

2020-2021
RULES
OF
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES



Eileen Filler-Corn, Speaker
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Adopted January 9, 2020
Amended August 24, 2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Organization.	
Elections, Rule 1	1
The Speaker, Rules 2-5	1
The Clerk, Rules 6-9	4
Sergeant at Arms, Rules 10-13	5
Oaths of Office, Rule 14	5
Committees, Rules 15-22	5
Standards of Conduct, Rules 23-24	9
Committee of the Whole, Rules 25-29	9
II. Attendance and Adjournment.	
Attendance, Rules 30-34	10
Adjournment, Rule 35	10
III. Introduction of Business.	
Messages, Reports, and Communications, Rule 36	11
Introducing Legislation, Rules 37-39(a)	11
IV. Order of Business.	
The Morning Hour, Rules 40-48	12
The Calendar, Rules 49-52	14
V. Conduct of Business.	
Order and Decorum, Rules 53-61	15
Ascertaining the Question, Rules 62-64	16
Pending and Previous Questions, Rules 65-66	16
Taking the Vote, Rules 67-69	17
Reconsideration, Rule 70	17
Bills and Amendments, Rules 71-77	17
Withdrawals of Exhibits, Rule 78	19
Messages, Rule 79	19
Manual and Rules, Rules 80-81	19
Chamber of the House of Delegates, Rules 82-83	20
Capitol and Pocahontas Building, Rules 84-85	20
Applicability of Rules, Rule 86	20
EXECUTIVE SESSION PROCEDURES	21
VOTES REQUIRED	22
INDEX	23

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I. Organization.

Elections.

Rule 1. Voting at elections in the House will be by use of the electronic voting system or, if it is inoperable, viva voce by response to the call of names, and the vote will be recorded in the Journal. Except in the case of block voting, only one person will be chosen at a time. If, on the first voting, no one receives a majority, the person having the smallest number of votes will not be voted for on the next voting and so on until someone receives a majority of the whole vote. If the election is by joint vote of the two houses, messages will be exchanged for each voting announcing the names of persons in nomination. A committee of three from each house will compare the votes and ascertain and report the result.

At the election for any judgeship to the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court of Appeals of Virginia, Circuit Courts, and Courts Not of Record, no nominee will be offered to the House unless that nominee has been interviewed by the House Courts of Justice Committee and subsequently certified as qualified for election. If more than one nominee is offered for any judgeship, a member may cast a vote for only one nominee.

The Speaker.

Rule 2. The House of Delegates will choose its own Speaker from among the members of the House. The Speaker will be elected in even-numbered years for a term of two years. The nominations for Speaker will be viva voce without debate and no second will be required to place a name in nomination. Once nominations are closed, the election of the Speaker will be a matter of privilege and will be conducted immediately and will not be debated. The voting for Speaker will be by use of the electronic voting system or, if it is inoperable, viva voce by response to the call of names, and the vote will be recorded in the Journal. Each member will vote for only one nominee for Speaker in each round of voting. If, on the first voting, no one receives a majority, the person having the smallest number of votes will not be voted for on the next voting and so on until someone will receive a majority of the whole vote. Once elected, the Speaker will not be removed from her office during her term except with the concurrence of two-thirds of the elected membership of the House.

The Speaker may appoint to the Chair any member who will exercise its functions for the time. However, no member, by virtue of such appointment, will preside for a longer time than three consecutive days. During such appointment the Speaker may participate in the debates.

If the Speaker is absent and has named no one to act in her stead, the duties will be performed by the Leader of the Majority Caucus. If the Majority Leader is unable or unwilling to assume the duties of the Speaker, or until the Majority Leader is available, the duties will be performed by a member of the majority caucus of the Rules Committee taking precedence in the order named by the Speaker. In the event of a vacancy that occurs during a Regular or Special

Session, the Leader of the Majority Caucus will serve as Speaker pro tempore with all the authority provided the Speaker by the Constitution, Rules, precedent or statute, until the House has elected a successor at an election to take place within seven days of notice of the vacancy. If the Majority Leader is unable or unwilling to assume the duties of the Speaker, or until the Majority Leader is available, the duties will be performed by a member of the majority caucus of the Rules Committee taking precedence in the order named by the Speaker. The person receiving a majority of the votes of the members present and voting will be deemed to be elected Speaker.

In the event of a vacancy that occurs during the Interim, the Rules Committee will convene at a meeting to be called by the chairman or, in her absence, the vice chairman or a majority of the membership of the committee to elect a Speaker to serve during the vacancy and until a successor is elected by the House at its next session. At least three working days' notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting will be given to all members of the committee. The person receiving a majority of the votes of the members of the committee present and voting will be deemed to be elected Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of this Rule, the Speaker will serve and perform all the duties of the position until a successor is elected by the House at its next session.

Rule 3. The Speaker will take the Chair every day precisely at the hour to which the House shall have adjourned on the preceding legislative day. She will immediately call the House to order. After divine services are performed, she will direct that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America be recited, and she will direct that the roll of members be taken, pursuant to Rule 32, and the names of those members present entered upon the Journal. A quorum being present, she will proceed with the business of the day. The Speaker will have the power to supervise and correct the Journal. The Speaker, having examined the Journal of the proceedings of the last day's sitting and approved the same, will announce to the House her approval of the Journal. The Speaker's approval of the Journal will be deemed to be agreed to subject to a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval on the demand of any member, which vote, if decided in the affirmative, will not be subject to a motion to reconsider. It will be in order to offer one motion that the Journal be read only if the Speaker's approval of the Journal is not agreed to, and such motion will be determined without debate and will not be subject to a motion to reconsider. Upon the last day of the session, the Journal for that day being examined and found correct will be signed by the Speaker and the Clerk. The said Journals, when so signed, will be the authentic record of the proceedings of the House.

Rule 4. The Speaker will have a general direction of the House Chamber with power, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in such part thereof as may be appropriated to spectators, to have the same cleared. Representatives of news media, wishing to report the proceedings of the House, may be admitted by the Speaker, who will assign them to such places in the House Chamber as shall not interfere with the convenience of the members.

In the event of a disaster, natural or otherwise, or other emergency circumstance, the Speaker may convene the House in a location other than the House Chamber, or direct that a session of the House be conducted by electronic communication means. In addition, if a motion to reconvene to a session date and time to be conducted by electronic communication means is adopted by the House, such session of the House shall be conducted by electronic communication means. "Electronic communication means" means the use of technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, telephonic, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities to transmit or receive information.

During the pendency of such disaster or other emergency circumstance, a session of the House may be conducted by electronic communication means without any requirement that a quorum be physically assembled in a single location.

A member participating in a session of the House conducted by electronic communication means shall be deemed to be in attendance for purposes of the quorum requirements under Article IV, Section 8 of the Constitution of Virginia or any other provision of the Constitution, regardless of where the member is physically located. A member participating in a session of the House conducted by electronic communication means shall be deemed to be present for any voting requirement under the Constitution of Virginia and may vote on any matter taken up by the House, regardless of where the member is physically located. A member participating by electronic communication means shall not be required to open her physical location to the public or the media.

The Clerk, at the direction of the Speaker, shall determine the methods of electronic communication for any session of the House conducted by electronic communication means, provided that such methods are designed to enable each member participating by electronic communication means to participate as the proceedings are occurring.

Sessions of the House conducted by electronic communication means shall be made digitally available to the public.

To protect the public health and safety during such disaster or other emergency circumstance, the Speaker and Clerk may limit access to the physical location from which the Speaker is presiding to members of the General Assembly and such other persons they deem essential for the proceedings.

Notwithstanding Rule 18(e) or any other Rule, during the pendency of such disaster or other emergency circumstance, the chairman of any standing committee, subcommittee, joint subcommittee, interim study committee, or other legislative branch public body may conduct a meeting by electronic communication means under the same conditions and requirements and with the same powers enumerated above, and without any requirement that a quorum be physically assembled in a single location. Any member of such standing committee, subcommittee, joint subcommittee, interim study committee, or other legislative branch public body participating in the meeting by electronic communication means shall be deemed to be in attendance for purposes of any quorum requirement and may vote on any matter taken up at the meeting.

Whenever a session of the House or any meeting of a standing committee, subcommittee, joint subcommittee, interim study committee, or other legislative branch public body is conducted by electronic communication means, voting viva voce by response to the call of names shall not be required.

Rule 5. All enrolled bills and joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution will be signed by the Speaker and all writs and warrants issued by order of the House will be under her hand and seal, attested by the Clerk.

The Clerk.

Rule 6. A Clerk will be elected by the House in even-numbered years and will be deemed to continue in office until another is chosen. In the event of a vacancy, the Speaker may appoint an acting Clerk until a successor is elected by the House or, if the House is not in session, by the Committee on Rules at a meeting to be called by the chairman or, in her absence, the vice chairman, or a majority of the membership of the committee. At least three working days notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting will be given to all members of said committee, and the person receiving a majority of the votes of the members of said committee present and voting will be deemed to be elected to fill said vacancy.

Rule 6(a). The Clerk has the authority, with the approval of the Speaker, to employ personnel necessary to accomplish the work of the House subject to such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Speaker; such personnel may be removed by the Clerk with the approval of the Speaker. The Clerk will be charged with the clerical business of the House and its committees.

Pages will be appointed annually by the Speaker and should be thirteen or fourteen years old at the time of their initial appointment. They will be ineligible for reappointment after serving for two years. The Clerk is responsible for the administration of the Page program.

Rule 6(b). The Clerk will be charged with the duty of assigning each member to a seat in the House Chamber and office space. No seat or office space assigned to and occupied by a member who is reelected will be changed without such member's consent, except that members will be moved to the left or right by the Clerk to maintain contiguity in dividing the Chamber along major party caucuses.

Rule 7. The Clerk will perform all the duties of her office under the direction of the Speaker. She will keep a journal of the proceedings of the House, have the same in proper form to be signed as provided by Rule 3, and submit it daily to the Speaker in time to be examined before the next assembling of the House. She will keep at the Clerk's table, during the sittings of the House, a calendar or docket so arranged as to show the condition and progress of the business of the House. She will provide to each member before the assembling of the House each day, a printed calendar of pending bills and a list of all bills offered on the preceding day, under Rule 37, with the names of the patrons, titles of the bills, and the committees to which the same have been referred. After amendments have been agreed to by the House, she will see that they are handled only by the clerks of the standing committees, if referred or rereferred; clerks at the desk; or the clerks charged with the duty of engrossing bills until such amendments have been duly engrossed and verified.

Rule 8. The Clerk will keep accounts of the compensation of the members, officials and employees of the House, and will from time to time certify the same to the Comptroller. She will provide the stationery required for the business of the House and for the official use of the members. She also will provide postage for the official use of the members within the limitations established by the Rules Committee.

Rule 9. The Clerk will provide to the members, when required, vouchers for mileage and expenses; certify such for payment as provided by law; and pay over to those entitled the money due upon such vouchers.

She will keep detailed accounts of all transactions pursuant to Rules 8 and 9, which will be open to inspection at all times.

Sergeant at Arms.

Rule 10. A Sergeant at Arms and doorkeepers will be appointed by the Speaker. The Clerk will be responsible for the administration and duties of these positions.

Rule 11. The Sergeant at Arms will, with the doorkeepers, attend upon the House during its sitting, and execute its commands, together with all such process, issued by its authority, as directed by the Speaker and the Clerk.

Rule 12. The Sergeant at Arms will, under the direction of the Speaker and the Clerk, have charge of the supervision of the Chamber and prevent any interruption of the business of the House by disorder within or without. She will distribute among the members all papers printed for their use and give such attendance upon them during the sittings of the House as will promote their comfort and facilitate the business of the House.

Immediately prior to the convening of every session, she will clear the floor of the House of all persons other than those specified under Rule 83 who are authorized to be there during each session.

Rule 13. The Sergeant at Arms will attend to receiving and dispatching all messages in the House Chamber intended for or sent by members and make such arrangement as to promote the convenience of the members. She will attend to the display of the Mace during sessions of the House and direct all persons not entitled to privileges on the floor of the House to the gallery.

Oaths of Office.

Rule 14. The oaths which the officers of the House are required by law to take will be administered and certified by a person authorized to administer oaths and will be filed with the Clerk of the House.

Committees.

Rule 15. The Speaker will appoint all committee members and will designate the chairman and vice chairman of each committee provided that no member will be chairman of more than one committee, unless a chairman of a standing committee is serving as Speaker pursuant to Rule 2, and no member will be vice chairman of more than one committee, as designated in Rule 16. If the chairman and vice chairman are absent or excused by the House, one of the members will act as the chairman, taking precedence in the order named by the Speaker. The Speaker will serve as chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Rule 16. There will be appointed standing committees, to be named and to consist of up to the number of members indicated below:

- 1. Privileges and Elections 22 members
- 2. Courts of Justice..... 22 members
- 3. Education 22 members

4.	General Laws	22 members
5.	Transportation	22 members
6.	Finance	22 members
7.	Appropriations	22 members
8.	Counties, Cities and Towns	22 members
9.	Labor and Commerce.....	22 members
10.	Health, Welfare and Institutions	22 members
11.	Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources.....	22 members
12.	Public Safety	22 members
13.	Communications, Technology and Innovation	22 members
14.	Rules	17 members
		and the Speaker

The Speaker will designate eight members of the House Rules Committee to meet with members of the Senate to constitute the Joint Rules Committee.

Rule 16(a). Except for the Committee on Rules, membership on all standing committees and subcommittees will be contingent upon membership or nonmembership in the majority party caucus. The apportionment of members will be according to the same ratio of members in the House of Delegates who are members or nonmembers of the majority party caucus. If such ratio would represent a fractional number of the committee or subcommittee membership assigned to the majority party caucus, then the number of majority party caucus members will be the next highest whole number of committee or subcommittee members. For the purposes of this rule only, members who do not caucus with the majority party caucus or the largest minority party caucus will be deemed part of the majority party caucus.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Speaker of the House may appoint two more House members to any legislative commission, joint subcommittee of House and Senate committees, or any interim study committee than are appointed by the Senate.

Rule 16(b). The Speaker shall strive to appoint from each congressional district at least one member who represents that congressional district on all standing committees with the exception of Rules.

Rule 17. A majority will constitute a quorum for committees. Each committee will meet pursuant to a regular meeting schedule as approved by the Speaker. In addition to a committee's regular scheduled meeting(s), a committee chairman may call additional meetings. It will be the duty of a committee to meet on call of a majority of the committee's members if the chairman is absent or declines to call a meeting. However, additional committee meetings may not be scheduled that are in conflict with another committee's regularly scheduled meeting time. No committee will meet while the House is in session without special leave granted by the Speaker.

Rule 17(a). The chairman of any standing committee may appoint subcommittees provided any such subcommittee will consist of no fewer than five members, a majority of whom will constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The chairman of any standing committee may serve as an ex-officio member of any such subcommittee, however the chairman may vote on questions before the subcommittee only if a member of the majority caucus is absent from the meeting at the time the question is before the subcommittee.

Rule 17(b). The chairman of any standing committee may appoint ad hoc subcommittees of less than five members to consider no more than one bill or resolution, a majority of whom will constitute a quorum to conduct business.

Rule 17(c). With the exception of Fridays, on days when the House is in session between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., no subcommittee of a standing committee except for the Appropriations or Rules Committees, will meet opposite a standing committee unless the parent committee foregoes meeting at its designated time to allow its subcommittees to meet. Subcommittees of standing committees may meet after the House has adjourned for the day on Fridays and weekends upon call of the chairman to consider any such matter as may have been referred to them.

Rule 18. The several standing committees will consider matters specially referred to them and, whenever practicable, suggest such legislation as may be germane to the duties of the committee. The chairman will have discretion to determine when, and if, legislation will be heard before the committee. The chairman, at her discretion, may refer legislation for consideration to a subcommittee. If referred to a subcommittee, the legislation will be considered by the subcommittee. If the subcommittee does not recommend such legislation by a majority vote, the chairman need not consider the legislation in the full committee. It will be the duty of each committee to inquire into the condition and administration of the laws relating to the subjects which it has in its charge; to investigate the conduct and look to the responsibility of all public officers and agents concerned; and to suggest such measures as will correct abuses, protect the public interests, and promote the public welfare.

Any committee of the House may, at its discretion, confer with a committee of the Senate having under consideration the same subject.

Rule 18(a). When a question is before the committee, no motion will be received unless specially provided for, except to adjourn, lay upon the table, pass by indefinitely, postpone for a specified time or purpose, refer or rerefer, amend or incorporate, strike from the docket, or report; which several motions will have precedence in the order in which they are arranged and each such motion will be required to be seconded.

The Committee on Rules may, on a vote of a majority of the members appointed plus one, send a bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the floor on a motion that "the bill, joint resolution, or resolution be reported to the floor by the committee without specific recommendation." This motion is a special motion and can only be made in the Committee on Rules.

When a question has been decided, it may be reconsidered on the motion of any member who voted with the prevailing side provided it be made on the same day or if such motion has not been communicated to the House, such motion may be made no later than the adjournment of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full committee, except for those measures continued pursuant to Rule 22.

Rule 18(b). Committees will in all cases report by bill or resolution, with or without amendment or amendments, in such form that, if passed or agreed to, it will carry into effect their recommendations; but no papers returned therewith will be printed unless the committee will so recommend. Every bill will be printed, as provided in Rule 37. Bills may be considered in executive session, but final vote thereon will be in open session.

Rule 18(c). A recorded vote of members of a committee or subcommittee will be taken and the name and number of those voting for, against, or abstaining will be taken upon each measure using an electronic voting system, unless inoperable, in which case the Clerk will record the vote by response to the call of names arranged and called in the order named except that the Chair will be called last. Such recorded vote will be reported with the bill or resolution and ordered printed on the Calendar on any matter reported from committee and sent to the floor, including those measures reported and referred.

A recorded vote of members will not be required on a motion to adjourn, a motion to refer or rerefer administratively, or a motion to pass by for the day or postpone for a specified time or purpose, except upon the call of the chairman or the desire of one-fifth of the members present.

Rule 18(d). Reports of the committees may be handed to the Clerk at any time and may be disposed of in the morning hour. If, in the judgment of the Speaker, any report of a committee requires immediate action she may bring it to the attention of the House at any time.

Rule 18(e). No member will be excluded from any meeting of a committee, subcommittee, joint subcommittee, or interim study committee except as hereinafter provided for the maintenance of order. If an electronic meeting is authorized by the chairman, no member will be excluded from participating by electronic communication means, and members participating by electronic communication means will not be counted in attendance for purposes of a quorum. The chairman of the committee will maintain order and decorum, and the business of the committee will be conducted at all times in accordance with the Rules of the House.

Rule 19. The chairman or, in her absence, the vice chairman, or the majority of the membership of the committee, may call meetings of the committee to study, call hearings, and consider any bill or resolution, or to consider such other matters as may be germane to the duties of the committee.

Rule 20. The chairman of any standing committee is authorized, with the prior approval of the Speaker, to hire, employ, engage or retain such additional clerks, counsel and other staff personnel, whose function will be to participate with such committees or subcommittees thereof in reviewing legislation, rules, House policy, or in performing any referred study or study initiated by the committee or its chairman.

For this purpose and for such other expenses as may be occasioned by the conduct of any committee study, payments will be made from the general appropriations to the House of Delegates.

Persons who are asked by a committee chairman to appear before a committee or subcommittee to offer expert testimony may receive reimbursement for their actual and reasonable expenses if approved by the chairman and the Speaker.

Rule 21. The conduct of the business of any subcommittee of any House committee, any joint subcommittee of House and Senate committees, and any interim study committee created by a House measure will be governed in accordance with the Rules of the House. If a House measure and a Senate measure create the same study, the conduct of business of the study will be governed by the rules of the house of the chairman of the study, or in the case of co-chairmen, the rules of the house as agreed upon by the co-chairmen.

Rule 22. Any bill or resolution introduced in an even-numbered year and not reported to the House of Delegates by the committee to which it has been referred, may be continued on the agenda of the committee for hearings and committee action during the interim between regular sessions and not otherwise. The committee will report, prior to the adjournment sine die of the House of Delegates, such bills or resolutions as will be continued and the Clerk of the House of Delegates will enter upon the Journal the fact that such bill or resolution has been continued. Any bill or resolution that has been continued and subsequently reported from a committee will be placed upon the Calendar of the House of Delegates.

The House of Delegates, upon consideration of any bill or resolution on the Calendar, may rerefer the bill to the committee reporting the same and direct the committee to continue the bill or resolution until the following odd-numbered year regular session and hold such hearings and render such further consideration of the bill or resolution as the committee may deem proper.

(The provisions of any rule relating to legislative continuity between sessions will be subject to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia.)

Standards of Conduct.

Rule 23. There will be a subcommittee on Standards of Conduct of the Rules Committee consisting of four members, two of whom will be members of the majority caucus and two of whom will be nonmembers of the majority caucus, appointed by the chairman, which may review annually members' statements of economic interests and consider any request by a member for an advisory opinion with respect to the general propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such member.

Rule 23(a). The House Committee on Rules will establish, by majority vote, a formal policy for the training, reporting, investigating, and resolving of issues of harassment on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities that extends to the public and to persons engaged with or employed by the legislative branch. The Committee may amend the policy from time to time as appropriate. Copies of the approved policy and any changes or amendments thereof will be provided to every member, full and part-time employee, page, and intern of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Rule 24. The Privileges and Elections Committee will receive and investigate any charges or complaints brought against any member of the House of Delegates in the performance of her duties or the discharge of her responsibilities and recommend to the House such action as it may deem appropriate to establish and enforce standards of conduct for members.

Committee of the Whole.

Rule 25. When the House will go into the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker may vacate the Chair and appoint a member to preside in Committee; the other officers will attend, and the Rules of the House will be observed and enforced in Committee, as far as applicable, except that the previous question will not be ordered.

Rule 26. If the Committee of the Whole arise before the consideration of the subject referred is concluded, the same will be reported back and have its place in order as unfinished business of the House. When it will be again reached in order, unless it be otherwise disposed of, the House, after making such orders as it may deem proper in relation to the business before the Committee, will stand again resolved into the Committee of the Whole, and so on until the business therein be disposed of.

Rule 27. Nothing will be in order in the Committee of the Whole except such matters as may be specially referred to it by the House.

Rule 28. Whenever the Committee of the Whole will find itself without a quorum, the chairman will cause the roll to be called and thereupon the Committee will rise, and the chairman will report the fact and the names of the absentees, which will be entered upon the Journal of the House.

Rule 29. The motion to go into Committee of the Whole, and the motion to discharge the Committee, will not be debated.

II. Attendance and Adjournment.

Attendance.

Rule 30. No member will absent herself from the service of the House unless she has leave granted by the Speaker or is sick or otherwise unable to attend. Such leave will be entered upon the Journal.

Rule 31. Any ten members or more including the Speaker, if there is one, and she is present, will be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members by a call of the House.

Rule 32. The roll of the House will be taken by the use of the electronic voting system or, if it is inoperable, by viva voce by response to the call of names arranged and called in alphabetical order except that the Speaker will be called last.

Rule 33. The electronic voting system may be used for a call of the House; however, if it is inoperable, the call of the House will be by viva voce, the names of the members will be first called over by the Clerk, and the absentees noted; after which the names of the absentees will be again called over. The doors will then be shut and those for whom no excuse or insufficient excuses are made may, by order of those present, if ten in number, be taken into custody as they appear or may be sent for and taken into custody, wherever to be found, by the Sergeant at Arms or the doorkeepers, or by special messengers to be appointed for that purpose.

Rule 34. When a member is discharged from custody and admitted to her seat the House will determine whether such discharge will be with or without payment of fees and expenses.

Adjournment.

Rule 35. Any member or members may adjourn from day to day. A motion to adjourn and a motion to fix the time for which the House will adjourn will always be in order and be decided without debate.

III. Introduction of Business.

Messages, Reports, and Communications.

Rule 36. Messages from the Governor and reports and communications from any other public officer or agent may be received at any time. If, in the judgment of the Speaker, they require immediate action, they may be brought at once to the attention of the House. Otherwise, they will lie upon the Speaker's table and be disposed of in the morning hour. The same rule will be observed with regard to messages from the Senate.

Introducing Legislation.

Rule 37. Members having bills or resolutions to present may, at any time pursuant to agreed upon deadlines, electronically file (e-file) such legislation via the Bill Drafting System or manually file such legislation with the Clerk, endorsed by one or more members with their names. Any bill or joint resolution introduced in the House may show as "Senate Patrons" the signatures or electronic signatures of members of the Senate. Any bill, joint resolution, or resolution manually filed prior to the commencement of the session in which it is to be considered may have the names of co-patrons signed to the measure by the chief patron, provided that each such co-patron expressly authorized the chief patron to sign for such co-patron and the chief patron plainly marks such signatures on the original copy of the measure as being signed by the chief patron. Any bill, joint resolution, or resolution e-filed prior to the commencement of the session in which it is to be considered may have the names of co-patrons added electronically via the Bill Drafting System.

No member may introduce more than 15 bills during the Regular Session of an odd-numbered year.

No bill expressly amending an existing law will be offered by any member unless or until the e-filed or manually filed copy has been prepared so as to indicate deletions and additions. The form for deletions and additions will set forth the material deleted with lines through such material and by underscoring the words added, before they are received in the Senate or House of Delegates. The stricken material and underscorings or italics in the printed bills, enrolled bills, and printed Acts will not be considered evidence of all amendments to any bill or existing statute but merely as an aid for quick reference to amended portions. Nothing herein contained will be construed as requiring the use of stricken material or underscoring where new words are substituted for existing words and the new words or the omission of words do not change the sense or meaning of the act.

The Clerk will, under the direction of the Speaker, refer all such legislation to the proper committee and enter the fact, with the names of the members presenting them, upon the Journal. Such bills will be printed, unless otherwise ordered by the House, and numbered in the order in which they are filed with the Clerk.

The Speaker will review all legislation introduced in the House or communicated to the House for its action to determine if such legislation is in conflict with Article IV, Section 12 of the Constitution of Virginia. If such legislation is determined to be in conflict, the Speaker may withhold committee referral of the legislation.

The designation of "House Bill," "House Joint Resolution," or "House Resolution" will not be changed after a bill or resolution is introduced in the House. Nor will the designation of "Senate Bill" or "Senate Joint Resolution" be changed or amended after the bill or resolution is received by the House. In addition, no bill or resolution introduced for a purpose other than to direct or request a study shall be amended for the purpose of directing or requesting a study unless authorized by unanimous consent of the members of the House.

Rule 38. No bill, joint resolution, or resolution calling for information from the Governor or other public officer or agent will be introduced, considered, or acted upon otherwise than is provided by Rule 37 and will not be acted upon until it will have been examined and reported upon by a committee.

Rule 39. Any other resolution or motion upon which a member may desire the judgment of the House, or any action other than a reference to a standing committee, may be presented to the House in the morning hour after the business on the Speaker's table is disposed of. A recorded vote is required on a resolution authorizing a study or an expenditure of funds. To obtain immediate consideration of any resolution other than a procedural or a memorial or commending resolution, without reference to a standing committee, the vote of two-thirds of the members elected, as required by Rule 81, will be a recorded vote.

Rule 39(a). All memorial or commending joint resolutions or resolutions will conform to the procedure set forth by the Clerk of the House and will not be referred under Rule 37, unless so ordered by the Speaker or by majority vote of the House on motion of a member, but will be placed on the Calendar.

IV. Order of Business.

The Morning Hour.

Rule 40. After the approval and signing of the Journal, a time, to be called the morning hour, will be devoted to the dispatch of business upon the Speaker's table and to motions and resolutions presented under Rule 39. The business on the Speaker's table will be disposed of in such order as the Speaker deems best, except as may be herein otherwise provided, or as the House may at any time order by a majority vote of the members elected. The morning hour will be limited to no more than 60 minutes unless otherwise ordered by the Speaker or a majority vote of the members elected.

The order of business for the morning hour as pronounced by the Speaker will be as follows, unless otherwise directed by the Speaker:

- announcements and communications by the Clerk; announcements by members; introduction of guests by members; motions to adjourn in the honor of and/or honor and memory of; motions to take up out of order certain memorial or commending resolutions; motions to dispense with constitutional readings of certain legislation; motions for reconsideration; and announcements by the Speaker of leaves of absence per House practice;
- announcement by the Clerk of member requests to move legislation from any Uncontested Calendar to Regular Calendar per House practice [any relevant legislation not announced may still be moved when considered under the regular order of business pursuant to Rule 49];

- announcement by the Clerk relating to a list of legislation to go By for the Day subsequent to agreement of the motion by the Majority Leader for such legislation to go By for the Day and any additional motions from members for legislation to go By for the Day [any relevant legislation may still be subject to a motion to go By for the Day or any other applicable motion when considered under the regular order of business pursuant to Rule 49];
- recognition of members for points of personal privilege; however, the Speaker may order a time limitation on members' points of personal privilege or the House may order a time limit on members' points of personal privilege by a vote of a majority of the members elected; and
- the Speaker may proceed with or return to any Morning Hour sub category if requested by a member or will return if ordered by a majority vote of the members elected.

Pursuant to Rule 49, the Calendar will be called at the expiration of the Morning Hour unless otherwise directed by a previously agreed to special order or joint order, or when ordered by the House by a majority vote of the members elected and such motion will be in order at any time during the Morning Hour.

Rule 41. The annual message of the Governor will be laid before the House as soon as it is received. It will be printed for the use of the House and be considered by the several standing committees without any special order therefor.

Rule 42. All other messages from the Governor may be referred by the Speaker to the proper committees. The same rule will be observed as to reports and communications from other public officers.

Rule 43. Bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and not requiring immediate action will be read or printed on the Calendar by title the first time when received and referred to their appropriate committees, unless the House directs otherwise.

Rule 44. All bills reported from committee, pursuant to Rule 18(c), will be transferred to the Calendar and the reading or printing on the Calendar of the titles as reported will constitute the first reading or printing of the House bills and the second reading or printing of the Senate bills as required by the Constitution.

Rule 45. All other reports from committees will be considered and disposed of in the order in which the Speaker presents them, unless the House directs otherwise.

Rule 46. A member presenting a resolution under Rule 39 will be allowed five minutes in which to explain her wishes in relation to it, after which the question on referring to a standing committee will be taken without debate.

Rule 47. Printing recommended by committees under Rule 18(b) will be ordered by the Speaker, unless the House directs otherwise.

Rule 48. Once the morning hour expires, the House will proceed to the business of the House as defined in Rule 49; however, the Speaker will be permitted, without objection, to return to the morning hour for the purpose of recognizing any distinguished visitor or other individual defined in Rule 83 that may be present and seated on the floor or in the gallery.

The Calendar.

Rule 49. At the expiration of the morning hour, the House will proceed to consider bills, joint resolutions, and resolutions on the Calendar or any Supplemental Calendar which will be arranged in the following order:

1. Senate bills on third reading.
2. House bills on third reading.
3. House bills on second reading.
4. House bills and joint resolutions returned from Senate with amendments.
5. Resolutions.
6. Memorial and commending resolutions.
7. House bills returned by Governor without approval.
8. House bills returned by Governor with recommendations.
9. Senate bills returned by Governor without approval.
10. Senate bills returned by Governor with recommendations.
11. House bills and resolutions in conference.
12. Senate bills and resolutions in conference.
13. Unfinished business – House and Senate bills and joint resolutions.
14. Senate bills on second reading.
15. House bills on first reading.
16. Resolutions reported.
17. Senate bills and joint resolutions referred.
18. Bills referred.
19. Resolutions referred.
20. Resolutions presented.

The House may direct that bills and resolutions of either house be divided between the designations "Uncontested Calendar" and "Regular Calendar" and be considered in such order. When such a division is directed for bills and resolutions on the Calendar, the Uncontested Calendar will not include any bill or resolution (i) which received a dissenting vote or an abstention in committee, (ii) to which objection is made by any member, or (iii) if any non-technical floor amendment or any floor amendment in the nature of a substitute is offered. Any bill or resolution will be removed from the Uncontested Calendar and placed on the Regular Calendar at the request of any member rising from her seat for that purpose and stating the request for such legislation to be moved. Once legislation is moved to the Regular Calendar there it will remain.

A Pro Forma Calendar prepared for a pro forma session of the House will only contain new legislation reported from committee.

Supplemental Calendars may be prepared for consideration while the House remains in Session for the day and will be considered when called by the Speaker. Any Supplemental Calendar and the measures contained therein will be considered in the same manner as measures on the Calendar.

Rule 50. It will be the duty of the Clerk to see that the printing and engrossing, when ordered, will be done in such time that the bills and resolutions may be acted on according to their priorities on the Calendar.

Rule 51. If any bill or resolution is not ready for consideration when it is reached on the Calendar category it will be passed by temporarily and be allowed to retain its position on the Calendar. When the Calendar category has been called through, it may be called again in order to dispose of any business that may then be ready; otherwise it will be passed by for the day. Upon completion of the business on the Calendar, the business of the morning hour will be resumed.

Rule 52. The regular order of business herein established will not be changed, nor will any special order be made, except by vote of two-thirds of the members present. However, a majority may postpone the Calendar not exceeding one day at a time, or postpone for a specified time or purpose any subject coming up in order without changing its place, or agree to a joint order with the Senate, or postpone or discharge any special order.

V. Conduct of Business.

Order and Decorum.

Rule 53. The Speaker will preserve order and decorum, may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from her seat for that purpose, and will decide questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the House. If the decision relates to a question of decorum or propriety of conduct, it will not be debatable; if it relates to the priority of business or the relevancy or applicability of propositions, the appeal may be debated, but no member will speak on it more than once except by leave of the House.

Rule 54. When a member rises to speak she will respectfully address, "Madam Speaker," standing in her place; she will confine herself strictly to the question before the House, and when she has finished she will sit down.

Rule 55. When two or more members request to speak or rise at the same time the Speaker will name the person to speak.

Rule 56. Every motion or proposition will be reduced to writing, if desired by the Speaker or any member, and will be delivered at the Clerk's table to be there read; and the question will be stated by the Chair before the same will be debated. When the reading of any paper in possession of the House, not being the precise matter upon which the House is acting, is called for, and objection is made by any member, the question will be determined by a vote of the House without debate. Any motion or proposition may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before a decision, amendment, or other action of the body upon it, except a motion to reconsider which will not be withdrawn without leave of the House.

Rule 57. No member will in debate use any language or gesture calculated to wound, offend, or insult another member.

Rule 58. If any member, in speaking, transgress the Rules of the House, the Speaker will, or any member may, call her to order; in which case the member called to order will immediately take her seat unless permitted to explain. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair will be final. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, she will be at liberty to proceed; otherwise, she will not proceed, except by leave of the House. For frequent or repeated violations of order, especially if persisted in after the admonition of the Speaker, a member will be liable to the censure of the House.

Rule 59. If any member be called to order by another member for words spoken, the words excepted to will be immediately taken down in writing in order that the Speaker and House may be better able to judge the matter.

Rule 60. No member will, while the House is sitting, interrupt or hinder its business by standing up, leaving her place, moving about the Chamber, engaging in conversation, expressing approval or disapproval of any of the proceedings, or by any other conduct tending to disorder and confusion.

Rule 61. No member will speak more than once on any question until all others have spoken who desire to do so, nor more than twice, without the consent of a majority of the members present.

Ascertaining the Question.

Rule 62. If the question for decision includes several distinct propositions any member may have the same divided, but a motion to strike out and insert will not be so divided; nor will a motion to strike out, being lost, preclude either amendment or a motion to strike out and insert. In filling blanks, the question will be put first upon the largest sum and the longest time or the broadest question.

Rule 62(a). No motion or proposition, or subject different from that under consideration, will be admitted under color of amendment.

Rule 62(b). The Speaker will determine all questions of germaneness relevant to any legislation under consideration by the House including House legislation and any amendments thereto communicated by the Senate or the Governor to the House for its action.

Rule 63. When a question is before the House, no motion will be received unless specially provided for, except to adjourn, lay upon the table, pass by indefinitely, postpone for a specified time or purpose, refer or rerefer, amend, or strike from the Calendar, which several motions will have precedence in the order in which they are arranged.

Rule 64. Upon the motion to pass by indefinitely, the mover will be allowed two minutes to state the reason for her motion, and one member opposed to the motion will be allowed a like time to object. The motion to lay upon the table, for the previous question, and for the pending question will not be debated; nor will debate be allowed on a motion to take up a subject from the table or to reconsider any question which was not debated. When a question not debatable is before the House all incidental questions arising after it is stated to the House will be decided and settled, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate; and the same rule will apply to incidental questions rising after any question is put to the House.

Pending and Previous Questions.

Rule 65. Pending a debate, any member who obtains the floor for the purpose only, and submits no other motion or remark, may move for the "previous question" or the "pending question," and in either case the motion will be forthwith put to the House. Two-thirds of the members present will be required to order the main question; however, a majority may require an immediate vote upon the pending question, whatever it may be.

Rule 66. The previous question will be in this form: "Will the main question now be put?" If carried, its effect will be to put an end to all debate and bring the House to a direct vote upon a motion to refer or rerefer, if pending; then upon amendments reported by a committee, if any; then upon pending amendments; and then upon the main question. If upon the motion for the previous question, the main question be not ordered, debate may continue as if the motion had not been made.

Taking the Vote.

Rule 67. The Speaker will rise to put a question, but may state it sitting. Questions will be distinctly put in substantially the following forms, viz.: "As many as agree that, etc. (as the question may be), say 'Aye,' " and "Those opposed say 'No.' " If the Speaker doubts or a division is called for, the House will divide with those in the affirmative of the question rising first from their seats and afterwards those in the negative, or by a show of hands in the affirmative and then in the negative. If required, the Speaker will cause the result to be ascertained by a count.

Rule 68. The yeas and nays on any question may be called for at any time before proceeding to another question or proposition but, being refused, they will not be again demanded on the same question. Any member will have a right to vote at any time before the decision is announced by the Chair.

Rule 69. Upon a division of the House on any question, a member who is present and fails to vote will on the demand of any member be counted on the negative of the question and when the yeas and nays are taken will, in addition, be entered on the Journal as present and not voting. However, no member who has an immediate and personal interest in the result of the question will either vote or be counted upon it.

Reconsideration.

Rule 70. When a question has been decided, it may be reconsidered on the motion of any member who voted with the prevailing side, provided it be made on the same day or within the next two days of actual session, as long as such action has not been communicated to the Senate or the Governor. The motion may be entered as a matter of privilege and will take precedence of everything except special orders and other questions of privilege and be disposed of in the morning hour or with the Calendar, as the case may be. All motions to reconsider will be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present.

Bills and Amendments.

Rule 71. Every bill will be read or printed on the Calendar by title on three different calendar days in the House previous to its being passed, and it will be distinctly announced or set out at each reading or printing on the Calendar, whether it is the first, second, or third time. A bill may be referred or rereferred at any time before its passage.

Rule 72. The first reading or printing on the Calendar of the House bill will be for information merely and, notwithstanding a motion to refer or rerefer to a committee or a motion to strike, it will go to second reading or printing on the Calendar without a question. The second reading or printing on the Calendar of a Senate bill will be for information merely and, notwithstanding a motion to refer or rerefer to a committee or a motion to strike, it will go to third reading or printing on the Calendar without a question.

Rule 73. Upon the second reading or printing on the Calendar of a House bill it will be open to amendment or to referral or rereferral or to any of the motions provided for in Rule 63, and the final question will be "Whether it will be engrossed and read or printed on the Calendar a third time?" Upon the third reading or printing on the Calendar of a Senate bill it will be open to amendment or to referral or rereferral or to any of the motions provided in Rule 63.

The Speaker may direct by notice to the House, or the House may determine by a majority vote, that there will be a deadline for the submission of any proposed floor amendment or floor amendment in the nature of a substitute (floor substitute) to the House version of the Budget Bill(s). The deadline for submission of any floor amendment or floor substitute will be 24 hours prior to the commencement of the Special Order set for the consideration of the Budget Bill(s). Any floor amendment or floor substitute offered after the deadline for submission may be considered if (i) it is an amendment that has been approved by the Committee on Appropriations or (ii) it is offered as a technical amendment or clarifying amendment to a previously submitted floor amendment or floor substitute and is germane to the purpose of the original floor amendment or floor substitute.

Rule 74. A House bill ordered to be engrossed will not have its third reading or printing on the Calendar until the engrossment is actually and properly done. However, in the case of a Senate bill, the engrossment will only apply to such amendments as may have been made in the House.

Rule 75. A House bill on its third reading will not be open for debate; however, any member may be recognized to speak to the legislation or offer motions. No amendment to a House bill will be received upon its third reading or printing on the Calendar by way of rider or otherwise, and no amendment involving an additional appropriation will be added to the general appropriation bill, and no amendment to increase any tax will be added to any tax measure, unless either such amendment be to carry into effect an existing law or unless it received the vote required to pass the bill itself. A Senate amendment to a House bill to be concurred in, or a conference report to be adopted, must receive the same recorded vote as required to pass the bill itself.

Rule 75(a). If the Senate refuses to concur in the amendments of the House and so communicates such action to the House, the House may vote to recede from its amendments and subsequently pass the legislation in the form originally passed by the Senate or insist on its amendments and request a committee of conference with the Senate. Conversely, the House in considering Senate amendments to House legislation will wait for communication by the Senate that they have voted to insist on their amendments and request a committee of conference whereby the House may agree to the request for a committee of conference.

Rule 75(b). Upon an affirmative vote to form a committee of conference, the Speaker will appoint the House membership to the committee. A majority of the members of each house on the committee of conference will agree to the committee of conference report prior to its submission and consideration by the House. If a committee of conference is unable to reach agreement and reports such action to the House, the Speaker may appoint new conferees or, upon the motion of a member and an affirmative vote of the House, a new set of conferees will be appointed. In addition, if a committee of conference report is considered and rejected, the House may agree by a majority vote of the members present to request an additional committee of conference.

Rule 75(c). Any conference committee on the Budget Bill will complete its deliberations and make the report of such conference available to the House as soon as practicable. The House will consider such conference report no earlier than 48 hours after receipt, unless the House determines to proceed earlier by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting. The conference report will clearly state the funding of any nonstate agencies, any item that was not included in the Budget Bill as passed by either house, and any provisions from legislation that failed during that session.

Rule 76. On the third reading or printing on the Calendar of a bill, the question will be, "Shall the bill pass?"

Rule 77. The title of a bill and all amendments offered will be entered upon the Journal, except that amendments in the nature of substitutes may be printed separately and only the titles thereof entered upon the Journal.

Withdrawals of Exhibits.

Rule 78. Original papers, filed as exhibits with any bill or resolution, may be withdrawn by the patron or she may leave attested copies, for which she will pay the Clerk at the rate provided by law for other copies made by her.

Messages.

Rule 79. It will be the duty of the Clerk, without any special order therefor, to communicate to the Senate any action of the House upon business coming from the Senate or upon matters requiring the concurrence of that body; however, no such communication will be made in relation to any action of the House while it remains open for consideration.

Manual and Rules.

Rule 80. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Jefferson's Manual will govern the House in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House and such joint rules as are or may from time to time be established by the two houses of the General Assembly.

Rule 81. The Rules of the House will be adopted in even-numbered years by a majority vote of members elected and will remain in effect upon adoption and coinciding with the terms of members. The Rules may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to be ascertained by an actual division of the House except as prohibited by the Constitution; provided that a motion to discharge a committee from the consideration of a bill will require a majority of those voting, which will include two-fifths of the members elected to the House, the vote thereon to be taken by yeas and nays and recorded in the Journal; and provided further, that a motion to dispense with the printing and reading of a bill, or its printing on the Calendar, or either, will not be entertained, except as provided by the Constitution.

A proposition to change a rule of the House will be submitted in writing and forthwith printed. In its printed form it will lie upon the Speaker's table for five days and be read by the House during the morning hour of each day during that time. At the expiration of five days it will

be ready for consideration and may be adopted or rejected by a majority vote of the members elected; provided that as to all resolutions or bills which involve an appropriation or expenditure of money by the Commonwealth, or which may create a charge upon the treasury, the rule of the House will not be changed or suspended save by a vote of two-thirds of the members present to be ascertained by an actual division of the House.

Upon a motion to suspend a rule of the House the mover will be allowed two minutes to state the reasons for her motion, and one member opposed to the motion will be allowed a like time to object.

Chamber of the House of Delegates.

Rule 82. The Chamber of the House of Delegates will be used for no other purpose than the sessions of the House and for meetings of the committees and members of the legislature on public affairs except by vote of the House or the Rules Committee or with the approval of the Speaker during the interim or when the House is not convened at any time during a session of the General Assembly.

Rule 83. Only members of the General Assembly, former members, members of the Congress of the United States, State officers, judges, officers and employees of the General Assembly, and such other persons as the Speaker may designate will be permitted on the floor of the House during the session; however, the privileges granted hereunder will not be exercised by any person having business for compensation before the House or any committee thereof and the officers of this body will enforce this rule under the direction of the Speaker.

Capitol and Pocahontas Building.

Rule 84. The areas of the Capitol and the Pocahontas Building ("General Assembly Building") assigned to the House of Delegates, members of the House of Delegates, their legislative support staff, the clerical staff of the House of Delegates, the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the facilities and space for those charged with the maintenance, repair, and security of such building, and such space designated for the news media will not be utilized or occupied as office space by any other person or persons, except by vote of the House or the Rules Committee.

Rule 85. It is the policy of the Virginia House of Delegates to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of every member, full and part-time employee, page, intern, visitor, and guest of the Virginia House of Delegates. In keeping with this commitment, the House Committee on Rules will establish, by majority vote, a formal policy on the ability of members, staff, guests, and visitors to bring firearms into those areas under the legal authority of the House of Delegates including, but not limited to, the Capitol, the House Chamber, and the Pocahontas Building. The Committee may amend the policy, which may or may not include a blanket prohibition, from time to time as appropriate. Copies of the approved policy and any changes or amendments thereof will be provided to every member, full and part-time employee, page, and intern of the Virginia House of Delegates and be posted for the members of the public.

Applicability of Rules.

Rule 86. Any word in these Rules used in the feminine includes the masculine and neuter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PROCEDURES

Executive Session Motion

I move that the committee now adjourn to immediately reconvene in executive session pursuant to § 2.2-3711, subdivision ____ of the Code of Virginia, relating to discussion of _____.

Motion To Return To Regular Meeting

I move that the committee now adjourn the executive session to immediately reconvene and return to the committee's regular agenda.

Motion After Returning To Regular Meeting

I move that the clerk call the roll and that each member certify that to the best of her knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the joint rules committee, and further, that any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of items (i) and (ii) are asked to so state prior to the vote and indicate the substance of the departure that, in her judgment, has taken place.

Roll Call

Clerk calls the roll and all members certify to items (i) and (ii) as listed above.

**VOTES REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA,
THE RULES OF THE HOUSE, AND THE PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION**

BILLS:

(a) Ordinary	Majority of those voting.....	at least 40
	(Art. IV, Sec. 11)	
	(Same for Senate amendments and conference reports)	
(b) Appropriation Claim or demand of Commonwealth Debt or charge New office Tax	Majority of those elected	at least 51
	(Art. IV, Sec. 11)	
	(Same for Senate amendments and conference reports)	
(c) Amendment to charter Charter Special Act – county, city, town.....	2/3 of members elected	at least 67
	(Art. VII, Sec. 1)	
	(Same for Senate amendments and conference reports)	
DISCHARGING COMMITTEE	Majority of those voting.....	at least 40
	(Art. IV, Sec. 11)	
DISPENSING WITH READING AND/OR PRINTING OF BILL TO CODIFY THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY	4/5 of members voting	
	(Art. IV, Sec. 11)	
EMERGENCY CLAUSE	4/5 of members voting	
	(Art. IV, Sec. 13)	
GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	Majority of members present	
	(Art. V, Sec. 6)	
GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION NOT SPECIFIC AND SEVERABLE	Majority of members present	
	(Art. V, Sec. 6)	
OVERRIDE VETO AND PASS NOTWITHSTANDING	2/3 of members present	at least 51
	(Art. V, Sec. 6)	
PETITION SPECIAL SESSION	2/3 of members elected	
	(Art. V, Sec. 5)	
SUSPENSION OF RULES	2/3 of members elected	at least 67
	(House Rule 81)	

INDEX TO THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Numbers refer to Rule(s); Cites to Constitution of Virginia and Code of Virginia noted when applicable

Absence and Absentees

See: Committee of the Whole

See: Members of House

Accounts See: Clerk of House

Acts of Assembly

Effective, when (Const., IV, 13)

Enactment, method of (Const., IV, 11)

Object expressed in title (Const., IV, 12)

Stricken material and underscoring or italics..... 37

Adjournment

Day to day, any member may move 35

Motion for, not debatable 35

Motion to fix time, not debatable..... 35

Amendments

Appropriation bill, vote required 75

Communication by Senate or Governor 62(b)

Concurrence in amendment by other house
(Const., IV, 11)..... 75

Conference reports, votes required 75

Entered on Journal 77

Form for deletions and additions 37

Germaneness 62(b)

Governor's recommendation, votes required 75

Handling 7

Insist on 75(a)

Not received on third reading of House bills 75

Recede from 75(a)

Received on third reading of Senate bills 73

Rider, no amendment to House bill by, on
third reading 75

Senate refusal to concur..... 75(a)

Subjects not germane, not admitted under
color of 62(a)

Substitutes may be printed separately 77

Votes required (Const., IV, 11)..... 75

Appeals

Allowed from ruling of Speaker on certain
subjects debatable..... 53

Ruling on point of order not debatable 53

Appropriation Act and Appropriation Bill

See: Bills

Ascertaining the Question

Division of question 62

Germane subject 62(b)

Order of priorities 63

Attendance See: Members of House

Bills

Acted on 50

Amendment for purpose of study prohibited 37

Amendments agreed to not to be handled
except by clerks until engrossed..... 7

Bills – Continued

Amendments, second reading of House bills,
third reading of Senate bills 73

Amendments, votes required
(Const., IV, 11)..... 75

Appropriation Act, compensation of
members of committee study 20

Appropriation bill, vote required for
amendments to 75

Approval, by Governor (Const., V, 6)

Budget Bill, Conference Committee
deliberations 75(c)

Budget Bill, deadline for submission of floor
amendment(s) or substitute 73

Calendar, placement on Uncontested and
Regular 49

Calling for information not acted upon until
examined and reported by committee 38

Committee discharged from consideration
of (Const., IV, 11)..... 81

Continued legislation 22

Co-patrons..... 37

Designation not to be changed after
introduction 37

Electronic filing (e-filing) 37

Engrossment 7, 50, 73, 74

Enrolled, signed by Speaker..... 5

Exhibits with..... 78

Filed prior to commencement of session..... 37

Filed with Clerk, requirements..... 37

Form required before received 37

Introduction..... 37, 38
Maximum number in odd-numbered year 37

Involving appropriation..... 81

Italics or underscoring..... 37

Journal, what parts entered on..... 77

Legislative continuity (Const., IV, 7)..... 22

List printed..... 7

Manual filing..... 37

Numbering 37

Odd-numbered year introduction 37

Passage, roll required (Const., IV, 11)

Passed by on Calendar 51

Patrons and co-patrons, number, signatures 37

Printing 18(b), 37, 47, 50
Dispensed with (Const., IV, 11) 81

Titles in Calendar..... 18(c), 44, 71-75, 76

Reading, requirement for House bills 71

First..... 44, 72

Motion to strike 72

Second 73

Third 75

Member may speak or offer motions 75

Dispensed with (Const., IV, 11) 81

Bills – Continued

Reading, requirement for Senate bills	
First	43
Second.....	44, 72
Motion to strike.....	72
Third.....	72, 73
Dispensed with (Const., IV, 11)	81
Referred by committee	18(c)
Referred or rereferred to	
committee.....	7, 22, 37, 71, 72, 73
Reports, from committee	18(c), 44
In form to carry into effect recommendation	
of committee	18(b)
Requirements, referred and reported	
(Const., IV, 11a)	
Printed (Const., IV, 11b)	
Read on three days (Const., IV, 11c)	
Review by Speaker	37
Rider, no amendment to House bill by, on	
third reading	75
Senate patrons.....	37
Signed by Speaker (Const., IV, 11)	5
Stricken material.....	37
Substitutes may be printed separately.....	77
Titles entered on Journal.....	77
Unanimous consent to introduce.....	37
Veto by Governor (Const., V, 6)	
Votes required (Const., IV, 11)	
Withdrawals of exhibits.....	78

Blanks

Filling in	62
------------------	----

Budget Bill See: Bills**Calendar**

Bills and resolutions originating in Senate, read or	
printed on	43
Bills or resolutions not ready for	
consideration under category.....	51
Bills reported, placed on.....	22, 44
Changes not made in order of, except	
by 2/3 vote.....	52
Dispensing of printing of bill on.....	81
Kept by Clerk	7
Measures passed by	51
Memorial or commending resolutions	
or joint resolutions placed on	39(a)
Order of business on.....	49, 52
Postponement of	52
Printing	7
By title.....	18(c), 44, 71-75
Priorities on	50
Pro Forma	49
Recalling of	51
Recorded vote of committee to be	
printed in	18(c)
Removal from Uncontested to Regular.....	49
Supplemental	49
Uncontested and Regular.....	49

Call of House

By whom made	31
Electronic voting system.....	32, 33
Members	
Called alphabetically, except Speaker	32
Custody of	33
Discharge of.....	34
Procedure	33

Call of Names See: Members of House**Capitol**

Use of.....	84
-------------	----

Caucus, Majority, Member/Nonmember

Members on Standards of Conduct	
Subcommittee appointed by Speaker.....	23
Members on standing committees.....	16(a)

Censure See: Members of House**Chairman of Committee See: Committees****Chamber of the House of Delegates**

Clearing of floor.....	4, 12
Convening in another location	4
Limited access during emergency circumstance ..	4
News media, assigned places	4
Sergeant at Arms in charge of policing	
under direction of Speaker.....	12
Under supervision of Speaker	4
Use of.....	82
Who allowed on floor of	48, 83

Charters of Cities and Towns

Amended by 2/3 vote (Const., VII, 1)	
--------------------------------------	--

Clerk of House

Accounts kept by and certified to Comptroller	8
Acting, Speaker may appoint	6
Bills	
Filing with	37
Handling of amendments.....	7
List of, printed by	7
Referred by, under direction of Speaker	37
Calendar, kept by	7
Clerical business and committees	6(a)
Committee reports.....	18(d)
Communications to Senate.....	79
Continued legislation entered upon Journal	22
Continues in office	6
Duties in general	6-9
Election of.....	6
Emergency circumstance	
Electronic communication means, method	
determined by	4
Limits access to physical location	
of proceedings	4
Journal, kept by	7
Signed by.....	3
Members, compensation of, account kept by	8, 9
Mileage and expenses	9
Office space, assignment by	6(b)
Seating in Chamber	6(b)
Messages to Senate, communicated by	79
Oaths of office, filed with	14
Page program, administration of.....	6(a)

Clerk of House – Continued

Personnel, employment of	6(a)
Postage	8
Printing and engrossing	50
Seats of members, assigned by	6(b)
Stationery provided by	8
Term	6
Vacancy in office of	6
Viva voce roll call by	33
Withdrawal of original papers by patron	78
Writs and warrants issued by order of House, attested by	5

Co-Patron See: Patron/Co-Patron**Committee of Conference**

House membership appointed by Speaker	75(b)
Report, how adopted (Const., IV, 11)	75, 75(a), 75(b)
See: Jefferson's Manual, Sec. XLVI	
Request, how agreed to	75(a)

Committee of the Whole

Absentees, reported to House	28
House stands resolved into, until business completed	26
Motion to go into or to discharge, not debatable	29
Order of business	27
Presiding members	25
Previous question will not be ordered	25
Quorum, how obtained	28
Rules of House govern	25
Subject referred, reported back if not completed	26
Unfinished business of House if not completed in	26

Committees

Ad hoc	17(b)
Additional staff	20
Annual message of Governor to be considered by	42
Appointment, chairmen, procedures, etc.	15-22
Apportionment of members	16(a)
Bills	
Discharge from consideration (Const., IV, 11)	81
Referred to	37, 43
Report on	18(b), 44
Caucus of members	16(a)
Chairman, appointment of subcommittees	17(a)
Calling of meetings	17, 19
Conduct of business in accordance with Rules of the House	18(e)
Designated only on one committee unless serving as Speaker	15
Ex-officio members of subcommittees	17(a)
Congressional district representation	16(b)
Continued legislation report	22

Committees – Continued

Discharge, majority, at least 2/5 of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	81
Duties of, in general	17-18(e)
Executive session	18(b)
Expert testimony	20
Interim, calling of meetings	22
Joint Rules Committee designation	16(14)
Joint vote of two houses	1
Legislation reported to floor without specific recommendation	18(a)
Legislation, suggested by	18
Listed	16
Meetings	4, 17, 17(c), 18(e), 19
Members, minimum number	16(b)
Ratio	16(a)
Messages of Governor referred to	42
Not to meet during sessions of House	17
Number comprising	16
Order and decorum	18(e)
Papers from	18(b)
Public officers, investigated by	18
Questions before	
Motions to be reconsidered	18(a), 22
Motions to be seconded	18(a)
Quorum	17, 17(a), 17(b), 18(e)
Reconsideration of question before	18(a), 22
Recorded vote required	18(c)
Referred measures	18, 18(c), 37
Reports of	18(b), 18(c), 18(d), 22
Handed to Clerk	18(d)
How disposed of	18(d), 45
Requiring immediate action	18(d)
Resolutions and joint resolutions, referred to	37, 46
Scheduling not to be in conflict	17
Senate, conference with	18
Speaker, chairman of Rules Committee	15
Special leave	17
Standing	15-22
Subcommittees of	16(a), 17(a), 17(c), 18, 21, 23
Meeting opposite standing committees	17(c)
Studies, conduct of business of	21
Vice chairman designated	15
Calling of meetings	19
Vote, recorded	18(a)
Vote in, open session	18(b)
Voting, on call of Chairman	18(b)

Communications to/from Senate See: Senate**Compensation of Members** See: Members of House**Conduct of Business**

Procedures	53-61
Subcommittees	21

Conduct of Members See: Members of House**Conflict of Interests** See: Members of House**Constitution** See: Speaker of House**Continued Legislation** See: Bills

Convening Hour See: House of Delegates

Courts of Justice, Committee for

Certification of judgeships..... 1

Debates

Conduct and decorum..... 60

Language not allowed in..... 57

Motions not debatable (See: Motions and
Questions Not Debatable)

Not allowed on House bills on third reading 75

Number of times member may speak 61

Speaker may participate in..... 2

Speaker to call members to order for
transgressing Rules of the House 58

See: Jefferson's Manual, Sec. XVII

Decorum See: Order and Decorum

Division of House

How called for 67

Member not voting counted in negative 69

Show of hands 67

When member entered on Journal 69

Division of Question

May be divided..... 62

Motion to strike out and insert not divisible 62

Documents See: Bills

Doorkeepers

Appointment and duties..... 10-13

Economic Interests See: Members of House

Elections

Block voting 1

Method of conducting..... 1

Of Clerk..... 6

Of Sergeant at Arms 10

Of Speaker..... 2

Electronic Communication Means

Used during emergency circumstance 4

Electronic Voting System

Call of House and roll taken 32, 33

Use in committees or subcommittees 18(c)

Use in elections..... 1

Voting for Speaker 2

Emergency Acts

4/5 of those voting required (Const., IV, 13)

Emergency Circumstance

Legislative activities conducted by electronic
communication means 4

Engrossment

Bills for, on second reading 73

Clerk's duties 7, 50

Must be done before third reading 74

What in case of Senate bill 74

Executive Session See: Committees

Exhibits See: Bills

Firearms Policy

Ability to carry 85

General Assembly

Privilege of members (Const., IV, 9)

Qualifications of members (Const., IV, 4, 7)

Salary of members (Const., IV, 5)

Time and duration of session (Const., IV, 6)

General Assembly Building

Use of..... 84

Germane Subject

Consideration by standing committees 18, 19

Speaker determination 62(b)

Subject not germane, not admitted under
color of amendment..... 62(a)

Governor

Annual message of..... 41

Call for information from, not considered until
reported by committee 38

Duties in regard to bills (Const., V, 6)

Messages from, received any time,
disposition 36, 42

Recommendation of,
how agreed to (Const., V, 6)..... 75

Guests and Visitors See: House of Delegates

Harassment

Protection against..... 23(a)

Training, reporting, investigating,
and resolving 23(a)

House of Delegates

Attendance and adjournment..... 30-35

Business of..... 48, 49-52

Called to order by Speaker..... 3

Chamber of, under supervision of Speaker 4

Committee of conference, agreement by..... 75(b)

Committees not to meet during session..... 17

Consideration of Budget Bill Conference
Report 75(c)

Consideration of Senate amendments 75(a)

Elects own officers (Const., IV, 7)..... 2, 6, 10

General Assembly Building, use of..... 84

Guests and visitors 40, 48, 85

Membership (Const., IV, 3)

Qualification of members (Const., IV, 4, 7)

Roll taken..... 32

Session conducted by electronic
communication means 4

Improper Language or Gesture

See: Members of House

See: Order and Decorum

Introduction of Business

Bills calling for information, referred 38

Bills, etc., may be handed to Clerk 37

Messages from Governor or other public
officer or agent 36

Presentation in morning hour..... 39

Jefferson's Manual See: Rules of the House

Joint Resolutions See: Resolutions

Joint Rules Committee See: Committees

Joint Vote See: Committees

Journal

Bills and resolutions referred to committee and entered upon	37
Clerk to keep	7
Committee of the Whole, roll	28
Continued legislation report entered upon	22
Examined, approved, and signed	3, 7, 40
Leave of members entered upon	30
Names of members entered upon	3
Reading if approval not agreed to	3
Record of the House	3
Requirement as to (Const., IV, 10)	
Title of bill and amendments offered, entered upon	77
Vote recorded in	1, 2

Judges

Casting of vote by member	1
Certification required	1

Leave of Absence See: Members of House

Legislation

See: Bills
See: Resolutions

Mace See: Sergeant at Arms

Main Question See: Previous Question

Majority Leader

Duties as Speaker pro tempore	2
-------------------------------------	---

Members of House

Absence	30, 31
Absentees noted	33
Addressing Chair	54
Adoption of Rules of the House	81
Advisory opinion	23
Appeal from ruling of Chair	53, 58
Attendance	4, 18(e), 30-34
Bill introduction, maximum in odd-numbered year	37
Bills or resolutions presented	37-39(a), 46
Calendar, request to move legislation from Uncontested to Regular	49
Call of names	32, 33
Called to order for transgression of Rules of the House	58
Called to order, words excepted to, taken down in writing	59
Censure, liable to, for repeated violation of Rules of the House	58
Committee appointments	15-22
Congressional representation	16(b)
Majority caucus, member/nonmember representation	16(a)
Minimum number	16(b)
Committee meetings, not to be excluded	18(e)
Compensation, accounts kept by Clerk	8, 9

Members of House – Continued

Conflict of interests	69
Debate, times allowed to speak	61
Decorum	57, 60
Discharged from custody	34
Economic interests	23
Fees and expenses, payment of	9, 34
General Assembly Building, use of	84
Language or gesture, use of	57
Leave of absence entered upon Journal	30
Messages intended for or sent by, Sergeant at Arms to receive and dispatch	13
Mileage and expenses	9
Motion to adjourn	35
Names called/taken	3, 32, 33
Office space, use of	6(b), 84
Personal interest	69
Postage, provided to members by Clerk	8
Present and not voting	69
Process (Const., IV, 9)	
Quorum	3
Roll call	3, 32, 33
Alphabetically arranged, except Speaker	32
Seating	6(b)
Speak to or offer motion on third reading bills	75
Speaker, choice among	2
Recognizing member to rise and speak	55
Standards of conduct	23, 24
Stationery	8
Voting when not required	69
Vouchers for mileage and expenses of, payment by Clerk	9

Messages, Reports, and Communications

See: Governor
See: Senate

Morning Hour

Bills, etc. from Senate	43
Bills from committee	44
Business on Speaker's table	40
Committee reports, disposition of	18(d)
Expiration	48, 49
Governor's annual message	41
Introduction of business	39
Journal, approval and signing of	40
Messages from Governor, other public officers, and Senate considered in	36, 42
Order of business	40
Previous business, disposition of	51
Printing of bills and resolutions	47
Reconsiderations, disposition of	70
Reports from committees	18(d), 45
Resolution or motion not referred to committee	39
Resumed after completion of business on Calendar	51
Return to	48
Rules of the House, change to be read	81
Time for discussion of resolution in	46

Motions

May be required to be reduced to writing	56
May be withdrawn before amendment	56
Motion to reconsider not to be withdrawn without leave of House.....	56
Offered on third reading House bills	75
Order of priorities	63
Pass by indefinitely.....	64
Precedence before Committee	
1. Adjourn.....	18(a)
2. Lay upon the table	18(a)
3. Pass by indefinitely.....	18(a)
4. Postpone for a specified time or purpose.....	18(a)
5. Refer or rerefer	18(a)
6. Amend or incorporate	18(a)
7. Strike from the docket.....	18(a)
8. Report	18(a)
Precedence before House	
1. Adjourn.....	63
2. Lay upon the table	63
3. Pass by indefinitely.....	63
4. Postpone for a specified time or purpose.....	63
5. Refer or rerefer	63
6. Amend	63
7. Strike from the Calendar.....	63
Reconsideration before committee	18(a)
Reconsideration, when made	40, 70
Refer memorial or commending joint resolutions or resolutions	39(a)
Special motion made only in Committee on Rules	18(a)
Strike out and insert.....	62
Suspend rules.....	81
Under Previous Question	
1. Refer or rerefer, if pending	66
2. Committee amendments, if any	66
3. Pending amendments	66
4. Main question	66

Motions and Questions Not Debatable

Adjourn, motion to, or fix time.....	35
Appeals, question on ruling on point of order	53
Committee of the Whole, motion	29
Discharge, motion	29
Election of Speaker.....	2
House bills on third reading.....	75
Incidental question after any question put	64
Incidental question to question itself not debatable	64
Journal read only if Speaker's approval not agreed to	3
Lay on table, motion.....	64
Pending question, motion	64
Previous question, motion	64
Reading of paper, question on, not being acted upon	56

Motions and Questions Not Debatable – Continued

Reconsider question not debated, motion to	64
Ruling on points of order, question.....	53
Speaker's decision on decorum or propriety of conduct, question	53
Take up a subject from the table, motion	64

News Media

Reporters for, assigned places in House Chamber by Speaker	4
Space in General Assembly Building.....	84

Nominations

For Speaker.....	2
Messages exchanged announcing for joint vote... 1	

Oaths of Office See: Clerk of House**Office Space**

Assignment by Clerk.....	6(b)
Use of.....	84

Order and Decorum

Addressing Chair	54
Appeal on question of order not debatable.....	53
Appeal on question of priority, relevancy, etc., debatable.....	53
Committee conduct	18(e)
House Chamber.....	4
Language or gestures not to be used	57
Member conduct	60
Members called to order, words to be taken down in writing	58, 59
Members transgressing Rules of the House	58
Number of times member allowed to speak	61
Order of debate	55
Policing of Chamber by Sergeant at Arms.....	12
Speaker, clearing House Chamber of spectators in case of disturbance	4
Decisions on questions of order not debatable.....	53
May speak first to points of order.....	53

Order of Business

Calendar arrangement	49
Morning hour	40-48
Not changed except by 2/3 vote.....	52

Orders See: Special Orders**Pages**

Appointment of.....	6(a)
---------------------	------

Pass By

Business on Calendar	
For the day.....	51
Indefinitely	64
Temporarily	51
Time allowed for reason for motion.....	64

Patron/Co-Patron

Adding names	37
Exhibits withdrawn by	78
Signature on bill, joint resolution, or resolution..37	

Pending Question

Effect of ordering	65
Majority necessary to order	65
No remarks submitted under motion for	65
Not debatable.....	64

Personal Interest See: Members of House

Personnel See: Clerk of House

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United

States See: Speaker of House

Point of Order See: Speaker of House

Postage See: Members of House

Present and Not Voting See: Members of House

Press See: News Media

Previous Question

Committee of Whole, cannot be called.....	25
Debate ended when ordered.....	66
Form of	66
No remarks submitted under motion for	65
Not debatable.....	64
2/3 vote necessary to order	65
Voting.....	66
See: Jefferson's Manual, Sec. XXXIV	

Printing

Bills	18(b), 37
Calendar	7
Change of rule of the House	81
Dispensing, for bills (Const., IV, 11).....	81
Documents.....	37, 47
Governor's annual message	41
Ordered by Speaker	47
Resolutions	18(b)
Substitutes	77

Privilege

Of members (Const., IV, 9)	
For privileged questions, see: Jefferson's Manual, Sec. XXXIII	

Privileges and Elections, Committee on

Election of Speaker due to vacancy.....	2
Standards of conduct, establishment for members	24

Public Officers See: Committees

Questions

Debatable.....	53
Division of.....	62
Order of priorities of.....	63
Privileged, see: Jefferson's Manual, Sec. XXXIII	
Putting in affirmative and then in negative.....	67
Show of hands	67

Questions Not Debatable

See: Motions and Questions Not Debatable

Quorum

Committee of the Whole, method of obtaining...	28
Committees.....	17, 17(a), 17(b)
Majority required for (Const., IV, 8)	
Members.....	3
Participation by electronic communication means	4

Radio and Television See: News Media

Reading Bills See: Bills

Reconsideration

Committee, question before	18(a)
How disposed of	70

Reconsideration – Continued

Motion for, by member on prevailing side.....	70
Motion for, not withdrawn except by leave of House	56
No debate on motion on question itself, not debatable.....	64
Precedence except special orders and questions of privilege.....	70
When made and when decided, motion may be entered as matter of privilege.....	70

Referrals or Rereferrals See: Bills

Regular Calendar See: Calendar

Reporters See: News Media

Resolutions

Acted on.....	50
Amendment for purpose of study prohibited.....	37
Calendar, placement on Regular and Uncontested	49
Committees report.....	18(b)
Constitutional amendments.....	5
Copies of.....	37
Designation not changed after introduction	37
Filing prior to commencement of session	37
Handed Clerk for referral, requirements	37
Immediate consideration in morning hour	39
Introduction.....	37-39(a)
Involving appropriation.....	81
Originating in Senate	43
Patrons and co-patrons.....	37
Placed on Calendar	39(a)
Presenting	46
Printing	18(b), 37, 47, 50
Recorded vote required for certain.....	39
Referral to committee	37, 39(a), 46
Reported by committee	38
Signing by Speaker	5
Speaker's table, dispensing of	40
Time allowed member presenting	46
Vote required of those authorizing study or expenditure of funds.....	39

Rider

See: Amendments

See: Bills

Roll Call See: Members of House

Rules, Committee on

Chamber of House of Delegates, vote by committee on for use of.....	82
Congressional appointment of members of, exception	16(b)
Duties when Speaker absent	2
Duties due to Speaker vacancy	2

Rules, Committee on – Continued

Election of Clerk due to vacancy	6
Establishment of firearms policy	85
Establishment of harassment policy	23(a)
General Assembly Building, vote by committee on for use of.....	84
Reporting bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the floor.....	18(a)
Speaker, chairman of committee on.....	15
Subcommittee on Standards of Conduct.....	23
Members consisting of members/nonmembers of majority caucus.....	23

Rules of the House

Adoption in even numbered years	81
Amendment in writing, printed, read 5 days, majority present	81
Change of	81
Committee of the Whole.....	25
Conduct of committees by	18(e)
Jefferson's Manual to govern when not inconsistent.....	80
Suspended as to resolutions or bills involving appropriation, etc., 2/3 of members present	81
Suspended by 2/3 of members elected.....	81
Use of feminine wording	86

Seats See: Clerk of House

Senate

Amendment by, on a House bill	75
Bills and resolutions from, referred to committee.....	43
Engrossment.....	74
Reading requirements.....	43, 44, 73
Communication from Clerk.....	79
Conference with committees	18
Joint orders with	52
Joint Rules Committee.....	16
Messages from.....	36
Messages to	79
Patrons on House bills or joint resolutions	37
Refusal to concur with House amendments....	75(a)

Sergeant at Arms

Appointment.....	10
Doorkeepers.....	10, 11, 33
Duties	10-13
Mace	13
Members, taken into custody by	33
Messages	13
Policing of Chamber.....	12
Printed matter distributed by	12
Process, executed by.....	11

Speaker of House

Absence, who to perform duties	2
Acting Speaker, appointment.....	2
Addressed, how to be.....	54
Bills signed by (Const., IV, 11)	5
Business on table.....	36, 39, 40
Call House to order.....	3
Call members to order	58
Chair vacated.....	2, 25

Speaker of House – Continued

Committee of conference, appointed by.....	75(b)
Committee of the Whole	25-29
Committees, members appointed by	15
Congressional district representation	16(b)
Granted leave to meet by	17
Members, apportionment.....	16(a), 16(b)
Conduction session by electronic communication means	4
Constitution, amendments signed by	5
Convening of House in another location.....	4
Debates, may participate in	2
Doorkeepers, appointed by	10
Duties in general	2-5
Election (Const., IV, 7)	2
Recorded in Journal	2
Term	2
Voting.....	2
Election of Clerk due to vacancy	6
Floor of House, may designate who allowed	83
Germaneness of legislation, determined by	62(b)
Governor's messages referred	42
House Chamber, supervision over	4
Approval of use of	82
Joint Rules Committee designated	16
Journal, examined, approved, and signed by...3,	40
Supervised and corrected.....	3
Leave of absence of members, granted by	30
Legislation, review of	37
Morning hour, permitted to return to	48
News media, assigned places by	4
Nominations for	2
Order, required to preserve	4, 53
Deciding question of appeals.....	53
Pages, appointed by	6(a)
Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States, directed by.....	3
Point of order, ruling of	53
Preference in speaking to points of order.....	53
Pro tempore, how long to preside	2
Question, will rise in putting.....	67
Recognizes member rising to speak	55
Removal from office 2/3 of members elected	2
Reports from committee.....	18(d), 45
Roll, arrangement on.....	32
Rules changes to lie on table of.....	81
Rules Committee, chairman of.....	15
Standards of Conduct Subcommittee, appointment of.....	23
Sergeant at Arms, execution of commands as directed by.....	11
Study committee, legislative commission, or joint subcommittee, appointment by	16(a)
Vacancy of office.....	2
Warrants issued by House, signed by.....	5
Writs issued by House, signed by	5

Special Orders See: Order of Business

Standards of Conduct

Duties of Privileges and Elections Committee....	24
Subcommittee of Rules Committee, members and duties	23

Standing Committees See: Committees

Stationery See: Members of House

Study Committees

Additional staff.....	20
Appointment by Speaker	16(a)
Compensation as provided in Appropriation Act	20
Conduct when same study created by both bodies	21
Provisions	20, 21

Substitute for Bill See: Printing

Unanimous Consent See: Bills

Uncontested Calendar See: Calendar

Viva Voce

Nominations for Speaker by	2
Voting by	1, 4, 32, 33

Votes Required

Absentees, ten members to compel attendance (Const., IV, 8).....	31
Adjourn, day to day (Const., IV, 8)	
Amendment, adding to general appropriation bill, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11).....	75
Amendment by other house (Const., IV, 11)	75
Appropriation of public or trust money or property, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Attendance, compelling by call of House	31
Bill, emergency, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 13)	
Ordinary, majority, at least 2/5 of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Bills, government of cities and towns, 2/3 of members elected (Const., VII, 1)	
Involving appropriation, charge, claim, debt, new office, tax, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Change of rule, after 5 days, majority present	81
Appropriation, expenditure or charge on treasury involved, after 5 days, 2/3 of members present	81
Charter (county, city, town), amendments, 2/3 of members elected (Const., VII, 1)	
Claim or demand of State, releasing, discharging, or commuting, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Committee, discharge (Const., IV, 11)	
Committee quorum	17(b)
Concurrence in amendment of other body (Const., IV, 11).....	75
Conference report (Const., IV, 11)	75
Constitutional amendments, majority of members elected to each body, twice before submitting to the people (Const., XII, 1) (Code, § 30-19)	
Constitutional Convention, majority of members elected (Const., XII, 2)	

Votes Required – Continued

Constitutional printing and reading, dispensing, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 11)	81
Debt or charge, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Debt, State, capital outlay, majority of members elected to each body, before submitting to people (Const., X, 9)	
Discharge committee, majority, at least 2/5 of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	81
Dispense with printing and reading, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 11)	81
Division of question, any member	62
Elections, majority of members voting	1
Emergency, dispensing with printing and reading, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 11)	
Emergency clause, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 13) (Code, § 1-12)	
Expel a member, 2/3 of members elected (Const., IV, 7)	
Extension of session, 2/3 of members elected (Const., IV, 6)	
Extra session, application to Governor by 2/3 of both bodies (Const., IV, 6) (Code, § 30-3)	
Governor, tie vote or contest, joint vote of two bodies (Const., V, 2)	
Governor's recommendation for amending bill, majority of members present (Const., V, 6)	
Impeachment by House, prosecution by Senate (Const., IV, 17)	
Joint order, majority of members present.....	52
Judges, removal (Const., VI, 10)	
Main question, 2/3 of members present	65
New office, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Order of business, change, 2/3 of members present	52
Organization, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 8)	
Out of order, take up, 2/3 of members present	52
Pass by, majority of members present.....	52
Pending question, majority of members present	65
Postpone Calendar for a day, majority of members present	52
Previous question, 2/3 of members present.....	65
Printing and reading dispensed, 4/5 of members voting (Const., IV, 11)	81
Proceed to business, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 8)	
Quorum, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 8)	
Reconsideration, majority of members present ...	70
Resolutions authorizing study or expenditure of funds.....	39
Resolutions without reference to a standing committee, 2/3 of members elected	39

Votes Required – Continued

Rules, change, majority of members elected, 2/3 of members present involving appropriation or expenditure, each case after 5 days	81
Speaking more than twice on one question, majority of members present.....	61
Special order, 2/3 of members present.....	52
Suspension of rules, 2/3 of members elected.....	81
Tax, majority of members elected (Const., IV, 11)	
Veto, to override, 2/3 of members present, which will include majority of members elected (Const., V, 6)	
Yeas and nays, 1/5 of members present (Const., IV, 10)	

Voting

Before decision announced.....	68
Committee	18(c)
Elections	
Block	1
Joint vote of two houses	1
Journal, recorded in	1, 2
Majority necessary	1, 2
Viva voce	1, 2
Electronic voting system	1, 2, 18(c), 32, 33
Member, right to have vote recorded.....	68
Personal interest, member not to vote.....	69
Question put by Speaker.....	67
Subcommittee.....	18(c)
Yeas and nays, when taken.....	67, 68

Warrants See: Speaker of House

Withdrawals of Exhibits See: Bills

Writs See: Speaker of House

Yeas and Nays

Called by 1/5 of those present (Const., IV, 10)	
Member present and not voting	69
Once refused cannot be again demanded.....	68
Putting question in affirmative and then in negative	67
When called for	68