in a contest or challenge shall be admissible in the arguments of the parties and the deliberations and decisions of the committee. Judicial decisions applicable to a point of law or to a fact situation to the committee shall be given weight as precedent.

(b) The committee shall ensure that the parties have due process, including that the respondent member received notice of the challenge and each party had a reasonable opportunity to present his or her claim, any defense and arguments, and to respond to those of his or her opponent. If the parties submitted a brief and had an opportunity to respond to the opposing party's brief, a hearing is not required. The committee may nonetheless hold a hearing if the committee so chooses.

(c) All parties may be represented by counsel.

**Sec. 3. Discovery in Contests and Challenges.** (a) Discovery may commence in an election contest or qualifications challenge as soon as a response is filed by the respondent member or eleven calendar days after a

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petition is filed under the Legislative Qualifications and Election Contests Act, whichever occurs sooner. Either party to a petition may obtain discovery regarding any matter which is not privileged and is relevant to the particular grounds stated in the petition or response.

(b) Discovery shall be conducted in any manner permitted by the rules of discovery for civil cases adopted by the Supreme Court.

(c) No testimony shall be received in the taking of depositions or by the Legislature which does not relate to the points specified in the petition.

(d) Discovery materials shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature only when ordered by the committee or when required by law or these rules.

**Sec. 4. Discovery in Qualifications Challenges.** (a) A party to a petition to challenge qualifications shall respond to a discovery request under Rule 3, Section 21 within seven calendar days after receipt of the request or by the seventeenth calendar day after the Legislature convenes the regular legislative session following the general election, whichever is sooner. A person who is not a party to the petition shall respond to a discovery request under Rule 3, Section 21 within seven calendar days after receipt of the request or by the seventeenth calendar day after the Legislature convenes the regular legislative session following the general election, whichever is sooner.

(b) The chairperson of the committee may grant additional time to respond to a discovery request if he or she finds good cause for additional time to be granted.

(c) If an unresolved discovery or record dispute exists and continues between the parties to a petition or between a party and another person, a party may request a ruling on the dispute from the chairperson of the committee.

(d) All discovery, including responses to discovery, shall be completed by the seventeenth calendar day after the Legislature convenes the regular legislative session following the general election. The petitioner or respondent member shall not be granted any additional time after such deadline to conduct discovery unless additional time is granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

**Sec. 5. Submission of Discovery Record and Briefs in Qualifications Challenges.** (a) The petitioner and respondent member shall each file a brief with the Clerk of the Legislature which outlines the party's claims or defenses, relevant legal authority and legislative precedent, and proposed form of relief. The briefs shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and served on the opposing party within seven calendar days after the final date for conducting discovery.

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(b) A party may file a response to the opposing party's brief which addresses the issues raised in the opposing party's brief. The response shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and served upon the opposing party within seven calendar days after receipt of the opposing party's brief.

(c) Each party shall submit any proof or evidence, including, but not limited to, depositions, affidavits, and documents, that the party desires the committee to consider in judging the qualifications of the respondent member to the Clerk of the Legislature within seven calendar days after receipt of the opposing party's brief. Only proof of issues raised in the initial petition or amendments to the petition or in the response to the initial petition or amendments to the petition may be submitted for consideration by the Legislature.

### **Sec. 6. Committee Proceedings and Powers in Contests and Challenges.**

(a) The committee shall consider the qualifications challenge within fourteen calendar days after the deadline for which the parties have to submit discovery materials to the committee.

(b) The committee shall resolve the election contest or qualifications challenge as expeditiously as possible.

(c) Upon meeting and considering the record and arguments of the petitioner and respondent member, the committee may dismiss a petition filed under the Legislative Qualifications and Election Contests Act or may conduct a further inquiry as permitted by the Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature.

(d) All proceedings of the committee concerning election contests and qualifications challenges may be recorded and transcribed. Copies of the transcript shall be made available to the members of the committee and to the parties.

(e) In conducting inquiries, investigations and recounts in election contests, and qualifications challenges, the committee shall have the subpoena power to compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of ballots, documents, and/or other records, by a subpoena signed by the chairperson of the committee as provided by Rule 3, Section 21. In conducting proceedings in election contests and qualifications challenges, the committee may utilize the legislative powers to gather information as provided by Rule 3, Section 21. At any point during the election contest or qualifications challenge, the committee may require the parties to submit a brief to the committee on any issue relevant to the matter.

(f) The committee shall maintain a record of proceedings in every election contest and qualifications challenge. Such record shall include all notices and pleadings, roll call votes, all reports and dissents, and all documents which were admitted into the proceeding. The committee shall file the

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record with the Clerk of the Legislature upon the adoption of its final report. The record shall then be available for examination in the Clerk's office.

(g) With the approval of the Executive Board, the committee may employ staff assistants to include clerks, court reporters, professional staff, and other personnel as deemed necessary.

**Sec. 7. Adoption of Reports in Contests and Challenges.** (a) All final decisions of the committee regarding an election contest or qualification challenge shall be approved by a majority of the members of the committee. Such decisions shall be reported in writing to the Legislature. Reports shall include a specific recommendation to the Legislature as to the disposition of the contest or challenge.

(b) Any member of the committee may file a dissent from a report of the committee, a minority report, or a special concurrence with the majority report or with any minority report.

(c) Reports of the committee shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, printed and placed on the members' desks, along with any dissents, minority reports, or special concurrences. The report shall be listed on the agenda under the heading "Report of Election Contest" or "Report of Qualifications Challenge." The report as filed with the Clerk, shall not be considered for two legislative days prior to any consideration by the Legislature.

(d) The Legislature shall adopt the majority report or a minority report in an election contest or qualifications challenge or shall refuse to adopt any report filed and rerefer the contest or challenge to the committee for further proceedings or for a modified report. Reports as filed by the committee are not amendable. If the Legislature fails to adopt a report, the matter shall automatically be rereferred to committee for further consideration.

## MOTIONS

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