

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, That the following are adopted as the permanent rules of the House of Representatives of the 80th [~~79th~~] Legislature:

RULES OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE
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STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION AND PRECEDENCE

Pursuant to and under the authority of Section 11, Article III, Texas Constitution, and notwithstanding any provision of statute, the House of Representatives adopts the following rules to govern its operations and procedures. The provisions of these rules shall be deemed the only requirements binding on the House of Representatives under Section 11, Article III, Texas Constitution, notwithstanding any other requirements expressed in statute.

RULE 1. DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER

CHAPTER A. DUTIES AS PRESIDING OFFICER

Sec. 1. ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES. The speaker shall enforce, apply, and interpret the rules of the house in all deliberations of the house and shall enforce the legislative rules prescribed by the statutes and the Constitution of Texas.

Sec. 2. CALL TO ORDER. The speaker shall take the chair on each calendar day precisely at the hour to which the house adjourned or recessed at its last sitting and shall immediately call the members to order.

Sec. 3. LAYING BUSINESS BEFORE THE HOUSE. The speaker shall lay before the house its business in the order indicated by the rules and shall receive propositions made by members and put them to the house.

Sec. 4. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO COMMITTEE. All proposed legislation shall be referred by the speaker to an appropriate standing or select committee with jurisdiction, subject to correction by a majority vote of the house. A bill or

1 resolution may not be referred simultaneously to more than one
2 committee.

3 Sec. 5. PRESERVATION OF ORDER AND DECORUM. The speaker
4 shall preserve order and decorum. In case of disturbance or
5 disorderly conduct in the galleries or in the lobby, the speaker may
6 order that these areas be cleared. No signs, placards, or other
7 objects of similar nature shall be permitted in the rooms, lobby,
8 gallery, and hall of the house. The speaker shall see that the
9 members of the house conduct themselves in a civil manner in
10 accordance with accepted standards of parliamentary conduct and
11 may, when necessary, order the sergeant-at-arms to clear the aisles
12 and seat the members of the house so that business may be conducted
13 in an orderly manner.

14 Sec. 6. RECOGNITION OF GALLERY VISITORS. On written
15 request of a member, the speaker may recognize persons in the
16 gallery. The speaker shall afford that recognition at a convenient
17 place in the order of business, considering the need for order and
18 decorum and the need for continuity of debate. The request must be
19 made on a form prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.
20 The speaker may recognize, at a time he or she considers appropriate
21 during floor proceedings, the person serving as physician of the
22 day.

23 Sec. 7. STATING AND VOTING ON QUESTIONS. The speaker shall
24 rise to put a question but may state it sitting. The question shall
25 be put substantially in this form: "The question occurs on
26 _____" (here state the question or proposition under
27 consideration). "All in favor say 'Aye,'" and after the affirmative

1 vote is expressed, "All opposed say 'No.'" If the speaker is in
2 doubt as to the result, or if a division is called for, the house
3 shall divide: those voting in the affirmative on the question
4 shall register "Aye" on the voting machine, and those voting in the
5 negative on the question shall register "No." The decision of the
6 house on the question shall be printed in the journal and shall
7 include the yeas and nays if a record of the yeas and nays is
8 ordered in accordance with the rules.

9 Sec. 8. VOTING RIGHTS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The
10 speaker shall have the same right as other members to vote. If the
11 speaker, or a member temporarily presiding, has not voted, he or she
12 may cast the deciding vote at the time such opportunity becomes
13 official, whether to make or break a tie. If a verification of the
14 vote is called for and granted, the decision of the speaker, or a
15 member temporarily presiding, to cast the deciding vote need not be
16 made until the verification has been completed. In case of error in
17 a vote, if the correction leaves decisive effect to the vote of the
18 speaker, or a member temporarily presiding, the deciding vote may
19 be cast even though the result has been announced.

20 Sec. 9. QUESTIONS OF ORDER. (a) The speaker shall decide
21 on all questions of order; however, such decisions are subject to an
22 appeal to the house made by any 10 members. Pending an appeal, the
23 speaker shall call a member to the chair, who shall not have the
24 authority to entertain or decide any other matter or proposition
25 until the appeal has first been determined by the house. The
26 question on appeal is, "Shall the chair be sustained?"

27 (b) No member shall speak more than once on an appeal unless

1 given leave by a majority of the house. No motion shall be in order,
2 pending an appeal, except a motion to adjourn, a motion to lay on
3 the table, a motion for the previous question, or a motion for a
4 call of the house. Responses to parliamentary inquiries and
5 decisions of recognition made by the chair may not be appealed.

6 (c) Further consideration of the matter or proposition that
7 is the subject of a question of order is prohibited until the
8 speaker decides the question of order and any appeal of that
9 decision has been determined by the house. Consideration of any
10 other matter or proposition is also prohibited while a question of
11 order is pending, unless the question of order is temporarily
12 withdrawn and the matter or proposition that is the subject of the
13 question of order is postponed. Withdrawal of the question of order
14 does not prevent any member from raising that question of order when
15 the matter or proposition is again before the house.

16 Sec. 10. APPOINTMENT OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE AND TEMPORARY
17 CHAIR. The speaker shall have the right to name any member to
18 perform the duties of the chair and may name a member to serve as
19 speaker pro tempore by delivering a written order to the chief clerk
20 and a copy to the journal clerk. A permanent speaker pro tempore
21 shall, in the absence or inability of the speaker, call the house to
22 order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over
23 the deliberations of the house and perform other duties and
24 exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the speaker.
25 If the house is not in session, and a permanent speaker pro tempore
26 has not been named, or if the speaker pro tempore is not available
27 or for any reason is not able to function, the speaker may deliver a

1 written order to the chief clerk, with a copy to the journal clerk,
2 naming the member who shall call the house to order and preside
3 during the speaker's absence. The speaker pro tempore shall serve
4 at the pleasure of the speaker.

5 Sec. 11. EMERGENCY ADJOURNMENT. In the event of an
6 emergency of such compelling nature that the speaker must adjourn
7 the house without fixing a date and hour of reconvening, the speaker
8 shall have authority to determine the date and hour of reconvening
9 and to notify the members of the house by any means the speaker
10 considers adequate. Should the speaker be disabled or otherwise
11 unable to exercise these emergency powers, the permanent speaker
12 pro tempore, if one has been named, shall have authority to act. If
13 there is no permanent speaker pro tempore, or if that officer is
14 unable to act, authority shall be exercised by the chair of the
15 Committee on State Affairs, who shall preside until the house can
16 proceed to the selection of a temporary presiding officer to
17 function until the speaker or the speaker pro tempore is again able
18 to exercise the duties and responsibilities of the office.

19 Sec. 12. POSTPONEMENT OF RECONVENING. When the house is
20 not in session, if the speaker determines that it would be a hazard
21 to the safety of the members, officers, employees, and others
22 attending the legislature to reconvene at the time determined by
23 the house at its last sitting, the speaker may clear the area of the
24 capitol under the control of the house and postpone the reconvening
25 of the house for a period of not more than 12 hours. On making that
26 determination, the speaker shall order the sergeant-at-arms to post
27 an assistant at each first floor entrance to the capitol and other

1 places and advise all persons entering of the determination and the
2 time set for the house to reconvene. The speaker shall also notify
3 the journal clerk and the news media of the action, and the action
4 shall be entered in the house journal.

5 Sec. 13. SIGNING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS. All bills, joint
6 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions shall be signed by the
7 speaker in the presence of the house, as required by the
8 constitution; and all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by
9 order of the house shall be signed by the speaker and attested by
10 the chief clerk, or the person acting as chief clerk.

11 CHAPTER B. ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

12 Sec. 14. CONTROL OVER HALL OF THE HOUSE. The speaker shall
13 have general control, except as otherwise provided by law, of the
14 hall of the house, its lobbies, galleries, corridors, and passages,
15 and other rooms in those parts of the capitol assigned to the use of
16 the house; except that the hall of the house shall not be used for
17 any meeting other than legislative meetings during any regular or
18 special session of the legislature unless specifically authorized
19 by resolution.

20 Sec. 15. STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. (a) The
21 speaker shall designate the chair and vice-chair of each standing
22 substantive committee and shall also appoint membership of the
23 committee, subject to the provisions of Rule 4, Section 2.

24 (b) If members of equal seniority request the same
25 committee, the speaker shall decide which among them shall be
26 assigned to that committee.

27 (c) In announcing the membership of the standing

1 substantive committees, the speaker shall designate which are
2 appointees and which acquire membership by seniority.

3 (d) The speaker shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of
4 each standing procedural committee and the remaining membership of
5 the committee.

6 Sec. 16. APPOINTMENT OF SELECT AND CONFERENCE
7 COMMITTEES. (a) The speaker shall appoint all conference
8 committees. The speaker shall name the chair of each conference
9 committee, and may also name the vice-chair thereof.

10 (b) The speaker may at any time by proclamation create a
11 select committee. The speaker shall name the chair and vice-chair
12 thereof. A select committee has the jurisdiction, authority, and
13 duties and exists for the period of time specified in the
14 proclamation. A select committee has the powers granted by these
15 rules to a standing committee except as limited by the
16 proclamation. A copy of each proclamation creating a select
17 committee shall be filed with the chief clerk.

18 Sec. 17. INTERIM STUDIES. When the legislature is not in
19 session, the speaker shall have the authority to direct committees
20 to make interim studies for such purposes as the speaker may
21 designate, and the committees shall meet as often as necessary to
22 transact effectively the business assigned to them. The speaker
23 shall provide to the chief clerk a copy of interim charges made to a
24 standing or select committee.

25 CHAPTER C. CAMPAIGNS FOR SPEAKER

26 Sec. 18. PLEDGES FOR SPEAKER PROHIBITED DURING REGULAR
27 SESSION. During a regular session of the legislature a member may

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1 not solicit written pledges from other members for their support of
2 or promise to vote for any person for the office of speaker.

RULE 2. EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER A. DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE HOUSE

Sec. 1. CHIEF CLERK. (a) The chief clerk shall:

(1) be the custodian of all bills, ~~[and]~~ resolutions, and amendments;

(2) number in the order of their filing, with a separate sequence for each category, all bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and house resolutions;

(3) provide for the keeping of a complete record of introduction and action on all bills and resolutions, including the number, author, brief description of the subject matter, committee reference, and the time sequence of action taken on all bills and resolutions to reflect at all times their status in the legislative process;

(4) on the day of numbering a bill relating to a conservation and reclamation district created under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, send two copies of the bill, with two copies of the notice of intention to introduce the bill, to the governor and notify the journal clerk of the action;

(5) receive the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on a bill forwarded to the commission under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, attach them to the bill to which they apply, and notify the journal clerk that the recommendations have been filed;

(6) forward to the committee chair a certified copy of each legislative document referred to a committee along with certified copies of all official attachments to the document;

1 (7) have printed and distributed correct copies of all
2 legislative documents, as provided in the subchapter on printing,
3 and keep an exact record of the date and hour of transmittal to the
4 printer, return from the printer, and distribution of the document
5 to members of the house with that information time-stamped on the
6 originals of the document;

7 (8) certify the passage of bills and resolutions,
8 noting on them the date of passage and the vote by which passed,
9 including the yeas and nays if a record of the yeas and nays is
10 ordered;

11 (9) be responsible for engrossing all house bills and
12 resolutions that have passed second reading and those that have
13 passed third reading, and for enrolling all house bills and
14 resolutions that have passed both houses.

15 All engrossed and enrolled documents shall be prepared
16 without erasures, interlineations, or additions in the margin.

17 House concurrent resolutions passed without amendment
18 shall not be engrossed but shall be certified and forwarded
19 directly to the senate.

20 Engrossed riders may be used in lieu of full engrossment
21 on second reading passage;

22 (10) be authorized to amend the caption to conform to
23 the body of each house bill and joint resolution ordered engrossed
24 or enrolled;

25 (11) be responsible for noting on each house bill or
26 joint resolution, for certification by the speaker of the house,
27 the lieutenant governor, the chief clerk of the house, and the

1 secretary of the senate, the following information:

2 (A) date of final passage, and the vote on final
3 passage, including the yeas and nays if a record of the yeas and
4 nays is ordered. If the bill was amended in the senate, this fact
5 shall also be noted;

6 (B) date of concurrence by the house in senate
7 amendments, and the vote on concurrence, including the yeas and
8 nays if a record of the yeas and nays is ordered;

9 (C) date of adoption by each house of a
10 conference committee report and the vote on adoption, including the
11 yeas and nays if a record of the yeas and nays is ordered;

12 (D) that a bill containing an appropriation was
13 passed subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 49a, of the
14 Texas Constitution; and

15 (E) that a concurrent resolution was adopted by
16 both houses directing the correction of an enrolled bill, if
17 applicable;

18 (12) transmit over signature all messages from the
19 house to the senate, including typewritten copies of amendments to
20 senate bills;

21 (13) prepare copies of senate amendments to house
22 bills for the journal before the amendments and the bill or
23 resolution to which they relate are sent to the printer or to the
24 speaker;

25 (14) notify the speaker in writing that the senate did
26 not concur in house amendments to a bill or resolution and requests
27 a conference committee, and include in this notice the names of the

1 senate conferees;

2 (15) provide a certified copy of a house bill or
3 resolution which may be lost showing each parliamentary step taken
4 on the bill; and

5 (16) request fiscal notes on house bills and joint
6 resolutions with senate amendments and distribute fiscal notes on
7 house bills and joint resolutions with senate amendments and
8 conference committee reports as required by Rule 13, Sections 5 and
9 10.

10 (b) The chief clerk shall also:

11 (1) attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by
12 order of the house;

13 (2) provide for issuance of an identification card to
14 each member and employee of the house;

15 (3) receive reports of select committees and forward
16 copies to the speaker and journal clerk;

17 (4) not later than 30 days after the close of each
18 session, acquire from each of the various clerks of the house,
19 except the journal clerk, all reports, records, bills, papers, and
20 other documents remaining in their possession and file them with
21 the Legislative Reference Library, unless otherwise provided by
22 law;

23 (5) receive and file all other documents required by
24 law or by the rules of the house;

25 (6) prepare a roster of members in order of seniority
26 showing the number of years of service of each member, as provided
27 in Rule 4, Section 2; and

1 (7) have printed and distributed the list of Items
2 Eligible for Consideration as required by the rules.

3 (c) The chief clerk shall also provide for the following to
4 be made available on the electronic legislative information system
5 at the same time that the corresponding copies are placed in the
6 members' newspaper mailboxes:

7 (1) all house calendars and lists of items eligible
8 for consideration and the time-stamp information for those
9 calendars and lists; and

10 (2) the time-stamp information for all official
11 printings of bills and resolutions.

12 Sec. 2. JOURNAL CLERK. The journal clerk shall:

13 (1) keep a journal of the proceedings of the house,
14 except when the house is acting as a committee of the whole, and
15 enter the following:

16 (A) the number, author, and caption of every bill
17 introduced;

18 (B) descriptions of all congratulatory and
19 memorial resolutions on committee report, motions, amendments,
20 questions of order and decisions on them, messages from the
21 governor, and messages from the senate;

22 (C) the summaries of congratulatory and memorial
23 resolutions, as printed on the congratulatory and memorial
24 calendar;

25 (D) the number of each bill, joint resolution,
26 and concurrent resolution signed in the presence of the house;

27 (E) a listing of reports made by standing

1 committees;

2 (F) reports of select committees, when ordered by
3 the house;

4 (G) every vote where a record of the yeas and
5 nays is ordered or registration of the house with a concise
6 statement of the action and the result;

7 (H) the names of all absentees, both excused and
8 not excused;

9 (I) senate amendments to house bills or
10 resolutions, when concurred in by the house;

11 (J) the date each bill is transmitted to the
12 governor;

13 (K) the date recommendations of the Texas
14 Commission on Environmental Quality on each bill subject to Article
15 XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, are filed with the chief
16 clerk;

17 (L) all pairs as a part of a vote where a record
18 of the yeas and nays is ordered;

19 (M) reasons for a vote;

20 (N) the vote of a member on any question where a
21 record of the yeas and nays has not been ordered;

22 (O) the statement of a member who was absent when
23 a vote was taken indicating how the member would have voted; and

24 (P) official state documents, reports, and other
25 matters, when ordered by the house;

26 (2) prepare a daily journal for each calendar day that
27 the house is in session and distribute copies to the members of the

1 house on the succeeding calendar day or the earliest possible date;
2 and

3 (3) prepare and have printed a permanent house journal
4 of regular and special sessions in accordance with the law and the
5 following provisions:

6 (A) When completed, no more than 300 copies shall
7 be bound and distributed as follows:

8 (i) one copy to each member of the house of
9 representatives;

10 (ii) one copy to each member of the senate;
11 and

12 (iii) the remainder of the copies to be
13 distributed by the Committee on House Administration.

14 (B) The journal clerk shall not receive or
15 receipt for the permanent house journal until it has been correctly
16 published.

17 Sec. 3. READING CLERKS. The reading clerks, under the
18 supervision of the speaker, shall:

19 (1) call the roll of the house in alphabetical order
20 when ordered to do so by the speaker; and

21 (2) read all bills, resolutions, motions, and other
22 matters required by the rules or directed by the speaker.

23 Sec. 4. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. The sergeant-at-arms shall:

24 (1) under the direction of the speaker, have charge of
25 and maintain order in the hall of the house, its lobbies and
26 galleries, and all other rooms in the capitol assigned for the use
27 of the house of representatives;

1 (2) attend the house and the committee of the whole
2 during all meetings and maintain order under the direction of the
3 speaker or other presiding officer;

4 (3) execute the commands of the house and serve the
5 writs and processes issued by the authority of the house and
6 directed by the speaker;

7 (4) supervise assistants to the sergeant-at-arms who
8 shall aid in the performance of prescribed duties and have the same
9 authority, subject to the control of the speaker;

10 (5) clear the floor of the house of all persons not
11 entitled to the privileges of the floor at least 30 minutes prior to
12 the convening of each session of the house;

13 (6) bring in absent members when so directed under a
14 call of the house;

15 (7) not allow the distribution of any printed matter
16 in the hall of the house, other than newspapers that have been
17 published at least once a week for a period of one year, unless it
18 first has been authorized in writing by at least one member of the
19 house and the name of the member appears on the printed matter. The
20 sergeant-at-arms shall refuse to accept for distribution any
21 printed matter which does not bear the name of the member or members
22 authorizing the distribution;

23 (8) keep a copy of written authorization and a record
24 of the matter distributed in the permanent files of the house;

25 (9) enforce parking regulations applicable to areas of
26 the capitol complex under the control of the house and supervise
27 parking attendants; and

1 (10) supervise the doorkeeper.

2 Sec. 5. DOORKEEPER. The doorkeeper, under the supervision
3 of the sergeant-at-arms, shall:

4 (1) enforce strictly the rules of the house relating
5 to privileges of the floor and perform other duties as directed by
6 the speaker;

7 (2) close the main entrance and permit no member to
8 leave the house without written permission from the speaker when a
9 call of the house or a call of the committee of the whole is ordered,
10 take up permission cards as members leave the hall, and take up
11 permission cards of those who are admitted to the floor of the house
12 under the rules and practice of the house;

13 (3) obtain recognition from the speaker and announce a
14 messenger from the governor or the senate on arrival at the bar of
15 the house; and

16 (4) obtain recognition from the speaker and announce
17 the arrival of the governor or the senate on arrival at the bar of
18 the house for official proceedings in the house.

19 Sec. 6. CHAPLAIN. The chaplain shall open the first
20 session on each calendar day with a prayer and shall perform such
21 other duties as directed by the Committee on House Administration.

22 Sec. 7. VOTING CLERK. The voting clerk, under the
23 supervision of the speaker, shall:

24 (1) open and close the voting machine on registrations
25 and record votes as ordered by the speaker;

26 (2) record votes from the floor as directed by the
27 speaker;

1 (3) prepare official copies of all record votes for
2 the journal;

3 (4) make no additions, subtractions, or other changes
4 in any registration or record vote unless specifically granted
5 permission by the house or directed by the speaker prior to the
6 announcement of the final result; and

7 (5) lock the voting machine of each member who is
8 excused or who is otherwise known to be absent when the house is in
9 session until the member personally requests that the machine be
10 unlocked.

11 Sec. 8. COMMITTEE COORDINATOR. The committee coordinator
12 shall:

13 (1) under the direction of the Committee on House
14 Administration, prepare a schedule for regular meetings of all
15 standing committees as provided by Rule 4, Section 8(a);

16 (2) post committee meeting notices, as directed by the
17 chair of a committee, in accordance with Rule 4, Section 11(a);

18 (3) maintain duplicate originals of committee minutes
19 as required by Rule 4, Sections 18(c) and (d);

20 (4) maintain sworn statements from witnesses
21 appearing before committees and, under the direction of the
22 Committee on House Administration, prescribe the form of those
23 statements, as required by Rule 4, Sections 20(a) and (c);

24 (5) receive and forward impact statements as required
25 by Rule 4, Section 34(e);

26 (6) receive committee reports as required by Rule 4,
27 Section 37, and refer them for printing as provided by Rule 6,

1 Section 19; and

2 (7) receive and distribute the recommendations and
3 final reports of interim study committees as provided by Rule 4,
4 Section 61.

5 Sec. 9. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EMPLOYEES: CONFIDENTIALITY.

6 (a) Communications between an attorney employed by the Texas
7 Legislative Council and the speaker, another member of the house,
8 or an employee of a member or committee of the house are
9 confidential in accordance with the rules and laws concerning
10 attorney-client privilege.

11 (b) Communications between any employee of the Texas
12 Legislative Council and the speaker, another member of the house,
13 or an employee of a member or committee of the house are
14 confidential. The General Investigating and Ethics Committee of
15 the House may investigate an alleged violation of this subsection.

16 (c) This section does not prohibit the speaker, member, or
17 committee from waiving a privilege as otherwise permitted by law or
18 from waiving confidentiality under this section.

RULE 3. STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK. The committee shall have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

(1) agriculture, horticulture, and farm husbandry;

(2) livestock and stock raising, and the livestock industry;

(3) the development and preservation of forests, and the regulation, control, and promotion of the lumber industry;

(4) problems and issues particularly affecting rural areas of the state; and

(5) ~~(4)~~ the following state agencies: the Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Texas Forest Service, the Office of South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, the Office of Chief Apiary Inspector, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the ~~[Texas]~~ Food and Fibers Research Council ~~[Commission]~~, the State Seed and Plant Board, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, the Produce Recovery Fund Board, the Texas Structural Pest Control Board, the board of directors of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., the Office of Rural Community Affairs and the Texas Wildlife ~~[Animal]~~ Damage Management ~~[Control]~~ Service.

Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS. (a) The committee shall have 29 members, with jurisdiction over:

1 (1) all bills and resolutions appropriating money from
2 the state treasury;

3 (2) all bills and resolutions containing provisions
4 resulting in automatic allocation of funds from the state treasury;

5 (3) all bills and resolutions diverting funds from the
6 state treasury or preventing funds from going in that otherwise
7 would be placed in the state treasury; and

8 (4) all matters pertaining to claims and accounts
9 filed with the legislature against the state unless jurisdiction
10 over those bills and resolutions is specifically granted by these
11 rules to some other standing committee.

12 (b) The appropriations committee may comment upon any bill
13 or resolution containing a provision resulting in an automatic
14 allocation of funds.

15 Sec. 3. BORDER AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. The committee
16 shall have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters
17 pertaining to:

18 (1) the relations between the State of Texas and other
19 nations;

20 (2) international commerce and trade;

21 (3) international and border regions (as described in
22 Sections 2056.002(e)(2) and (3), Government Code) ~~area~~ economic
23 development, public health and safety issues affecting the border,
24 tourist development, and goodwill, and economic development,
25 tourist development, and goodwill in other areas of the state that
26 have experienced a significant increase in the percentage of the
27 population that consists of immigrants from other nations,

1 according to the last two federal decennial censuses or another
2 reliable measure; and

3 (4) the provision of public services to persons
4 residing in proximity to Texas' international border or in other
5 areas of the state that have experienced a significant increase in
6 the percentage of the population that consists of immigrants from
7 other nations, according to the last two federal decennial censuses
8 or another reliable measure.

9 Sec. 4. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. The committee shall have
10 nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

11 (1) industry and manufacturing;

12 (2) industrial safety and adequate and safe working
13 conditions, and the regulation and control of those conditions;

14 (3) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the
15 relationship between employers and employees;

16 (4) the regulation of business transactions and
17 transactions involving property interests;

18 (5) the organization, incorporation, management, and
19 regulation of private corporations and professional associations
20 and the Uniform Commercial Code and the Texas Revised Limited
21 Partnership Act;

22 (6) the protection of consumers, governmental
23 regulations incident thereto, the agencies of government
24 authorized to regulate such activities, and the role of the
25 government in consumer protection; ~~and~~

26 (7) privacy and identity theft;

27 (8) homeowners' associations; and

1 (9) the following state agencies: the State Office of
2 Risk Management, the Risk Management Board, the Division of [Texas]
3 Workers' Compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance
4 [Commission], the workers' compensation research and evaluation
5 group in the Texas Department of Insurance, the Office of Injured
6 Employee Counsel, including the ombudsman program of that office,
7 and the Texas Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors.

8 Sec. 5. CALENDARS (PROCEDURAL). The committee shall have
9 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

10 (1) the placement of bills and resolutions on
11 appropriate calendars, except those within the jurisdiction of the
12 Committee on Rules and Resolutions;

13 (2) the determination of priorities and proposal of
14 rules for floor consideration of such bills and resolutions; and

15 (3) all other matters concerning the calendar system
16 and the expediting of the business of the house as may be assigned
17 by the speaker.

18 Sec. 6. CIVIL PRACTICES. The committee shall have nine
19 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

20 (1) fines and penalties arising under civil laws;

21 (2) civil law, including rights, duties, remedies, and
22 procedures thereunder;

23 (3) civil procedure in the courts of Texas;

24 (4) administrative law and the adjudication of rights
25 by administrative agencies; and

26 (5) permission to sue the state.

27 Sec. 7. CORRECTIONS. The committee shall have seven

1 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

2 (1) the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted
3 felons;

4 (2) the establishment and maintenance of programs that
5 provide alternatives to incarceration;

6 (3) the commitment and rehabilitation of youths;

7 (4) the construction, operation, and management of
8 correctional facilities of the state and facilities used for the
9 commitment and rehabilitation of youths; and

10 (5) the following state agencies: the Texas
11 Department of Criminal Justice, the Board of Pardons and Paroles,
12 the Texas Youth Commission, the Council on Sex Offender Treatment,
13 the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental
14 Impairments, the Private Sector Prison Industries Oversight
15 Authority, and the Criminal Justice Policy Council.

16 Sec. 8. COUNTY AFFAIRS. The committee shall have nine
17 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

18 (1) counties, including their organization, creation,
19 boundaries, government, and finance and the compensation and duties
20 of their officers and employees;

21 (2) establishing districts for the election of
22 governing bodies of counties;

23 (3) regional councils of governments;

24 (4) multicounty boards or commissions;

25 (5) relationships or contracts between counties;

26 (6) other units of local government; and

27 (7) the following state agency: the Commission on

1 Jail Standards.

2 Sec. 9. CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE. The committee shall have
3 nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

4 (1) criminal law, prohibitions, standards, and
5 penalties;

6 (2) probation and parole;

7 (3) criminal procedure in the courts of Texas;

8 (4) revision or amendment of the Penal Code; and

9 (5) the following state agencies: the Office of State
10 Prosecuting Attorney and the Texas State Council for Interstate
11 Adult Offender Supervision.

12 Sec. 10. CULTURE, RECREATION, AND TOURISM. The committee
13 shall have seven members, with jurisdiction over:

14 (1) the creation, operation, and control of state
15 parks, including the development, maintenance, and operation of
16 state parks in connection with the sales and use tax imposed on
17 sporting goods, but not including any matter within the
18 jurisdiction of the Committee on Appropriations;

19 (2) the regulation and control of the propagation and
20 preservation of wildlife and fish in the state;

21 (3) the development and regulation of the fish and
22 oyster industries of the state;

23 (4) hunting and fishing in the state, and the
24 regulation and control thereof, including the imposition of fees,
25 finances, and penalties relating to that regulation;

26 (5) the regulation of other recreational activities;

27 (6) cultural resources and their promotion,

development, and regulation;

(7) historical resources and their promotion, development, and regulation;

(8) promotion and development of Texas' image and heritage;

(9) preservation and protection of Texas' shrines, monuments, and memorials;

(10) international and interstate tourist promotion and development;

(11) the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office as it relates to the subject-matter jurisdiction of this committee; ~~[and]~~

(12) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact; and

(13) the following state agencies: ~~[the Office of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact Commissioner for Texas,]~~ the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the State Cemetery Committee, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Texas Historical Commission, the State Preservation Board, the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, and an office of state government to the extent the office promotes the Texas music industry.

Sec. 11. DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS. The committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

(1) the relations between the State of Texas and the federal government;

(2) the relations between the State of Texas and other

1 sovereign states of the United States;

2 (3) the various branches of the military service of
3 the United States;

4 (4) the realignment or closure of military bases;

5 (5) the defense of the state and nation, including
6 terrorism response;

7 (6) emergency preparedness;

8 (7) veterans of military and related services; and

9 (8) the following state agencies: the Office of
10 State-Federal Relations, the Texas Military Facilities Commission,
11 the Adjutant General's Department, the Texas Veterans Commission,
12 the Veterans' [~~Veterans~~] Land Board, the Texas Military
13 Preparedness Commission, the Division of Emergency Management, and
14 the Emergency Management Council.

15 Sec. 12. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The committee shall have
16 seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

17 (1) commerce, trade, and manufacturing;

18 (2) economic and industrial development;

19 (3) job creation and job-training programs;

20 (4) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the
21 relationship between employers and employees;

22 (5) unemployment compensation, including coverage,
23 benefits, taxes, and eligibility;

24 (6) boiler inspection and safety standards and
25 regulation;

26 (7) labor unions and their organization, control,
27 management, and administration;

1 (8) weights and measures;

2 (9) advances in science and technology, including
3 telecommunications, electronic technology, and automated data
4 processing;

5 (10) the promotion of scientific research,
6 technological development, and technology transfer in the state;

7 (11) matters relating to cooperation of state and
8 local governments with the scientific and technological community,
9 which includes industry, the universities, and federal
10 governmental laboratories; and

11 (12) the following state agencies: the Texas Economic
12 Development and Tourism Office, the Texas Emerging Technology
13 Committee, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Workforce
14 Investment Council, and the Texas National Research Laboratory
15 Commission.

16 Sec. 13. ELECTIONS. The committee shall have seven
17 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

18 (1) the right of suffrage in Texas;

19 (2) primary, special, and general elections;

20 (3) revision, modification, amendment, or change of
21 the Election Code;

22 (4) the secretary of state in relation to elections;

23 (5) campaign finance;

24 (6) the duties and conduct of candidates for public
25 office and of persons with an interest in influencing public
26 policy; and

27 (7) the following state agencies: the Office of the

1 Secretary of State and the Texas Ethics Commission.

2 Sec. 14. ENERGY RESOURCES. The committee shall have seven
3 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

4 (1) the conservation of the energy resources of Texas;

5 (2) the production, regulation, transportation, and
6 development of oil, gas, and other energy resources;

7 (3) mining and the development of mineral deposits
8 within the state;

9 (4) the leasing and regulation of mineral rights under
10 public lands;

11 (5) pipelines, pipeline companies, and all others
12 operating as common carriers in the state;

13 (6) electric utility regulation as it relates to
14 energy production and consumption; and

15 (7) the following state agencies: the Railroad
16 Commission of Texas, the Office of Interstate Oil Compact
17 Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Interstate Mining Compact
18 Commissioner for Texas, the Texas Energy Coordination Council, and
19 the Office of Southern States Energy Board Member for Texas.

20 Sec. 15. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION. The committee shall
21 have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
22 to:

23 (1) air, land, and water pollution, including the
24 environmental regulation of industrial development;

25 (2) the regulation of waste disposal;

26 (3) environmental matters that are regulated by the
27 Department of State Health Services or the Texas Commission on

1 Environmental Quality;

2 (4) oversight of the Texas Commission on Environmental
3 Quality as it relates to environmental regulation; and

4 (5) the following state agencies: [~~the Texas~~
5 ~~Agriculture Resources Protection Authority,~~] the Texas Low-Level
6 Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission[~~7~~] and the board of
7 the Texas Environmental Education Partnership Fund.

8 Sec. 16. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. The committee shall have
9 seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

10 (1) banking and the state banking system;

11 (2) savings and loan associations;

12 (3) credit unions;

13 (4) the regulation of state and local bonded
14 indebtedness;

15 (5) the lending of money; and

16 (6) the following state agencies: the Finance
17 Commission of Texas, the Credit Union Commission, the Office of
18 Consumer Credit Commissioner, the Office of Banking Commissioner,
19 the Texas Department of Banking, the Department of Savings and
20 Mortgage Lending [~~Loan Department of Texas~~], the Texas Treasury
21 Safekeeping Trust Company, the Texas Public Finance Authority, and
22 the Bond Review Board.

23 Sec. 17. GENERAL INVESTIGATING AND ETHICS (PROCEDURAL).

24 (a) The General Investigating and Ethics Committee shall have five
25 members of the house appointed by the speaker. The speaker shall
26 appoint the chair and the vice-chair of the committee.

27 (b) The committee has all the powers and duties of a general

1 investigating committee and shall operate as the general
2 investigating committee of the house according to the procedures
3 prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and the
4 rules of the house, as applicable.

5 (c) The committee has jurisdiction over all matters
6 pertaining to the conduct of and ethical standards applicable to
7 state and local government officers and employees.

8 Sec. 18. GOVERNMENT REFORM. The committee shall have seven
9 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

10 (1) the organization, operation, powers, regulations,
11 and management of state departments, agencies, institutions, and
12 advisory committees;

13 (2) elimination of inefficiencies in the provision of
14 state services; and

15 (3) the following state agencies: the Texas Incentive
16 and Productivity Commission and the Sunset Advisory Commission.

17 Sec. 19. HIGHER EDUCATION. The committee shall have nine
18 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

19 (1) education beyond high school;

20 (2) the colleges and universities of the State of
21 Texas; and

22 (3) the following state agencies: the Texas
23 Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension
24 Service, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas
25 Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the State Medical Education
26 Board, the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, and the Texas
27 Transportation Institute.

1 Sec. 20. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION (PROCEDURAL). (a) The
2 committee shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

3 (1) administrative operation of the house and its
4 employees;

5 (2) the general house fund, with full control over all
6 expenditures from the fund;

7 (3) all property, equipment, and supplies obtained by
8 the house for its use and the use of its members;

9 (4) all office space available for the use of the house
10 and its members;

11 (5) the assignment of vacant office space, vacant
12 parking spaces, and vacant desks on the house floor to members with
13 seniority based on cumulative years of service in the house, except
14 that the committee may make these assignments based on physical
15 disability of a member where it deems proper;

16 (6) all admissions to the floor during sessions of the
17 house;

18 (7) all proposals to invite nonmembers to appear
19 before or address the house or a joint session;

20 (8) all radio broadcasting and televising, live or
21 recorded, of sessions of the house;

22 (9) the electronic recording of the proceedings of the
23 house of representatives and the custody of the recordings of
24 testimony before house committees, with authority to promulgate
25 reasonable rules, regulations, and conditions concerning the
26 safekeeping, reproducing, and transcribing of the recordings, and
27 the defraying of costs for transcribing the recordings, subject to

1 other provisions of these rules;

2 (10) all witnesses appearing before the house or any
3 committee thereof in support of or in opposition to any pending
4 legislative proposal; and

5 (11) the following state agency: the State
6 Preservation Board.

7 (b) The committee must vote to adopt the annual budget for
8 each house department.

9 Sec. 21. HUMAN SERVICES. The committee shall have nine
10 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

11 (1) welfare and rehabilitation programs and their
12 development, administration, and control;

13 (2) oversight of the Health and Human Services
14 Commission as it relates to the subject matter jurisdiction of this
15 committee;

16 (3) mental retardation and the development of programs
17 incident thereto;

18 (4) the prevention and treatment of mental
19 retardation; and

20 (5) the following state agencies: the Department of
21 Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Assistive and
22 Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Family and Protective
23 Services, the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, the
24 Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities, and the
25 Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

26 Sec. 22. INSURANCE. The committee shall have nine members,
27 with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

1 (1) insurance and the insurance industry;

2 (2) all insurance companies and other organizations of
3 any type writing or issuing policies of insurance in the State of
4 Texas, including their organization, incorporation, management,
5 powers, and limitations; and

6 (3) the following state agencies: the Texas
7 Department of Insurance, the Texas Health Benefits Purchasing
8 Cooperative, and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

9 Sec. 23. JUDICIARY. The committee shall have nine members,
10 with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

11 (1) uniform state laws;

12 (2) creating, changing, or otherwise affecting courts
13 of judicial districts of the state;

14 (3) establishing districts for the election of
15 judicial officers;

16 (4) the Texas Judicial Council;

17 (5) the State Commission on Judicial Conduct;

18 (6) the Office of the Attorney General, including its
19 organization, powers, functions, and responsibilities;

20 (7) courts and court procedures except where
21 jurisdiction is specifically granted to some other standing
22 committee; and

23 (8) the following state agencies: the Supreme Court,
24 the Courts of Appeals, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the State
25 Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Office of Court Administration
26 of the Texas Judicial System, the State Law Library, the Texas
27 Judicial Council, the Guardianship Certification Board, the Office

1 of the Attorney General, the Court Reporters Certification Board,
2 and the Board of Law Examiners.

3 Sec. 24. JUVENILE JUSTICE AND FAMILY ISSUES. The committee
4 shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters
5 pertaining to:

6 (1) juvenile delinquency and gang violence;

7 (2) criminal law, prohibitions, standards, and
8 penalties as applied to juveniles;

9 (3) criminal procedure in the courts of Texas as it
10 relates to juveniles;

11 (4) civil law as it relates to familial relationships,
12 including rights, duties, remedies, and procedures thereunder; and

13 (5) the following state agencies: the Texas Juvenile
14 Probation Commission and the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services.

15 Sec. 25. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. The committee shall
16 have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
17 to:

18 (1) the management of public lands;

19 (2) the power of eminent domain;

20 (3) annexation, zoning, and other governmental
21 regulation of land use;

22 ~~[(4) problems and issues particularly affecting rural~~
23 ~~areas of the state,]~~ and

24 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ the following state agencies: the School
25 Land Board, the Board for Lease of University Lands, the Coastal
26 Coordination Council, ~~[the Office of Rural Community Affairs,]~~ and
27 the General Land Office.

1 Sec. 26. LAW ENFORCEMENT. The committee shall have seven
2 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

- 3 (1) law enforcement;
- 4 (2) the prevention of crime and the apprehension of
5 criminals;
- 6 (3) the provision of security services by private
7 entities; and
- 8 (4) the following state agencies: the Commission on
9 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, the Department of
10 Public Safety, the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the Polygraph
11 Examiners Board, the Texas [~~Commission on~~] Private Security Board,
12 the Commission on State Emergency Communications, and the Crime
13 Stoppers Advisory Council.

14 Sec. 27. LICENSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The
15 committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all
16 matters pertaining to:

- 17 (1) the oversight of businesses, industries, general
18 trades, and occupations regulated by this state;
- 19 (2) the regulation of greyhound and horse racing and
20 other gaming industries;
- 21 (3) regulation of the sale of intoxicating beverages
22 and local option control;
- 23 (4) the Alcoholic Beverage Code; and
- 24 (5) the following state agencies: the Texas
25 Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of
26 Administrative Hearings, the Texas Board of Architectural
27 Examiners, the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, the Texas

1 Real Estate Commission, the Texas State Board of Plumbing
2 Examiners, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, the Real
3 Estate Research Center, the Texas Board of Professional Land
4 Surveying, the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Appraiser
5 Licensing and Certification Board, the Texas Lottery Commission,
6 the State Bar of Texas, the Board of Tax Professional Examiners, and
7 the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

8 Sec. 28. LOCAL AND CONSENT CALENDARS (PROCEDURAL). The
9 committee shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

10 (1) the placement on appropriate calendars of bills
11 and resolutions that, in the opinion of the committee, are in fact
12 local or will be uncontested, and have been recommended as such by
13 the standing committee of original jurisdiction; and

14 (2) the determination of priorities for floor
15 consideration of bills and resolutions except those within the
16 jurisdiction of the Committee on Calendars.

17 Sec. 29. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAYS AND MEANS. (a) The
18 committee shall have seven members, with jurisdiction over:

19 (1) all bills and resolutions proposing to permit a
20 local government to raise revenue;

21 (2) all bills and resolutions proposing to permit a
22 local government to levy or impose property taxes, sales and use
23 taxes, or other taxes and fees;

24 (3) all proposals to modify, amend, or change any
25 existing local government tax or revenue statute;

26 (4) all proposals to regulate the manner of collection
27 of local government revenues and taxes; and

1 (5) all bills and resolutions relating to the local
2 government provisions of the Property Tax Code, including
3 provisions related to the appraisal of property and the levy and
4 collection of property taxes by local governments.

5 (b) In this section, "local government" means a city,
6 county, school district, special purpose district, or other
7 political subdivision.

8 Sec. 30. NATURAL RESOURCES. The committee shall have nine
9 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

10 (1) the conservation of the natural resources of
11 Texas;

12 (2) the control and development of land and water and
13 land and water resources, including the taking, storing, control,
14 and use of all water in the state, and its appropriation and
15 allocation;

16 (3) irrigation, irrigation companies, and irrigation
17 districts, and their incorporation, management, and powers;

18 (4) the creation, modification, and regulation of
19 water supply districts, water control and improvement districts,
20 conservation and reclamation districts, and all similar organs of
21 local government dealing with water and water supply;

22 (5) oversight of the Texas Commission on Environmental
23 Quality as it relates to the regulation of water resources; and

24 (6) the following state agencies: the Office of
25 Canadian River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Pecos
26 River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Red River
27 Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Rio Grande Compact

1 Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Sabine River Compact
2 Administrator for Texas, the Multi-State Water Resources Planning
3 Commission, and the Texas Water Development Board.

4 Sec. 31. PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS. The committee shall
5 have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
6 to:

7 (1) benefits or participation in benefits of a public
8 retirement system and the financial obligations of a public
9 retirement system;

10 (2) the regulation of securities and investments; and

11 (3) the following state agencies: the Office of Fire
12 Fighters' Pension Commissioner, the ~~[State]~~ Board of Trustees of
13 the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, the ~~[State]~~ Board of
14 Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas, the Board of
15 Trustees of the Texas County and District Retirement System, the
16 Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal Retirement System, the
17 State Pension Review Board, and the State Securities Board.

18 Sec. 32. PUBLIC EDUCATION. The committee shall have nine
19 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

20 (1) the public schools and the public school system of
21 Texas and the financing thereof;

22 (2) the state programming of elementary and secondary
23 education for the public school system of Texas;

24 (3) proposals to create, change, or otherwise alter
25 school districts of the state; and

26 (4) the following state agencies: the State Board of
27 Education, the Texas Education Agency, the Office of Compact for

1 Education Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Southern Regional
2 Education Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Texas School for the
3 Blind and Visually Impaired, the State Board for Educator
4 Certification, and the Texas School for the Deaf.

5 Sec. 33. PUBLIC HEALTH. The committee shall have nine
6 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

7 (1) the protection of public health, including
8 supervision and control of the practice of medicine and dentistry
9 and other allied health services;

10 (2) mental health and the development of programs
11 incident thereto;

12 (3) the prevention and treatment of mental illness;

13 (4) oversight of the Health and Human Services
14 Commission as it relates to the subject matter jurisdiction of this
15 committee; and

16 (5) the following state agencies: the Department of
17 State Health Services, the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas,
18 the Texas Funeral Service Commission, the State Committee of
19 Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments, the
20 Texas Optometry Board, the Radiation Advisory Board, the Texas
21 State Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Nurse Examiners, the Texas
22 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Texas Board of Physical
23 Therapy Examiners, the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical
24 Examiners, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the
25 State Board of Dental Examiners, the Texas ~~[State Board of]~~ Medical
26 Board ~~[Examiners]~~, the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers, the
27 Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee, ~~[the State Board of Barber~~

1 ~~Examiners, the Texas Cosmetology Commission,~~ the Texas Cancer
2 Council, the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners, the Health
3 Professions Council, the Office of Patient Protection, and the
4 Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners[, ~~the Texas State~~
5 ~~Board of Examiners of Perfusionists, and the Texas Health Care~~
6 ~~Information Council~~].

7 Sec. 34. REDISTRICTING (PROCEDURAL). The committee shall
8 have 15 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

9 (1) legislative districts, both house and senate, and
10 any changes or amendments;

11 (2) congressional districts, their creation, and any
12 changes or amendments;

13 (3) establishing districts for the election of
14 judicial officers or of governing bodies or representatives of
15 political subdivisions or state agencies as required by law; and

16 (4) preparations for the redistricting process.

17 Sec. 35. REGULATED INDUSTRIES. The committee shall have
18 nine [~~seven~~] members, with jurisdiction over all matters related
19 to:

20 (1) the regulation and deregulation of electric
21 utilities and the electric industry;

22 (2) the regulation and deregulation of
23 telecommunications utilities and the telecommunications industry;

24 (3) the regulation of science and technology,
25 including telecommunications, electronic technology, and automated
26 data processing;

27 (4) electric utility regulation as it relates to

1 energy production and consumption;

2 (5) pipelines, pipeline companies, and all others
3 operating as common carriers in the state;

4 (6) the regulation and deregulation of other
5 industries jurisdiction of which is not specifically assigned to
6 another committee under these rules; and

7 (7) the following state agencies: the Public Utility
8 Commission of Texas, the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and the
9 Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board.

10 Sec. 36. RULES AND RESOLUTIONS (PROCEDURAL). The committee
11 shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

12 (1) Rules of Procedure of the House of
13 Representatives, and all proposed amendments;

14 (2) Joint Rules of the House and Senate, and all
15 proposed amendments;

16 (3) all procedures for expediting the business of the
17 house in an orderly and efficient manner;

18 (4) all resolutions to congratulate, memorialize, or
19 name mascots of the house; and

20 (5) other matters concerning rules, procedures, and
21 operation of the house assigned by the speaker.

22 Sec. 37. STATE AFFAIRS. The committee shall have nine
23 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

24 (1) questions and matters of state policy;

25 (2) the administration of state government;

26 (3) the organization, powers, regulation, and
27 management of state departments and agencies;

1 (4) the operation and regulation of public lands and
2 state buildings;

3 (5) the organization, regulation, operation, and
4 management of state institutions;

5 (6) the duties and conduct of officers and employees
6 of the state government;

7 (7) the regulation of the residential construction
8 industry;

9 (8) the operation of state government and its agencies
10 and departments; all of above except where jurisdiction is
11 specifically granted to some other standing committee;

12 (9) access of the state agencies to scientific and
13 technological information; and

14 (10) the following state agencies: the Council of
15 State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures,
16 the Governor's Office, the Texas Building and Procurement
17 Commission, ~~[the State Aircraft Pooling Board]~~ the Department of
18 Information Resources, the Inaugural Endowment Fund Committee, and
19 the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

20 Sec. 38. TRANSPORTATION. The committee shall have nine
21 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

22 (1) commercial motor vehicles, both bus and truck, and
23 their control, regulation, licensing, and operation;

24 (2) the Texas highway system, including all roads,
25 bridges, and ferries constituting a part of the system;

26 (3) the licensing of private passenger vehicles to
27 operate on the roads and highways of the state;

1 (4) the regulation and control of traffic on the
2 public highways of the State of Texas;

3 (5) railroads, street railway lines, interurban
4 railway lines, steamship companies, and express companies;

5 (6) airports, air traffic, airlines, and other
6 organizations engaged in transportation by means of aerial flight;

7 (7) water transportation in the State of Texas, and
8 the rivers, harbors, and related facilities used in water
9 transportation and the agencies of government exercising
10 supervision and control thereover;

11 (8) the regulation of metropolitan transit; and

12 (9) the following state agencies: the Texas Department
13 of Transportation and the Texas Transportation Commission.

14 Sec. 39. URBAN AFFAIRS. The committee shall have seven
15 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

16 (1) cities, municipalities, and town corporations,
17 including their creation, organization, powers, government, and
18 finance, and the compensation and duties of their officers and
19 employees;

20 (2) home-rule cities, their relationship to the state,
21 and their powers, authority, and limitations;

22 (3) the creation or change of metropolitan areas and
23 the form of government under which those areas operate;

24 (4) problems and issues particularly affecting
25 metropolitan areas of the state;

26 (5) other units of local government not otherwise
27 assigned by these rules to other standing committees;

1 (6) establishing districts for the election of
2 governing bodies of cities; and

3 (7) the following state agencies: the Texas
4 Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas
5 Commission on Fire Protection.

6 Sec. 40. WAYS AND MEANS. The committee shall have nine
7 members, with jurisdiction over:

8 (1) all bills and resolutions proposing to raise state
9 revenue;

10 (2) all bills or resolutions proposing to levy state
11 taxes or other fees;

12 (3) all proposals to modify, amend, or change any
13 existing state tax or revenue statute;

14 (4) all proposals to regulate the manner of collection
15 of state revenues and taxes;

16 (5) all bills and resolutions containing provisions
17 resulting in automatic allocation of funds from the state treasury;

18 (6) all bills and resolutions diverting funds from the
19 state treasury or preventing funds from going in that otherwise
20 would be placed in the state treasury;

21 (7) all bills and resolutions relating to the Tax
22 Code; and

23 (8) the following state agencies: the Office of
24 Multistate Tax Compact Commissioner for Texas and the State
25 Comptroller of Public Accounts.

RULE 4. ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

CHAPTER A. ORGANIZATION

Sec. 1. COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP, AND JURISDICTION. Standing committees of the house, and the number of members and general jurisdiction of each, shall be as enumerated in Rule 3.

Sec. 2. DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. (a) Membership on the standing committees shall be determined at the beginning of each regular session in the following manner:

(1) For each standing substantive committee, except the Committee on Appropriations, a maximum of one-half of the membership, exclusive of the chair and vice-chair, shall be determined by seniority. The remaining membership of the committee shall be appointed by the speaker.

(2) Each member of the house, in order of seniority, may designate three committees on which he or she desires to serve, listed in order of preference. The member is entitled to become a member of the committee of his or her highest preference on which there remains a vacant seniority position. A member who desires to be designated the chair for budget and oversight of a substantive committee may indicate that preference, but seniority does not entitle the member to that designation.

(3) If members of equal seniority request the same committee, the speaker shall appoint the member from among those requesting that committee. Seniority, as the term is used in this subsection, shall mean years of cumulative service as a member of the house of representatives.

(4) After each member of the house has selected one

1 committee on the basis of seniority, the remaining membership on
2 each standing committee shall be filled by appointment of the
3 speaker, subject to the limitations imposed in this chapter.

4 (5) Seniority shall not apply to a procedural
5 committee. For purposes of these rules, the procedural committees
6 are the Committee on Calendars, the Committee on Local and Consent
7 Calendars, the Committee on Rules and Resolutions, the General
8 Investigating and Ethics Committee, the Committee on House
9 Administration, and the Committee on Redistricting. The entire
10 membership of these committees shall be appointed by the speaker.

11 (6) Seniority shall not apply to the Committee on
12 Appropriations, which shall be composed of:

13 (A) a chair and vice-chair appointed by the
14 speaker; and

15 (B) the chair for budget and oversight from each
16 of the 27 committees for which there is a chair for budget and
17 oversight.

18 (7) In announcing the membership of committees, the
19 speaker shall designate those appointed by the speaker and those
20 acquiring membership by seniority.

21 (8) The speaker shall designate the chair and
22 vice-chair from the total membership of the committee. For 27
23 substantive committees determined by the speaker, the speaker shall
24 designate a chair for budget and oversight from the total
25 membership of the committee.

26 (b) In the event of an election contest that is not resolved
27 prior to the determination of the membership of standing

1 committees, the representative of the district that is the subject
2 of the contest is not entitled to select a committee on the basis of
3 seniority. Committee appointments on behalf of that district shall
4 be designated by the district number.

5 (c) In the event of a vacancy in a representative district
6 that has not been filled at the time of the determination of the
7 membership of standing committees, the representative of the
8 district who fills that vacancy shall not be entitled to select a
9 committee on the basis of seniority. Committee appointments on
10 behalf of that district shall be designated by the district number.

11 (d) In the event that a member-elect of the current
12 legislature has not taken the oath of office by the end of the ninth
13 day of the regular session, the representative of that district
14 shall not be entitled to select a committee on the basis of
15 seniority. If the member-elect has not taken the oath of office by
16 the time committee appointments are announced, committee
17 appointments on behalf of that district shall be designated by
18 district number.

19 Sec. 3. RANKING OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Except for the chair
20 and vice-chair, members of a standing committee shall rank
21 according to their seniority.

22 Sec. 4. MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS. ~~[Membership on~~
23 ~~committees is subject to the following restrictions:~~

24 ~~[(1)]~~ No member shall serve concurrently on more than
25 two standing substantive committees.

26 ~~[(2)] A member serving as chair of the Committee on~~
27 ~~Appropriations or the Committee on State Affairs may not serve on~~

1 ~~any other substantive committee.]~~

2 Sec. 5. VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES. Should a vacancy occur on
3 a standing, select, or interim committee subsequent to its
4 organization, the speaker shall appoint an eligible member to fill
5 the vacancy.

6 Sec. 6. DUTIES OF THE CHAIR. The chair of each committee
7 shall:

8 (1) be responsible for the effective conduct of the
9 business of the committee;

10 (2) appoint all subcommittees and determine the number
11 of members to serve on each subcommittee;

12 (3) in consultation with members of the committee,
13 schedule the work of the committee and determine the order in which
14 the committee shall consider and act on bills, resolutions, and
15 other matters referred to the committee;

16 (4) have authority to employ and discharge the staff
17 and employees authorized for the committee and have supervision and
18 control over all the staff and employees;

19 (5) direct the preparation of all committee reports.
20 No committee report shall be official until signed by the chair of
21 the committee, or by the person acting as chair, or by a majority of
22 the membership of the committee;

23 (6) determine the necessity for public hearings,
24 schedule hearings, and be responsible for directing the posting of
25 notice of hearings as required by the rules;

26 (7) preside at all meetings of the committee and
27 control its deliberations and activities in accordance with

1 acceptable parliamentary procedure; and

2 (8) have authority to direct the sergeant-at-arms to
3 assist, where necessary, in enforcing the will of the committee.

4 Sec. 7. BILL ANALYSES. Except for the general
5 appropriations bill, for each bill or joint resolution referred to
6 the committee, the staff of the committee shall be responsible for
7 distributing a copy of a bill analysis to each member of the
8 committee at the earliest possible opportunity but not later than
9 the first time the measure is laid out in a committee meeting.

10 CHAPTER B. PROCEDURE

11 Sec. 8. MEETINGS. (a) As soon as practicable after
12 standing committees are constituted and organized, the committee
13 coordinator, under the direction of the Committee on House
14 Administration, shall prepare a schedule for regular meetings of
15 all standing committees. This schedule shall be published in the
16 house journal and posted in a convenient and conspicuous place near
17 the entrance to the house and on other posting boards for committee
18 meeting notices, as determined necessary by the Committee on House
19 Administration. To the extent practicable during each regular
20 session, standing committees shall conduct regular committee
21 meetings in accordance with the schedule of meetings prepared by
22 the committee coordinator under the supervision of the Committee on
23 House Administration.

24 (b) Standing committees shall meet at other times as may be
25 determined by the committee, or as may be called by the chair.
26 Subcommittees of standing committees shall likewise meet at other
27 times as may be determined by the committee, or as may be called by

1 the chair of the committee or subcommittee.

2 (c) Committees shall also meet in such places and at such
3 times as the speaker may designate.

4 Sec. 9. MEETING WHILE HOUSE IN SESSION. No standing
5 committee or subcommittee shall meet during the time the house is in
6 session without permission being given by a majority vote of the
7 house. No standing committee or subcommittee shall conduct its
8 meeting on the floor of the house or in the house chamber while the
9 house is in session, but shall, if given permission to meet while
10 the house is in session, retire to a designated committee room for
11 the conduct of its meeting.

12 Sec. 10. PURPOSES FOR MEETING. A committee or a
13 subcommittee may be assembled for:

14 (1) a public hearing where testimony is to be heard,
15 and where official action may be taken, on bills, resolutions, or
16 other matters;

17 (2) a formal meeting where the committee may discuss
18 and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters
19 without testimony; and

20 (3) a work session where the committee may discuss
21 bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

22 Sec. 11. POSTING NOTICE. (a) No committee or
23 subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall assemble for
24 the purpose of a public hearing during a regular session unless
25 notice of the hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules
26 at least five calendar days in advance of the hearing. No committee
27 or subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall assemble

1 for the purpose of a public hearing during a special session unless
 2 notice of the hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules
 3 at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. The committee minutes
 4 shall reflect the date of each posting of notice. Notice shall not
 5 be required for a public hearing on a senate bill which is
 6 substantially the same as a house bill that has previously been the
 7 subject of a duly posted public hearing by the committee.

8 (b) No committee or subcommittee, including a calendars
 9 committee, shall assemble for the purpose of a formal meeting or
 10 work session during a regular or special session unless written
 11 notice has been posted and transmitted to each member of the
 12 committee two hours in advance of the meeting or an announcement has
 13 been filed with the journal clerk and read by the reading clerk
 14 while the house is in session.

15 (c) All committees meeting during the interim for the
 16 purpose of a formal meeting, work session, or public hearing shall
 17 post notice in accordance with the rules and notify members of the
 18 committee at least five calendar days in advance of the meeting.

19 Sec. 12. MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. All meetings of a
 20 committee or subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall
 21 be open to other members, the press, and the public unless
 22 specifically provided otherwise by resolution adopted by the house.
 23 However, the General Investigating and Ethics Committee or a
 24 committee considering an impeachment, an address, the punishment of
 25 a member of the house, or any other matter of a quasi-judicial
 26 nature may meet in executive session for the limited purpose of
 27 examining a witness or deliberating, considering, or debating a

1 decision, but no decision may be made or voted on except in a
2 meeting that is open to the public and otherwise in compliance with
3 the rules of the house.

4 Sec. 13. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. (a) The Rules of
5 Procedure of the House of Representatives, and to the extent
6 applicable, the rules of evidence and procedure in the civil courts
7 of Texas, shall govern the hearings and operations of each
8 committee, including a calendars committee. Subject to the
9 foregoing, and to the extent necessary for orderly transaction of
10 business, each committee may promulgate and adopt additional rules
11 and procedures by which it will function.

12 (b) No standing committee, including a calendars committee,
13 or any subcommittee, shall adopt any rule of procedure, including
14 but not limited to an automatic subcommittee rule, which will have
15 the effect of thwarting the will of the majority of the committee or
16 subcommittee or denying the committee or subcommittee the right to
17 ultimately dispose of any pending matter by action of a majority of
18 the committee or subcommittee. A bill or resolution may not be laid
19 on the table subject to call in committee without a majority vote of
20 the committee.

21 Sec. 14. APPEALS FROM RULINGS OF THE CHAIR. Appeals from
22 rulings of the chair of a committee shall be in order if seconded by
23 three members of the committee, which may include the member making
24 the appeal. Procedure in committee following an appeal which has
25 been seconded shall be the same as the procedure followed in the
26 house in a similar situation.

27 Sec. 15. PREVIOUS QUESTION. Before the previous question

1 can be ordered in a committee, the motion therefor must be seconded
2 by not less than 4 members of a committee consisting of 21 or more
3 members, 3 members of a committee consisting of less than 21 members
4 and more than 10 members, or 2 members of a committee consisting of
5 10 members or less. If the motion is properly seconded and ordered
6 by a majority vote of the committee, further debate on the
7 proposition under consideration shall be terminated, and the
8 proposition shall be immediately put to a vote of the committee for
9 its action.

10 Sec. 16. QUORUM. A majority of a committee shall
11 constitute a quorum. No action or recommendation of a committee
12 shall be valid unless taken at a meeting of the committee with a
13 quorum actually present, and the committee minutes shall reflect
14 the names of those members of the committee who were actually
15 present. No committee report shall be made to the house nor shall
16 bills or resolutions be placed on a calendar unless ordered by a
17 majority of the membership of the committee, except as otherwise
18 provided in the rules, and a quorum of the committee must be present
19 when the vote is taken on reporting a bill or resolution, on placing
20 bills or resolutions on a calendar, or on taking any other formal
21 action within the authority of the committee. No committee report
22 shall be made nor shall bills or resolutions be placed on a calendar
23 except by record vote of the members of the committee, with the yeas
24 and nays to be recorded in the minutes of the committee. Proxies
25 cannot be used in committees.

26 Sec. 17. MOVING A CALL OF A COMMITTEE. (a) It shall be in
27 order to move a call of a committee at any time to secure and

1 maintain a quorum for any one or more of the following purposes:

2 (1) for the consideration of a specific bill,
3 resolution, or other matter;

4 (2) for a definite period of time; or

5 (3) for the consideration of any designated class of
6 bills or other matters.

7 (b) When a call of a committee is moved for one or more of
8 the foregoing purposes and seconded by two members, one of whom may
9 be the chair, and is ordered by a majority of the members present,
10 no member shall thereafter be permitted to leave the committee
11 meeting without written permission from the chair. After the call
12 is ordered, and in the absence of a quorum, the chair shall have the
13 authority to authorize the sergeant-at-arms to locate absent
14 members of the committee and to compel their attendance for the
15 duration of the call.

16 Sec. 18. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS. (a) For each committee,
17 including a calendars committee, the chair, or the member acting as
18 chair, shall keep complete minutes of the proceedings in committee,
19 which shall include:

20 (1) the time and place of each meeting of the
21 committee;

22 (2) a roll call to determine the members present at
23 each meeting of the committee, whether that meeting follows an
24 adjournment or a recess from a previous committee meeting;

25 (3) an accurate record of all votes taken, including a
26 listing of the yeas and nays cast on a record vote;

27 (4) the date of posting of notice of the meeting; and

1 (5) other information that the chair shall determine.

2 (b) The minutes for each public hearing of a committee shall
3 also include an attachment listing the names of the persons, other
4 than members of the legislature, and the persons or entities
5 represented by those persons, who were recognized by the chair to
6 address the committee or who signed a sworn statement in favor of,
7 in opposition to, or without taking a position on a measure or other
8 matter before the committee. The attachment shall also list the
9 name of each person, other than a member of the legislature, who
10 submitted to the committee a sworn statement indicating that the
11 person was present in favor of, in opposition to, or without taking
12 a position on the measure or other matter, but who because of the
13 person's departure or other reason was not recognized by the chair
14 to address the committee; provided that the omission of the name of
15 such a person is not a sustainable question of order.

16 (c) Committee minutes shall be corrected only at the
17 direction of the chair as authorized by a majority vote of the
18 committee. Duplicate originals of committee minutes shall be
19 maintained, one to remain with the committee chair and the other to
20 be filed with the committee coordinator. The committee minutes of a
21 meeting of the Appropriations Committee on the general
22 appropriations bill must be filed with the committee coordinator
23 within five days of the committee meeting. All other committee
24 minutes must be filed with the committee coordinator within three
25 days of the committee meeting for a substantive committee, and
26 within one day of the committee meeting for a procedural committee.
27 If the date on which the committee minutes are due occurs on a

1 Saturday, Sunday, or holiday on which the house is not in session,
2 the committee minutes shall be filed on the following working day.
3 The time at which the minutes are filed shall be time-stamped on the
4 duplicate originals of the minutes that are filed with the
5 committee coordinator. The duplicate originals shall be available
6 at all reasonable business hours for inspection by members or the
7 public.

8 (d) The committee coordinator shall maintain the minutes
9 and records safe from loss, destruction, and alteration at all
10 times, and may, at any time, turn them, or any portion, over to the
11 Committee on House Administration.

12 Sec. 19. RECORDING OF TESTIMONY. All testimony before
13 committees and subcommittees shall be electronically recorded
14 under the direction of the Committee on House Administration.
15 Copies of the testimony may be released under guidelines
16 promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

17 Sec. 20. SWORN STATEMENT OF WITNESSES. (a) The committee
18 coordinator, under the direction of the Committee on House
19 Administration, shall prescribe the form of a sworn statement to be
20 executed by all persons, other than members, who wish to be
21 recognized by the chair to address the committee. The statement
22 shall provide for showing at least:

- 23 (1) the committee or subcommittee;
- 24 (2) the name, address, and telephone number of the
25 person appearing;
- 26 (3) the person, firm, corporation, class, or group
27 represented;

1 (4) the type of business, profession, or occupation in
2 which the person is engaged, if the person is representing himself
3 or herself; and

4 (5) the matter before the committee on which the
5 person wishes to be recognized to address the committee and whether
6 for, against, or neutral on the matter.

7 (b) No person shall be recognized by the chair to address
8 the committee in favor of, in opposition to, or without taking a
9 position on a matter until the sworn statement has been filed with
10 the chair of the committee. The chair of the committee shall
11 indicate on the sworn statement whether the person completing the
12 statement was recognized to address the committee.

13 (c) All sworn statements for those persons recognized by the
14 chair to address the committee shall accompany the copy of the
15 minutes of the meeting filed with the committee coordinator.

16 (d) All persons, other than members, recognized by the chair
17 to address the committee shall give their testimony under oath, and
18 each committee may avail itself of additional powers and
19 prerogatives authorized by law.

20 (e) The committee shall ensure that an individual who is
21 blind receives any necessary assistance in executing the sworn
22 statement.

23 (f) The committee shall inform a witness who is blind which
24 members of the committee are present when the witness begins to
25 testify and shall inform the witness during the testimony of the
26 departure and arrival of committee members.

27 Sec. 21. POWER TO ISSUE PROCESS AND SUMMON WITNESSES. (a)

1 By a record vote of not less than two-thirds of those present and
2 voting, a quorum being present, each standing committee shall have
3 the power and authority to issue process to witnesses at any place
4 in the State of Texas, to compel their attendance, and to compel the
5 production of all books, records, and instruments. If necessary to
6 obtain compliance with subpoenas or other process, the committee
7 shall have the power to issue writs of attachment. All process
8 issued by the committee may be addressed to and served by an agent
9 of the committee or a sergeant-at-arms appointed by the committee
10 or by any peace officer of the State of Texas. The committee shall
11 also have the power to cite and have prosecuted for contempt, in the
12 manner provided by law, anyone disobeying the subpoenas or other
13 process lawfully issued by the committee. The chair of the
14 committee shall issue, in the name of the committee, the subpoenas
15 and other process as the committee may direct.

16 (b) The chair may summon the governing board or other
17 representatives of a state agency to appear and testify before the
18 committee without issuing process under Subsection (a) of this
19 section. The summons may be communicated in writing, orally, or
20 electronically. If the persons summoned fail or refuse to appear,
21 the committee may issue process under Subsection (a) of this
22 section.

23 Sec. 22. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM FOR WITNESSES. Subject to
24 prior approval by the Committee on House Administration, witnesses
25 attending proceedings of any committee under process of the
26 committee shall be allowed the same mileage and per diem as are
27 allowed members of the committee when in a travel status, to be paid

1 out of the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives
2 on vouchers approved by the chair of the committee, the chair of the
3 Committee on House Administration, and the speaker of the house.

4 Sec. 23. POWER TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF STATE
5 AGENCIES. Each committee is authorized to request the assistance,
6 when needed, of all state departments, agencies, and offices, and
7 it shall be the duty of the departments, agencies, and offices to
8 assist the committee when requested to do so. Each committee shall
9 have the power and authority to inspect the records, documents, and
10 files of every state department, agency, and office, to the extent
11 necessary to the discharge of its duties within the area of its
12 jurisdiction.

13 Sec. 23A. ASSISTANCE OF OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS. At a meeting
14 of a committee, the chair may recognize a member of the house who is
15 not a member of the committee to provide information to the
16 committee. Recognition is solely within the discretion of the
17 chair and is not subject to appeal by that member.

18 CHAPTER C. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

19 Sec. 24. INTERIM STUDIES. Standing committees, en banc or
20 by subcommittees, are hereby authorized to conduct studies that are
21 authorized by the speaker pursuant to Rule 1, Section 17. Studies
22 may not be authorized by resolution. The speaker may appoint public
23 citizens and officials of state and local governments to standing
24 committees to augment the membership for the purpose of interim
25 studies and shall provide a list of such appointments to the chief
26 clerk. The chair of the standing committee shall have authority to
27 name the subcommittees necessary and desirable for the conduct of

1 the interim studies and shall also prepare a budget for interim
2 studies for approval by the Committee on House Administration.

3 Sec. 25. MOTION PREVENTING REPORTING OR PLACEMENT ON A
4 CALENDAR. No motion is in order in a committee considering a bill,
5 resolution, or other matter that would prevent the committee from
6 reporting it back to the house or placing it on a calendar in
7 accordance with the Rules of the House.

8 Sec. 26. FINAL ACTION IN FORM OF REPORT. No action by a
9 committee on bills or resolutions referred to it shall be
10 considered as final unless it is in the form of a favorable report,
11 an unfavorable report, or a report of inability to recommend a
12 course of action.

13 Sec. 27. VOTE ON MOTION TO REPORT. Motions made in
14 committee to report favorably or unfavorably must receive
15 affirmative majority votes, majority negative votes to either
16 motion being insufficient to report. If a committee is unable to
17 agree on a recommendation for action, as in the case of a tie vote,
18 it should submit a statement of this fact as its report, and the
19 house shall decide, by a majority vote, the disposition of the
20 matter by one of the following alternatives:

21 (1) leave the bill in the committee for further
22 consideration;

23 (2) refer the bill to some other committee; or

24 (3) order the bill printed, in which case the bill
25 shall go to the Committee on Calendars for placement on a calendar
26 and for proposal of an appropriate rule for house consideration.

27 Sec. 28. MINORITY REPORTS. The report of a minority of a

1 committee shall be made in the same general form as a majority
2 report. No minority report shall be recognized by the house unless
3 it has been signed by not less than 4 members of a committee
4 consisting of 21 or more members, 3 members of a committee
5 consisting of less than 21 members and more than 10 members, or 2
6 members of a committee consisting of 10 or less members. Only
7 members who were present when the vote was taken on the bill,
8 resolution, or other matter being reported, and who voted on the
9 losing side, may sign a minority report. Notice of intention to
10 file a minority report shall be given to the assembled committee
11 after the vote on the bill, resolution, or other matter, and before
12 the recess or adjournment of the committee, provided ample
13 opportunity is afforded for the giving of notice; otherwise, notice
14 may be given in writing to the chief clerk within 24 hours after the
15 recess or adjournment of the committee.

16 Sec. 29. ACTION ON BILLS REPORTED UNFAVORABLY. If the
17 majority report on a bill is unfavorable, and a favorable minority
18 report is not signed in accordance with Section 28 of this rule and
19 filed with the chief clerk within two calendar days, exclusive of
20 Sunday and the date of committee action, the chief clerk shall file
21 the bill away as dead; except during the last 15 calendar days of a
22 regular session, or the last 7 calendar days of a special session,
23 when the chief clerk shall hold a bill only one calendar day,
24 exclusive of Sunday and the date of committee action, awaiting the
25 filing of a minority report before the bill is filed away as dead.
26 If the favorable minority report is properly signed and filed, the
27 chief clerk shall hold the bill for five legislative days,

1 exclusive of the legislative day in which the minority report was
2 filed, awaiting adoption by the house of a motion to print the bill
3 on minority report. If the motion to print is carried, the bill
4 shall be printed as if it had been reported favorably, and shall
5 then be immediately forwarded to the Committee on Calendars for
6 placement on a calendar and for proposal of an appropriate rule
7 for house consideration. If a motion to print a bill on minority
8 report is not made within the five legislative days authorized
9 above, the chief clerk shall file the bill away as dead. It shall
10 not be in order to move to recommit a bill adversely reported with
11 no minority report, except as provided in Section 30 of this rule.
12 A two-thirds vote of the house shall be required to print on
13 minority report a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
14 Constitution of Texas.

15 Sec. 30. MAKING ADVERSE REPORTS WITHOUT HEARING THE
16 AUTHOR. No adverse report shall be made on any bill or resolution
17 by any committee without first giving the author or sponsor of the
18 bill an opportunity to be heard. If it becomes evident to the house
19 that a bill has been reported adversely without the author or
20 sponsor having had an opportunity to be heard as provided in this
21 section, the house may, by a majority vote, order the bill
22 recommitted even though no minority report was filed in the manner
23 prescribed by the rules. This provision shall have precedence over
24 Rule 7, Section 20.

25 Sec. 31. ADVERSE REPORTS ON LOCAL BILLS. If a local bill is
26 reported adversely, it shall be subject to the same rules that
27 govern other bills reported adversely.

1 Sec. 32. FORM OF REPORTS. (a) Reports of standing
2 committees on bills and resolutions shall be made in duplicate,
3 with one copy to be filed with the journal clerk for printing in the
4 journal and the other to accompany the original bill.

5 (b) All committee reports must be in writing and shall:

6 (1) be signed by the chair, or the member acting as
7 chair, or a majority of the membership of the committee;

8 (2) be addressed to the speaker;

9 (3) contain a statement of the recommendations of the
10 committee with reference to the matter which is the subject of the
11 report;

12 (4) contain the date the committee made its
13 recommendation;

14 (5) indicate whether a copy of a bill or resolution was
15 forwarded to the Legislative Budget Board for preparation of a
16 fiscal note or other impact statement, if applicable;

17 (6) contain the record vote by which the report was
18 adopted, including the vote of each member of the committee;

19 (7) contain the recommendation that the bill or
20 resolution be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars
21 for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar if
22 applicable;

23 (8) state the name of the primary house sponsor of all
24 senate bills and resolutions and indicate the names of all joint
25 sponsors or cosponsors;

26 (9) include a summary of the committee hearing on the
27 bill or resolution; and

1 (10) include a list of the names of the persons, other
2 than members of the legislature, and persons or entities
3 represented by those persons, who were recognized by the chair to
4 address the committee in favor of, in opposition to, or without
5 taking a position on the bill or resolution.

6 (c) Except for the general appropriations bill, each
7 committee report on a bill or joint resolution, including a
8 complete committee substitute, and, to the extent considered
9 necessary by the committee, a committee report on any other
10 resolution, must include in summary or section-by-section form a
11 detailed analysis of the subject matter of the bill or resolution,
12 specifically including:

13 (1) background information on the proposal and
14 information on what the bill or resolution proposes to do;

15 (2) an analysis of the content of the bill or
16 resolution;

17 (3) a statement indicating whether or not any
18 rulemaking authority is expressly delegated to a state officer,
19 department, agency, or institution, and, if so, identifying the
20 sections of the measure in which that rulemaking authority is
21 delegated;

22 (4) a statement of substantial differences between a
23 complete committee substitute and the original bill; and

24 (5) a brief explanation of each amendment adopted by
25 the committee.

26 (d) It shall be the duty of the committee chair, on all
27 matters reported by the committee, to see that all provisions of

1 Rule 12 are satisfied. The chair shall strictly construe this
2 provision to achieve the desired purposes.

3 Sec. 33. FISCAL NOTES. (a) If the chair of a standing
4 committee determines that a bill or joint resolution, other than
5 the general appropriations bill, authorizes or requires the
6 expenditure or diversion of state funds for any purpose, the chair
7 shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for
8 the preparation of a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications
9 and probable cost of the measure.

10 (b) If the chair of a standing committee determines that a
11 bill or joint resolution has statewide impact on units of local
12 government of the same type or class and authorizes or requires the
13 expenditure or diversion of local funds, or creates or impacts a
14 local tax, fee, license charge, or penalty, the chair shall send a
15 copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the
16 preparation of a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications and
17 probable cost of the measure.

18 (c) In preparing a fiscal note, the director of the
19 Legislative Budget Board may utilize information or data supplied
20 by any person, agency, organization, or governmental unit that the
21 director deems reliable. If the director determines that the fiscal
22 implications of the measure cannot be ascertained, the director
23 shall so state in the fiscal note, in which case the fiscal note
24 shall be in full compliance with the rules. If the director of the
25 Legislative Budget Board is unable to acquire or develop sufficient
26 information to prepare the fiscal note within 15 days of receiving
27 the measure from the chair of a committee, the director shall so

1 state in the fiscal note, in which case the note shall be in full
2 compliance with the rules.

3 (d) If the chair determines that a fiscal note is required,
4 copies of the fiscal note must be distributed to the members of the
5 committee not later than the first time the measure is laid out in a
6 committee meeting. The fiscal note shall be attached to the measure
7 on first printing. If the measure is amended by the committee so as
8 to alter its fiscal implications, the chair shall obtain an updated
9 fiscal note, which shall also be attached to the measure on first
10 printing.

11 (e) All fiscal notes shall remain with the measure
12 throughout the entire legislative process, including submission to
13 the governor.

14 Sec. 34. OTHER IMPACT STATEMENTS. (a) It is the intent of
15 this section that all members of the house are timely informed as to
16 the impact of proposed legislation on the state or other unit of
17 government.

18 (b) If the chair of a standing committee determines that a
19 bill or joint resolution:

20 (1) authorizes or requires a change in the sanctions
21 applicable to adults convicted of felony crimes, the chair shall
22 send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the
23 preparation of a criminal justice policy impact statement;

24 (2) authorizes or requires a change in the public
25 school finance system, the chair shall send a copy of the measure to
26 the Legislative Budget Board for the preparation of an equalized
27 education funding impact statement;

1 (3) proposes to change benefits or participation in
2 benefits of a public retirement system or change the financial
3 obligations of a public retirement system, the chair shall send a
4 copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the
5 preparation of an actuarial impact statement in cooperation with
6 the State Pension Review Board;

7 (4) proposes to create a water district under the
8 authority of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution,
9 the chair shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget
10 Board for the preparation of a water development policy impact
11 statement; or

12 (5) creates or impacts a state tax or fee, the chair
13 shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for
14 the preparation of a tax equity note that estimates the general
15 effects of the proposal on the distribution of tax and fee burdens
16 among individuals and businesses.

17 (c) In preparing an impact statement, the director of the
18 Legislative Budget Board may utilize information or data supplied
19 by any person, agency, organization, or governmental unit that the
20 director deems reliable. If the director determines that the
21 particular implications of the measure cannot be ascertained, the
22 director shall so state in the impact statement, in which case the
23 impact statement shall be in full compliance with the rules.

24 (d) An impact statement is not required to be present before
25 a measure is laid out in a committee meeting. If timely received,
26 the impact statement shall be attached to the measure on first
27 printing. If the measure is amended by the committee so as to alter

1 its particular implications, the chair shall obtain an updated
2 impact statement. If timely received, the updated impact statement
3 shall also be attached to the measure on first printing.

4 (e) An impact statement that is received after the first
5 printing of a measure has been distributed to the members shall be
6 forwarded by the chair of the committee to the committee
7 coordinator. The committee coordinator shall have the impact
8 statement printed and distributed to the members.

9 (f) All impact statements received shall remain with the
10 measure throughout the entire legislative process, including
11 submission to the governor.

12 Sec. 35. REPORTS ON HOUSE AND CONCURRENT
13 RESOLUTIONS. Committee reports on house and concurrent
14 resolutions shall be made in the same manner and shall follow the
15 same procedure as provided for bills, subject to any differences
16 otherwise authorized or directed by the rules.

17 Sec. 36. ACTION BY HOUSE ON REPORTS NOT REQUIRED. No
18 action by the house is necessary on the report of a standing
19 committee. The bill, resolution, or proposition recommended or
20 reported by the committee shall automatically be before the house
21 for its consideration after the bill or resolution has been
22 referred to the appropriate calendars committee for placement on a
23 calendar and for proposal of an appropriate rule for house
24 consideration.

25 Sec. 37. REFERRAL OF REPORTS TO COMMITTEE COORDINATOR. All
26 committee reports on bills or resolutions shall be immediately
27 referred to the committee coordinator. The chair of the committee

1 shall be responsible for delivery of the report to the committee
2 coordinator.

3 Sec. 38. DELIVERY OF REPORTS TO CALENDARS
4 COMMITTEES. After printing, the chief clerk shall be responsible
5 for delivery of a certified copy of the committee report to the
6 appropriate calendars committee, which committee shall immediately
7 accept the bill or resolution for placement on a calendar and for
8 the proposal of an appropriate rule for house consideration.

9 Sec. 39. COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. No committee shall have the
10 power to amend, delete, or change in any way the nature, purpose, or
11 content of any bill or resolution referred to it, but may draft and
12 recommend amendments to it, which shall become effective only if
13 adopted by a majority vote of the house.

14 Sec. 40. SUBSTITUTES. The committee may adopt and report a
15 complete germane committee substitute containing the title,
16 enacting clause, and text of the bill in lieu of an original bill,
17 in which event the complete substitute bill on committee report
18 shall be laid before the house and shall be the matter then before
19 the house for its consideration, instead of the original bill. If
20 the substitute bill is defeated at any legislative stage, the bill
21 is considered not passed.

22 Sec. 41. GERMANENESS OF SUBSTITUTE. If a point of order is
23 raised that a complete committee substitute is not germane, in
24 whole or in part, and the point of order is sustained, the committee
25 substitute shall be returned to the Committee on Calendars, which
26 may have the original bill printed and distributed and placed on a
27 calendar in lieu of the substitute or may return the original bill

1 to the committee from which it was reported for further action.

2 Sec. 42. AUTHOR'S RIGHT TO OFFER AMENDMENTS TO REPORT.
3 Should the author or sponsor of the bill, resolution, or other
4 proposal not be satisfied with the final recommendation or form of
5 the committee report, the member shall have the privilege of
6 offering on the floor of the house such amendments or changes as he
7 or she considers necessary and desirable, and those amendments or
8 changes shall be given priority during the periods of time when
9 original amendments are in order under the provisions of Rule 11,
10 Section 7.

11 CHAPTER D. SUBCOMMITTEES

12 Sec. 43. JURISDICTION. Each committee is authorized to
13 conduct its activities and perform its work through the use of
14 subcommittees as shall be determined by the chair of the committee.
15 Subcommittees shall be created, organized, and operated in such a
16 way that the subject matter and work area of each subcommittee shall
17 be homogeneous and shall pertain to related governmental
18 activities. The size and jurisdiction of each subcommittee shall
19 be determined by the chair of the committee.

20 Sec. 44. MEMBERSHIP. The chair of each standing committee
21 shall appoint from the membership of the committee the members who
22 are to serve on each subcommittee. Any vacancy on a subcommittee
23 shall be filled by appointment of the chair of the standing
24 committee. The chair and vice-chair of each subcommittee shall be
25 named by the chair of the committee.

26 Sec. 45. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The Rules of
27 Procedure of the House of Representatives, to the extent

1 applicable, shall govern the hearings and operations of each
2 subcommittee. Subject to the foregoing, and to the extent
3 necessary for orderly transaction of business, each subcommittee
4 may promulgate and adopt additional rules and procedures by which
5 it will function.

6 Sec. 46. QUORUM. A majority of a subcommittee shall
7 constitute a quorum, and no action or recommendation of a
8 subcommittee shall be valid unless taken at a meeting with a quorum
9 actually present. All reports of a subcommittee must be approved by
10 record vote by a majority of the membership of the subcommittee.
11 Minutes of the subcommittee shall be maintained in a manner similar
12 to that required by the rules for standing committees. Proxies
13 cannot be used in subcommittees.

14 Sec. 47. POWER AND AUTHORITY. Each subcommittee, within
15 the area of its jurisdiction, shall have all of the power,
16 authority, and rights granted by the Rules of Procedure of the House
17 of Representatives to the standing committee, except subpoena
18 power, to the extent necessary to discharge the duties and
19 responsibilities of the subcommittee.

20 Sec. 48. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO
21 SUBCOMMITTEE. All bills and resolutions referred to a standing
22 committee shall be reviewed by the chair to determine appropriate
23 disposition of the bills and resolutions. All bills and
24 resolutions shall be considered by the entire standing committee
25 unless the chair of that standing committee determines to refer the
26 bills and resolutions to subcommittee. If a bill or resolution is
27 referred by the chair of the standing committee to a subcommittee,

1 it shall be considered by the subcommittee in the same form in which
2 the measure was referred to the standing committee, and any action
3 taken by the standing committee on a proposed amendment or
4 committee substitute before a measure is referred to subcommittee
5 is therefore voided at the time the measure is referred to
6 subcommittee. The subcommittee shall be charged with the duty and
7 responsibility of conducting the hearing, doing research, and
8 performing such other functions as the subcommittee or its parent
9 standing committee may determine. All meetings of the subcommittee
10 shall be scheduled by the subcommittee chair, with appropriate
11 public notice and notification of each member of the subcommittee
12 under the same rules of procedure as govern the conduct of the
13 standing committee.

14 Sec. 49. REPORT BY SUBCOMMITTEE. At the conclusion of its
15 deliberations on a bill, resolution, or other matter referred to
16 it, the subcommittee may prepare a written report, comprehensive
17 in nature, for submission to the full committee. The report shall
18 include background material as well as recommended action and shall
19 be accompanied by a complete draft of the bill, resolution, or other
20 proposal in such form as the subcommittee shall determine.

21 Sec. 50. ACTION ON SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS. Subcommittee
22 reports shall be directed to the chair of the committee, who shall
23 schedule meetings of the standing committee from time to time as
24 necessary and appropriate for the reception of subcommittee reports
25 and for action on reports by the standing committee. No
26 subcommittee report shall be scheduled for action by the standing
27 committee until at least 24 hours after a copy of the subcommittee

1 report is provided to each member of the standing committee.

2 CHAPTER E. COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

3 Sec. 51. RESOLUTION INTO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
4 HOUSE. The house may resolve itself into a committee of the whole
5 house to consider any matter referred to it by the house. In
6 forming a committee of the whole house, the speaker shall vacate the
7 chair and shall appoint a chair to preside in committee.

8 Sec. 52. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The rules governing
9 the proceedings of the house and those governing committees shall
10 be observed in committees of the whole, to the extent that they are
11 applicable.

12 Sec. 53. MOTION FOR A CALL OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
13 WHOLE. (a) It shall be in order to move a call of the committee of
14 the whole at any time to secure and maintain a quorum for the
15 following purposes:

16 (1) for the consideration of a certain or specific
17 matter; or

18 (2) for a definite period of time; or

19 (3) for the consideration of any designated class of
20 bills.

21 (b) When a call of the committee of the whole is moved and
22 seconded by 10 members, of whom the chair may be one, and is ordered
23 by majority vote, the main entrance of the hall and all other doors
24 leading out of the hall shall be locked, and no member shall be
25 permitted to leave the hall without written permission. Other
26 proceedings under a call of the committee shall be the same as under
27 a call of the house.

1 Sec. 54. HANDLING OF A BILL. A bill committed to a
2 committee of the whole house shall be handled in the same manner as
3 in any other committee. The body of the bill shall not be defaced or
4 interlined, but all amendments shall be duly endorsed by the chief
5 clerk as they are adopted by the committee, and so reported to the
6 house. When a bill is reported by the committee of the whole house
7 it shall be referred immediately to the appropriate calendars
8 committee for placement on the appropriate calendar and shall
9 follow the same procedure as any other bill on committee report.

10 Sec. 55. FAILURE TO COMPLETE WORK AT ANY SITTING. In the
11 event that the committee of the whole, at any sitting, fails to
12 complete its work on any bill or resolution under consideration for
13 lack of time, or desires to take any action on that measure that is
14 permitted under the rules for other committees, it may, on a motion
15 made and adopted by majority vote, rise, report progress, and ask
16 leave of the house to sit again generally, or at a time certain.

17 Sec. 56. REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES. Reports of select
18 committees made during a session shall be filed with the chief clerk
19 and printed in the journal, unless otherwise determined by the
20 house.

21 CHAPTER F. INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

22 Sec. 57. INTERIM STUDIES. Pursuant to Rule 1, Section 17,
23 the speaker may create interim study committees to conduct studies
24 by issuing a proclamation for each committee, which shall specify
25 the issue to be studied, committee membership, and any additional
26 authority and duties. A copy of each proclamation creating an
27 interim study committee shall be filed with the chief clerk. An

1 interim study committee expires on release of its final report or
2 when the next legislature convenes, whichever is earlier. An
3 interim study committee may not be created by resolution.

4 Sec. 58. APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP. The speaker shall
5 appoint all members of an interim study committee, which may
6 include public citizens and officials of state and local
7 governments. The speaker shall also designate the chair and
8 vice-chair and may authorize the chair to create subcommittees and
9 appoint citizen advisory committees.

10 Sec. 59. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The rules governing
11 the proceedings of the house and those governing standing
12 committees shall be observed by an interim study committee, to the
13 extent that they are applicable. An interim study committee shall
14 have the power to issue process and to request assistance of state
15 agencies as provided for a standing committee in Sections 21, 22,
16 and 23 of this rule.

17 Sec. 60. FUNDING AND STAFF. An interim study committee
18 shall use existing staff resources of its members, standing
19 committees, house offices, and legislative service agencies. The
20 chair of an interim study committee shall prepare a detailed budget
21 for approval by the speaker and the Committee on House
22 Administration. An interim study committee may accept gifts,
23 grants, and donations for the purpose of funding its activities as
24 provided by Sections 301.032(b) and (c), Government Code.

25 Sec. 61. STUDY REPORTS. The final report or
26 recommendations of an interim study committee shall be approved by
27 a majority of the committee membership. Dissenting members may

1 attach statements to the final report. Five copies of the report
2 shall be submitted to the speaker; 50 copies shall be provided to
3 House Bill Distribution for sale at cost; and 75 copies shall be
4 provided to the committee coordinator, who shall make the
5 appropriate distribution to the Legislative Reference Library and
6 state library and archives. This section shall also apply to
7 interim study reports of standing committees.

8 Sec. 62. JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM
9 STUDIES. Procedures may be established by a concurrent resolution
10 adopted by both houses, by which the speaker may authorize and
11 appoint, jointly with the senate, committees to conduct interim
12 studies. A copy of the authorization for and the appointments to a
13 joint interim study committee shall be filed with the chief clerk.
14 Individual joint interim study committees may not be authorized or
15 created by resolution.

RULE 5. FLOOR PROCEDURE

CHAPTER A. QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

Sec. 1. QUORUM. Two-thirds of the house shall constitute a quorum to do business.

Sec. 2. ROLL CALLS. On every roll call or registration, the names of the members shall be called or listed, as the case may be, alphabetically by surname, except when two or more have the same surname, in which case the initials of the members shall be added.

Sec. 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE. (a) No member shall be absent from the sessions of the house without leave, and no member shall be excused on his or her own motion.

(b) A leave of absence may be granted by a majority vote of the house and may be revoked at any time by a similar vote.

(c) Any member granted a leave of absence due to a meeting of a committee or conference committee that has authority to meet while the house is in session shall be so designated on each roll call or registration for which that member is excused.

Sec. 4. FAILURE TO ANSWER ROLL CALL. Any member who is present and fails or refuses to record on a roll call after being requested to do so by the speaker shall be recorded as present by the speaker and shall be counted for the purpose of making a quorum.

Sec. 5. POINT OF ORDER OF "NO QUORUM." (a) The point of order of "No Quorum" shall not be accepted by the chair if the last roll call showed the presence of a quorum, provided the last roll call was taken within two hours of the time the point of order is raised.

(b) If the last roll call was taken more than two hours

1 before the point of order is raised, it shall be in order for the
2 member who raised the point of order to request a roll call. Such a
3 request must be seconded by 25 members. If the request for a roll
4 call is properly seconded, the chair shall order a roll call.

5 (c) Once a point of order has been made that a quorum is not
6 present, it may not be withdrawn after the absence of a quorum has
7 been ascertained and announced.

8 Sec. 6. MOTIONS IN ORDER WHEN QUORUM NOT PRESENT. If a
9 registration or record vote reveals that a quorum is not present,
10 only a motion to adjourn or a motion for a call of the house and the
11 motions incidental thereto shall be in order.

12 Sec. 7. MOTION FOR CALL OF THE HOUSE. It shall be in order
13 to move a call of the house at any time to secure and maintain a
14 quorum for one of the following purposes:

15 (1) for the consideration of a specific bill,
16 resolution, motion, or other measure;

17 (2) for the consideration of any designated class of
18 bills; or

19 (3) for a definite period of time.

20 Motions for, and incidental to, a call of the house are not
21 debatable.

22 Sec. 8. SECURING A QUORUM. When a call of the house is
23 moved for one of the above purposes and seconded by 15 members (of
24 whom the speaker may be one) and ordered by a majority vote, the
25 main entrance to the hall and all other doors leading out of the
26 hall shall be locked and no member permitted to leave the house
27 without the written permission of the speaker. The names of members

1 present shall be recorded. All absentees for whom no sufficient
2 excuse is made may, by order of a majority of those present, be sent
3 for and arrested, wherever they may be found, by the
4 sergeant-at-arms or an officer appointed by the sergeant-at-arms
5 for that purpose, and their attendance shall be secured and
6 retained. The house shall determine on what conditions they shall
7 be discharged. Members who voluntarily appear shall, unless the
8 house otherwise directs, be immediately admitted to the hall of the
9 house and shall report their names to the clerk to be entered in the
10 journal as present.

11 Until a quorum appears, should the roll call fail to show one
12 present, no business shall be transacted, except to compel the
13 attendance of absent members or to adjourn. It shall not be in
14 order to recess under a call of the house.

15 Sec. 9. FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT OF A QUORUM. When a quorum
16 is shown to be present, the house may proceed with the matters on
17 which the call was ordered, or may enforce the call and await the
18 attendance of as many of the absentees as it desires. When the
19 house proceeds to the business on which the call was ordered, it
20 may, by a majority vote, direct the sergeant-at-arms to cease
21 bringing in absent members.

22 Sec. 10. REPEATING A RECORD VOTE. When a record vote
23 reveals the lack of a quorum, and a call is ordered to secure one, a
24 record vote shall again be taken when the house resumes business
25 with a quorum present.

26 CHAPTER B. ADMITTANCE TO HOUSE CHAMBER

27 Sec. 11. PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE FLOOR. Only the following

1 persons shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor of the
2 house when the house is in session: members of the house; employees
3 of the house when performing their official duties as determined by
4 the Committee on House Administration; members of the senate;
5 employees of the senate when performing their official duties; the
6 Governor of Texas and the governor's executive and administrative
7 assistant; the lieutenant governor; the secretary of state; duly
8 accredited reporters, photographers, correspondents, and
9 commentators of press, radio, and television who have complied with
10 Sections 20(a), (b), (c), and (d) of this rule; contestants in
11 election cases pending before the house; and immediate families of
12 the members of the legislature on such special occasions as may be
13 determined by the Committee on House Administration.

14 Sec. 12. ADMITTANCE WITHIN THE RAILING. Only the following
15 persons shall be admitted to the area on the floor of the house
16 enclosed by the railing when the house is in session: members of
17 the house; members of the senate; the governor; the lieutenant
18 governor; officers and employees of the senate and house when those
19 officers and employees are actually engaged in performing their
20 official duties as determined by the Committee on House
21 Administration; spouses of members of the house on such occasions
22 as may be determined by the Committee on House Administration; and,
23 within the area specifically designated for media
24 representatives, duly accredited reporters, photographers,
25 correspondents, and commentators of press, radio, and television
26 who have complied with Sections 20(a), (b), (c), and (d) of this
27 rule.

1 Sec. 13. SOLICITORS AND COLLECTORS PROHIBITED. Solicitors
2 and collectors shall not be admitted to the floor of the house while
3 the house is in session.

4 Sec. 14. INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE. A motion to
5 invite a person to address the house while it is in session shall be
6 in order only if the person invited is entitled to the privileges of
7 the floor as defined by Section 11 of this rule and if no business is
8 pending before the house.

9 Sec. 15. LOBBYING ON FLOOR. No one, except the governor or
10 a member of the legislature, who is lobbying or working for or
11 against any pending or prospective legislative measure shall be
12 permitted on the floor of the house or in the adjacent rooms while
13 the house is in session.

14 Sec. 16. SUSPENSION OF FLOOR PRIVILEGES. If any person
15 admitted to the floor of the house under the rules, except the
16 governor or a member of the legislature, lobbies or works for or
17 against any pending or prospective legislation or violates any of
18 the other rules of the house, the privileges extended to that person
19 under the rules shall be suspended by a majority vote of the
20 Committee on House Administration. The action of the committee
21 shall be reviewable by the house only if two members of the
22 committee request an appeal from the decision of the committee. The
23 request shall be in the form of a minority report and shall be
24 subject to the same rules that are applicable to minority reports on
25 bills. Suspension shall remain in force until the accused person
26 purges himself or herself and comes within the rules, or until the
27 house, by majority vote, reverses the action of the committee.

1 Sec. 17. MEMBERS LOUNGE PRIVILEGES. Only the following
2 persons shall be admitted to the members lounge at any
3 time: members of the house; members of the senate; and former
4 members of the house and senate who are not engaged in any form of
5 employment requiring them to lobby or work for or against any
6 pending or prospective legislative measures.

7 Sec. 18. FLOOR DUTIES OF HOUSE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. It
8 shall be the duty of the Committee on House Administration to
9 determine what duties are to be discharged by officers and
10 employees of the house on the floor of the house, specifically in
11 the area enclosed by the railing, when the house is in session. It
12 shall be the duty of the speaker to see that the officers and
13 employees do not violate the regulations promulgated by the
14 Committee on House Administration.

15 Sec. 19. PROPER DECORUM. No person shall be admitted to,
16 or allowed to remain in, the house chamber while the house is in
17 session unless properly attired, and all gentlemen shall wear a
18 coat and tie. Food or beverage shall not be permitted in the house
19 chamber at any time, and no person carrying food or beverage shall
20 be admitted to the chamber, whether the house is in session or in
21 recess. Reading newspapers shall not be permitted in the house
22 chamber while the house is in session. Smoking is not permitted in
23 the member's lounge or bathrooms. The Committee on House
24 Administration shall designate an area for smoking that is easily
25 accessible to the house chamber.

26 Sec. 20. MEDIA ACCESS TO HOUSE CHAMBER. (a) When the
27 house is in session, no media representative shall be admitted to

1 the floor of the house or allowed its privileges unless the person
2 is a salaried staff correspondent, reporter, or photographer
3 regularly employed by a newspaper, a press association or news
4 service serving newspapers, a publication requiring telegraphic
5 coverage, or a duly licensed radio or television station or
6 network.

7 (b) Any media representative seeking admission to the floor
8 of the house under the provisions of Subsection (a) of this section
9 must present to the Committee on House Administration fully
10 accredited credentials from his or her employer certifying that the
11 media representative is engaged primarily in reporting the sessions
12 of the legislature. Regularly accredited media representatives who
13 have duly qualified under the provisions of this section may, when
14 requested to do so, make recommendations through their professional
15 committees to the Committee on House Administration as to the
16 sufficiency or insufficiency of the credentials of any person
17 seeking admission to the floor of the house under this section.

18 Every media representative, before being admitted to the
19 floor of the house during its sessions, shall file with the
20 Committee on House Administration a written statement showing the
21 paper or papers, press association, news service, publication
22 requiring telegraphic coverage, or radio or television station or
23 network which he or she represents and certifying that no part of
24 his or her salary for legislative coverage is paid by any person,
25 firm, corporation, or association except the listed news media
26 which he or she represents.

27 (c) If the Committee on House Administration determines

1 that a person's media credentials meet the requirements of this
2 section, the committee shall issue a pass card to the person. This
3 pass card must be presented to the doorkeeper each time the person
4 seeks admission to the floor of the house while the house is in
5 session. Pass cards issued under this section shall not be
6 transferable. Persons admitted to the floor of the house pursuant
7 to the provisions of this section shall work in appropriate
8 convenient seats or work stations in the house, which shall be
9 designated for that purpose by the Committee on House
10 Administration.

11 (d) Members of the house shall not engage in interviews and
12 press conferences on the house floor while the house is in session.
13 The Committee on House Administration is authorized to enforce this
14 provision and to prescribe such other regulations as may be
15 necessary and desirable to achieve these purposes. Persons
16 governed by this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of
17 Section 15 of this rule.

18 (e) Permission to make live or recorded television or radio
19 broadcasts in or from the house chamber while the house is in
20 session may be granted only by the Committee on House
21 Administration. The committee shall promulgate regulations
22 governing television or radio broadcasts, and such regulations
23 shall be printed as an addendum to the rules of the house. When
24 television or radio broadcasts from the floor of the house are
25 recommended by the Committee on House Administration, the
26 recommendation shall identify those persons in the technical crews
27 to whom pass cards to the floor of the house and galleries are to be

1 issued. Passes granted under this authority shall be subject to
2 revocation on the recommendation of the Committee on House
3 Administration. Each committee of the house shall have authority
4 to determine whether or not to permit television or radio
5 broadcasts of any of its proceedings.

6 Sec. 21. PUBLIC ADMISSION TO AND NONLEGISLATIVE USE OF THE
7 HOUSE CHAMBER. When the house is not in session, the floor of the
8 house shall remain open on days and hours determined by the
9 Committee on House Administration. By resolution, the house may
10 open the floor of the house during its sessions for the inauguration
11 of the governor and lieutenant governor and for such other public
12 ceremonies as may be deemed warranted.

13 CHAPTER C. SPEAKING AND DEBATE

14 Sec. 22. ADDRESSING THE HOUSE. When a member desires to
15 speak or deliver any matter to the house, the member shall rise and
16 respectfully address the speaker as "Mr. (or Madam) Speaker" and,
17 on being recognized, may address the house from the microphone at
18 the reading clerk's desk, and shall confine all remarks to the
19 question under debate, avoiding personalities.

20 Sec. 23. WHEN TWO MEMBERS RISE AT ONCE. When two or more
21 members rise at once, the speaker shall name the one who is to speak
22 first. This decision shall be final and not open to debate or
23 appeal.

24 Sec. 24. RECOGNITION. There shall be no appeal from the
25 speaker's recognition, but the speaker shall be governed by rules
26 and usage in priority of entertaining motions from the floor. When
27 a member seeks recognition, the speaker may ask, "For what purpose

1 does the member rise?" or "For what purpose does the member seek
2 recognition?" and may then decide if recognition is to be
3 granted.

4 Sec. 25. INTERRUPTION OF A MEMBER WHO HAS THE FLOOR. A
5 member who has the floor shall not be interrupted by another member
6 for any purpose, unless he or she consents to yield to the other
7 member. A member desiring to interrupt another in debate should
8 first address the speaker for the permission of the member
9 speaking. The speaker shall then ask the member who has the floor
10 if he or she wishes to yield, and then announce the decision of that
11 member. The member who has the floor may exercise personal
12 discretion as to whether or not to yield, and it is entirely within
13 the member's discretion to determine who shall interrupt and when.

14 Sec. 26. YIELDING THE FLOOR. A member who obtains the
15 floor on recognition of the speaker may not be taken off the floor
16 by a motion, even the highly privileged motion to adjourn, but if
17 the member yields to another to make a motion or to offer an
18 amendment, he or she thereby loses the floor.

19 Sec. 27. RIGHT TO OPEN AND CLOSE DEBATE. The mover of any
20 proposition, or the member reporting any measure from a committee,
21 or, in the absence of either of them, any other member designated by
22 such absentee, shall have the right to open and close the debate,
23 and for this purpose may speak each time not more than 20 minutes.

24 Sec. 28. TIME LIMITS ON SPEECHES. All speeches shall be
25 limited to 10 minutes in duration, except as provided in Section 27
26 of this rule, and the speaker shall call the members to order at the
27 expiration of their time. If the house by a majority vote extends

1 the time of any member, the extension shall be for 10 minutes only.
2 A second extension of time shall be granted only by unanimous
3 consent. During the last 10 calendar days of the regular session,
4 and the last 5 calendar days of a special session, Sundays excepted,
5 all speeches shall be limited to 10 minutes and shall not be
6 extended. The time limits established by this rule shall include
7 time consumed in yielding to questions from the floor.

8 Sec. 29. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF TIMES TO SPEAK. No member shall
9 speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the
10 house, nor more than once until every member choosing to speak has
11 spoken, nor shall any member be permitted to consume the time of
12 another member without leave of the house being given by a majority
13 vote.

14 Sec. 30. EFFECT OF ADJOURNMENT ON SPEAKING LIMIT. If a
15 pending question is not disposed of because of an adjournment of the
16 house, a member who has spoken twice on the subject shall not be
17 allowed to speak again without leave of the house.

18 Sec. 31. OBJECTION TO READING A PAPER. When the reading of
19 a paper is called for, and objection is made, the matter shall be
20 determined by a majority vote of the house, without debate.

21 Sec. 32. PASSING BETWEEN MICROPHONES DURING DEBATE. No
22 person shall pass between the front and back microphones during
23 debate or when a member has the floor and is addressing the house.

24 Sec. 33. TRANSGRESSION OF RULES WHILE SPEAKING. If any
25 member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the
26 house, the speaker shall, or any member may, call the member to
27 order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately

1 be seated; however, that member may move for an appeal to the house,
2 and if appeal is duly seconded by 10 members, the matter shall be
3 submitted to the house for decision by majority vote. In such
4 cases, the speaker shall not be required to relinquish the chair, as
5 is required in cases of appeals from the speaker's decisions. The
6 house shall, if appealed to, decide the matter without debate. If
7 the decision is in favor of the member called to order, the member
8 shall be at liberty to proceed; but if the decision is against the
9 member, he or she shall not be allowed to proceed, and, if the case
10 requires it, shall be liable to the censure of the house, or such
11 other punishment as the house may consider proper.

12 Sec. 34. ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF ALL HOUSE
13 PROCEEDINGS. All proceedings of the house of representatives
14 shall be electronically recorded under the direction of the
15 Committee on House Administration. Copies of the proceedings may
16 be released under guidelines promulgated by the Committee on House
17 Administration.

18 CHAPTER D. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

19 Sec. 35. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE DEFINED. Questions of
20 privilege shall be:

21 (1) those affecting the rights of the house
22 collectively, its safety and dignity, and the integrity of its
23 proceedings; and

24 (2) those affecting the rights, reputation, and
25 conduct of members individually in their representative capacity
26 only.

27 Sec. 36. PRECEDENCE OF QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE. Questions

1 of privilege shall have precedence over all other questions except
2 motions to adjourn. When in order, a member may address the house
3 on a question of privilege, or may at any time print it in the
4 journal, provided it contains no reflection on any member of the
5 house.

6 Sec. 37. WHEN QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE NOT IN ORDER. It
7 shall not be in order for a member to address the house on a question
8 of privilege:

9 (1) between the time an undebatable motion is offered
10 and the vote is taken on the motion;

11 (2) between the time the previous question is ordered
12 and the vote is taken on the last proposition included under the
13 previous question; or

14 (3) between the time a motion to table is offered and
15 the vote is taken on the motion.

16 Sec. 38. CONFINING REMARKS TO QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE;
17 INTERRUPTIONS PROHIBITED. (a) When speaking on privilege,
18 members must confine their remarks within the limits of Section 35
19 of this rule, which will be strictly construed to achieve the
20 purposes hereof.

21 (b) When a member is speaking on privilege, the member shall
22 not be interrupted by another member for any purpose. While the
23 member is speaking, another member may submit a question of order to
24 the speaker in writing or by approaching the podium in person. The
25 member submitting the question of order shall not interrupt the
26 member who is speaking. The speaker may interrupt the member who is
27 speaking if the speaker determines it is appropriate to address the

1 question of order at that time.

2 Sec. 39. DISCUSSION OF MERITS OF MOTION FORBIDDEN. Merits
3 of a main or subsidiary motion shall not be discussed or debated
4 under the guise of speaking to a question of privilege.

5 CHAPTER E. VOTING

6 Sec. 40. RECORDING ALL VOTES ON VOTING MACHINE. On all
7 votes, except viva voce votes, members shall record their votes on
8 the voting machine and shall not be recognized by the chair to cast
9 their votes from the floor. If a member attempts to vote from the
10 floor, the speaker shall sustain a point of order directed against
11 the member's so doing. This rule shall not be applicable to the
12 mover or the principal opponent of the proposition being voted on
13 nor to a member whose voting machine is out of order.

14 Sec. 41. REGISTRATION EQUIVALENT TO ROLL CALL VOTE. A
15 registration or vote taken on the voting machine of the house shall
16 in all instances be considered the equivalent of a roll call or yea
17 and nay vote, which might be had for the same purpose.

18 Sec. 42. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL OR PRIVATE INTEREST. Any
19 member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill
20 proposed or pending before the house shall disclose the fact and not
21 vote thereon.

22 Sec. 43. DIVIDING THE QUESTION. By a majority vote of the
23 house, a quorum being present, the question shall be divided, if it
24 includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being
25 taken away, a substantive proposition remains. A motion for a
26 division vote cannot be made after the previous question has been
27 ordered, after a motion to table has been offered, after the

1 question has been put, nor after the yeas and nays have been
2 ordered. Under this subsection, the speaker may divide the
3 question into groups of propositions that are closely related.

4 Sec. 44. FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO VOTE. Any member who is
5 present and fails or refuses to vote after being requested to do so
6 by the speaker shall be recorded as present but not voting, and
7 shall be counted for the purpose of making a quorum.

8 Sec. 45. PRESENCE IN HOUSE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE. A
9 member must be on the floor of the house or in an adjacent room or
10 hallway on the same level as the house floor, in order to vote.

11 Sec. 46. LOCKING VOTING MACHINES OF ABSENT MEMBERS. During
12 each calendar day in which the house is in session, it shall be the
13 duty of the voting clerk to lock the voting machine of each member
14 who is excused or who is otherwise known to be absent. Each such
15 machine shall remain locked until the member in person contacts the
16 journal clerk and personally requests the unlocking of the machine.
17 Unless otherwise directed by the speaker, the voting clerk shall
18 not unlock any machine except at the personal request of the member
19 to whom the machine is assigned. Any violation, or any attempt by a
20 member or employee to circumvent the letter or spirit of this
21 section, shall be reported immediately to the speaker for such
22 disciplinary action by the speaker, or by the house, as may be
23 warranted under the circumstances.

24 Sec. 47. VOTING FOR ANOTHER MEMBER. Any member found
25 guilty by the house of knowingly voting for another member on the
26 voting machine shall be subject to discipline deemed appropriate by
27 the house.

1 Sec. 48. INTERRUPTION OF A ROLL CALL. Once a roll call has
2 begun, it may not be interrupted for any reason. While a yea and nay
3 vote is being taken, or the vote is being counted, no member shall
4 visit the reading clerk's desk or the voting clerk's desk.

5 Sec. 49. EXPLANATION OF VOTE. (a) No member shall be
6 allowed to interrupt the vote or to make any explanation of a vote
7 that the member is about to give after the voting machine has been
8 opened, but may record in the journal the reasons for giving such a
9 vote.

10 (b) A "Reason for Vote" must be in writing and filed with the
11 journal clerk. If timely received, the "Reason for Vote" shall be
12 printed immediately following the results of the vote in the
13 journal. Otherwise, "Reasons for Vote" shall be printed in a
14 separate section at the end of the journal for the day on which the
15 reasons were recorded with the journal clerk. Such "Reason for
16 Vote" shall not deal in personalities or contain any personal
17 reflection on any member of the legislature, the speaker, the
18 lieutenant governor, or the governor, and shall not in any other
19 manner transgress the rules of the house relating to decorum and
20 debate.

21 (c) A member absent when a vote was taken may file with the
22 journal clerk while the house is in session a statement of how the
23 member would have voted if present. If timely received, the
24 statement shall be printed immediately following the results of the
25 vote in the journal. Otherwise, statements shall be printed in a
26 separate section at the end of the journal for the day on which the
27 statements were recorded with the journal clerk.

1 Sec. 50. PAIRS. All pairs must be announced before the
2 vote is declared by the speaker, and a written statement sent to the
3 journal clerk. The statement must be signed by the absent member to
4 the pair, or the member's signature must have been authorized in
5 writing, by telegraph, or by telephone, and satisfactory evidence
6 presented to the speaker if deemed necessary. If authorized by
7 telephone, the call must be to and confirmed by the chief clerk in
8 advance of the vote to which it applies. Pairs shall be entered in
9 the journal, and the member present shall be counted to make a
10 quorum.

11 Sec. 51. ENTRY OF YEA AND NAY VOTE IN JOURNAL; EFFECT OF
12 APPROVAL OF BILL OR JOINT RESOLUTION WITHOUT OBJECTION. (a) At the
13 desire of any member present, the yeas and nays of the members of
14 the house on any question shall be taken and entered in the journal.
15 No member or members shall be allowed to call for a yea and nay vote
16 after a vote has been declared by the speaker.

17 (b) A motion to expunge a yea and nay vote from the journal
18 shall not be in order.

19 (c) The yeas and nays of the members of the house on final
20 passage of any bill, and on any joint resolution proposing or
21 ratifying a constitutional amendment, shall be taken and entered in
22 the journal. For purposes of this subsection, a vote on final
23 passage means a vote on:

24 (1) third reading;

25 (2) second reading if the house suspends or otherwise
26 dispenses with the requirement for three readings;

27 (3) whether to concur in the senate's amendments; or

1 (4) whether to adopt a conference committee report.

2 (d) [(b)] Passage of a bill or joint resolution "without
3 objection" is the functional equivalent of a recorded vote in that
4 the journal will show that every member present must have favored
5 passage of the measure unless the member exercised the opportunity
6 to register the member's vote otherwise. However, passage of a bill
7 or joint resolution "without objection" does not satisfy a
8 requirement that the vote be taken by yeas and nays and entered in
9 the journal under the Texas Constitution or another rule, including
10 Rule 8, Section 19, relating to the vote required for a bill to have
11 immediate effect.

12 Sec. 51A. REAL-TIME ACCESS BY PUBLIC TO YEAS AND NAYS. The
13 Committee on House Administration shall ensure that:

14 (1) the recorded yeas and nays are available to the
15 public on the Internet; and

16 (2) members of the public may view the yeas and nays on
17 the Internet not later than one hour after the time the yeas and
18 nays have been taken and the speaker has declared the result of the
19 vote.

20 Sec. 52. JOURNAL RECORDING OF VOTES ON ANY QUESTION. On
21 any question where a record of the yeas and nays has not been
22 ordered, members may have their votes recorded in the journal as
23 "yea" or "nay" by filing such information with the journal clerk
24 before adjournment or recess to another calendar day.

25 Sec. 53. CHANGING A VOTE. Before the result of a vote has
26 been finally and conclusively pronounced by the chair, but not
27 thereafter, a member may change his or her vote; however, if a

1 member's vote is erroneous, the member shall be allowed to change
2 that vote at a later time provided:

3 (1) the result of the record vote is not changed
4 thereby;

5 (2) the request is made known to the house by the chair
6 and permission for the change is granted by unanimous consent; and

7 (3) a notation is made in the journal that the member's
8 vote was changed.

9 Sec. 54. TIE VOTE. All matters on which a vote may be taken
10 by the house shall require for adoption a favorable affirmative
11 vote as required by these rules, and in the case of a tie vote, the
12 matter shall be considered lost.

13 Sec. 55. VERIFICATION OF A YEA AND NAY VOTE. When the
14 result of a yea and nay vote is close, the speaker may on the request
15 of any member order a verification vote, or the speaker may order a
16 verification on his or her own initiative. During verification, no
17 member shall change a vote unless it was erroneously recorded, nor
18 may any member not having voted cast a vote; however, when the clerk
19 errs in reporting the yeas and nays, and correction thereof leaves
20 decisive effect to the speaker's vote, the speaker may exercise the
21 right to vote, even though the result has been announced. A
22 verification shall be called for immediately after the vote is
23 announced. The speaker shall not entertain a request for
24 verification after the house has proceeded to the next question, or
25 after a recess or an adjournment. A vote to recess or adjourn, like
26 any other proposition, may be verified. Only one vote verification
27 can be pending at a time. A verification may be dispensed with by a

1 two-thirds vote.

2 Sec. 56. VERIFICATION OF A REGISTRATION. The speaker may
3 allow the verification of a registration (as differentiated from a
4 record vote) if in the speaker's opinion there is serious doubt as
5 to the presence of a quorum.

6 Sec. 57. MOTION FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE PENDING
7 VERIFICATION. A motion for a call of the house, and all incidental
8 motions relating to it, shall be in order pending the verification
9 of a vote. These motions must be made before the roll call on
10 verification begins, and it shall not be in order to break into the
11 roll call to make them.

12 Sec. 58. ERRONEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF A
13 VOTE. If, by an error of the voting clerk or reading clerk in
14 reporting the yeas and nays from a registration or verification,
15 the speaker announces a result different from that shown by the
16 registration or verification, the status of the question shall be
17 determined by the vote as actually recorded. If the vote is
18 erroneously announced in such a way as to change the true result,
19 all subsequent proceedings in connection therewith shall fail, and
20 the journal shall be amended accordingly.

RULE 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS

Sec. 1. DAILY ORDER OF BUSINESS. (a) When the house convenes on a new legislative day, the daily order of business shall be as follows:

(1) Call to order by speaker.

(2) Registration of members.

(3) Prayer by chaplain, unless the invocation has been given previously on the particular calendar day.

(4) Pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

(5) Pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag.

(6) Excuses for absence of members and officers.

(7) First reading and reference to committee of bills filed with the chief clerk; and motions to introduce bills, when such motions are required.

(8) Requests to print bills and other papers; requests of committees for further time to consider papers referred to them; and all other routine motions and business not otherwise provided for, all of which shall be undebatable except that the mover and one opponent of the motion shall be allowed three minutes each.

The mover of a routine motion shall be allowed his or her choice of making the opening or the closing speech under this rule. If the house, under a suspension of the rules, extends the time of a member under this rule, such extensions shall be for three minutes. Subsidiary motions that are applicable to routine motions shall be in order, but the makers of such subsidiary motions shall not be entitled to speak thereon in the routine motion period, nor shall the authors of the original routine motions be allowed any

1 additional time because of subsidiary motions.

2 (9) Unfinished business.

3 (10) Postponed matters to be laid before the house in
4 accordance with Rule 7, Section 15.

5 (11) Calendars of the house in their order of priority
6 in accordance with Section 7 of this rule, unless a different order
7 is determined under other provisions of these rules.

8 (b) When the house reconvenes for the first time on a new
9 calendar day following a recess, the daily order of business shall
10 be:

11 (1) Call to order by the speaker.

12 (2) Registration of members.

13 (3) Prayer by the chaplain.

14 (4) Pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

15 (5) Pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag.

16 (6) Excuses for absence of members and officers.

17 (7) Pending business.

18 (8) Calendars of the house in their order of priority
19 in accordance with Section 7 of this rule, unless a different order
20 is determined under other provisions of these rules.

21 Sec. 2. SPECIAL ORDERS. (a) Any bill, resolution, or
22 other measure may on any day be made a special order for the same day
23 or for a future day of the session by an affirmative vote of
24 two-thirds of the members present. A motion to set a special order
25 shall be subject to the three-minute pro and con debate rule. When
26 once established as a special order, a bill, resolution, or other
27 measure shall be considered from day to day until disposed of; and

1 until it has been disposed of, no further special orders shall be
2 made.

3 A three-fourths vote of the members present shall be required
4 to suspend the portion of this rule which specifies that only one
5 special order may be made and pending at a time.

6 (b) After the first eight items under the daily order of
7 business for a legislative day have been passed, a special order
8 shall have precedence when the hour for its consideration has
9 arrived, except as provided in Section 9 of this rule.

10 Sec. 3. POSTPONEMENT OF A SPECIAL ORDER. A special order
11 may be postponed to a day certain by a two-thirds vote of those
12 present, and when so postponed, shall be considered as disposed of
13 so far as its place as a special order is concerned.

14 Sec. 4. TABLED MEASURES AS SPECIAL ORDERS. A bill or
15 resolution laid on the table subject to call may be made a special
16 order.

17 Sec. 5. SUBSTITUTION IN MOTION FOR A SPECIAL ORDER. When a
18 motion is pending to set a particular bill or resolution as a
19 special order, it shall not be in order to move as a substitute to
20 set another bill or resolution as a special order. It shall be in
21 order, however, to substitute, by majority vote, a different time
22 for the special order consideration than that given in the original
23 motion.

24 Sec. 6. MEMBER'S SUSPENSION AND SPECIAL ORDER PRIVILEGES.
25 If a member moves to set a bill or joint resolution as a special
26 order, or moves to suspend the rules to take up a bill or joint
27 resolution out of its regular order, and the motion prevails, the

1 member shall not have the right to make either of these motions
2 again until every other member has had an opportunity, via either of
3 these motions, to have some bill or joint resolution considered out
4 of its regular order during that session of the legislature. A
5 member shall not lose the suspension privilege if the motion to
6 suspend or set for special order does not prevail.

7 Sec. 7. SYSTEM OF CALENDARS. (a) Legislative business of
8 the house shall be controlled by a system of calendars, consisting
9 of the following:

10 (1) EMERGENCY CALENDAR, on which shall appear bills
11 considered to be of such pressing and imperative import as to demand
12 immediate action, bills to raise revenue and levy taxes, and the
13 general appropriations bill. A bill submitted as an emergency
14 matter by the governor may also be placed on this calendar.

15 (2) MAJOR STATE CALENDAR, on which shall appear bills
16 of statewide effect, not emergency in nature, which establish or
17 change state policy in a major field of governmental activity and
18 which will have a major impact in application throughout the state
19 without regard to class, area, or other limiting factors.

20 (3) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CALENDAR, on which
21 shall appear joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Texas
22 Constitution, joint resolutions proposing the ratification of
23 amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and joint
24 resolutions applying to Congress for a convention to amend the
25 Constitution of the United States.

26 (4) GENERAL STATE CALENDAR, on which shall appear
27 bills of statewide effect, not emergency in nature, which establish

1 or change state law and which have application to all areas but are
2 limited in legal effect by classification or other factors which
3 minimize the impact to something less than major state policy, and
4 bills, not emergency in nature, which are not on the local, consent,
5 and resolutions calendar.

6 (5) LOCAL, CONSENT, AND RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR, on which
7 shall appear bills, house resolutions, and concurrent resolutions,
8 not emergency in nature, regardless of extent and scope, on which
9 there is such general agreement as to render improbable any
10 opposition to the consideration and passage thereof, and which have
11 been recommended by the appropriate standing committee for
12 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar by the
13 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars.

14 (6) RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR, on which shall appear house
15 resolutions and concurrent resolutions, not emergency in nature and
16 not privileged.

17 (7) CONGRATULATORY AND MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR,
18 on which shall appear congratulatory and memorial resolutions whose
19 sole intent is to congratulate, memorialize, or otherwise express
20 concern or commendation. The Committee on Rules and Resolutions
21 may provide separate categories for congratulatory and memorial
22 resolutions.

23 (b) A calendars committee shall strictly construe and the
24 speaker shall strictly enforce this system of calendars.

25 Sec. 8. SENATE BILL CALENDARS. (a) Senate bills and
26 resolutions pending in the house shall follow the same procedure
27 with regard to calendars as house bills and resolutions, but

1 separate calendars shall be maintained for senate bills and
2 resolutions, and consideration of them on senate bill days shall
3 have priority in the manner and order specified in this rule.

4 (b) No other business shall be considered on days devoted to
5 the consideration of senate bills when there remain any bills on any
6 of the senate calendars, except with the consent of the senate. When
7 all senate calendars are clear, the house may proceed to
8 consideration of house calendars on senate bill days.

9 Sec. 9. SENATE BILL DAYS. (a) On calendar Wednesday and
10 on calendar Thursday of each week, only senate bills and senate
11 resolutions shall be taken up and considered, until disposed of.
12 Senate bills and senate resolutions shall be considered in the
13 order prescribed in Section 7 of this rule on separate senate
14 calendars prepared by the Committee on Calendars. In case a senate
15 bill or senate resolution is pending at adjournment on calendar
16 Thursday, it shall go over to the succeeding calendar Wednesday as
17 unfinished business.

18 (b) Precedence given in Rule 8 to certain classes of bills
19 during the first 60 calendar days of a regular session shall also
20 apply to senate bills on senate bill days.

21 Sec. 10. CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL ON SAME
22 SUBJECT. When any house bill is reached on the calendar or is
23 before the house for consideration, it shall be the duty of the
24 speaker to give the place on the calendar of the house bill to any
25 senate bill containing the same subject that has been referred to
26 and reported from a committee of the house and to lay the senate
27 bill before the house, to be considered in lieu of the house bill.

1 Sec. 11. PERIODS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONGRATULATORY AND
2 MEMORIAL CALENDARS. As the volume of legislation shall warrant,
3 the chair of the Committee on Rules and Resolutions shall move to
4 designate periods for the consideration of congratulatory and
5 memorial calendars. Each such motion shall require a two-thirds
6 vote for its adoption. In each instance, the Committee on Rules and
7 Resolutions shall prepare and distribute to each member a printed
8 calendar at least 24 hours in advance of the hour set for
9 consideration. No memorial or congratulatory resolution will be
10 heard by the full house without having first been approved, at least
11 24 hours in advance, by a majority of the membership of the
12 Committee on Rules and Resolutions, in accordance with Rule 4,
13 Section 16. It shall not be necessary for the Committee on Rules
14 and Resolutions to report a memorial or congratulatory resolution
15 from committee in order to place the resolution on a congratulatory
16 and memorial calendar. If the Committee on Rules and Resolutions
17 determines that a resolution is not eligible for placement on the
18 congratulatory and memorial calendar the measure shall be sent to
19 the Committee on Calendars for further action. A congratulatory
20 and memorial calendar will contain the resolution number, the
21 author's name, and a brief description of the intent of the
22 resolution. On the congratulatory and memorial calendar,
23 congratulatory resolutions may be listed separately from memorial
24 resolutions. Once a printed calendar is distributed, no additional
25 resolutions will be added to it, and the requirements of this
26 section shall not be subject to suspension.

27 Sec. 12. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONGRATULATORY AND

1 MEMORIAL CALENDARS. During the consideration of a congratulatory
2 and memorial calendar, resolutions shall not be read in full unless
3 they pertain to members or former members of the legislature, or
4 unless the intended recipient of the resolution is present on the
5 house floor or in the gallery. All other such resolutions shall be
6 read only by number, type of resolution, and name of the person or
7 persons designated in the resolutions. Members shall notify the
8 chair, in advance of consideration of the calendar, of any
9 resolutions that will be required to be read in full. In addition,
10 the following procedures shall be observed:

11 (1) The chair shall recognize the reading clerk to
12 read the resolutions within each category on the calendar only by
13 number, type of resolution, author or sponsor, and name of the
14 person or persons designated in the resolutions, except for those
15 resolutions that have been withdrawn or that are required to be read
16 in full. The resolutions read by the clerk shall then be adopted in
17 one motion for each category.

18 (2) Subsequent to the adoption of the resolutions read
19 by the clerk, the chair shall proceed to lay before the house the
20 resolutions on the calendar that are required to be read in full.
21 Each such resolution shall be read and adopted individually.

22 (3) If it develops that any resolution on the
23 congratulatory and memorial calendar does not belong on that
24 calendar, the chair shall withdraw the resolution from further
25 consideration, remove it from the calendar, and refer it to the
26 appropriate calendars committee for placement on the proper
27 calendar.

1 Sec. 13. PERIODS FOR CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL, CONSENT, AND
2 RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS. As the volume of legislation shall warrant,
3 the chair of the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars shall move
4 to designate periods for the consideration of local, consent, and
5 resolutions calendars. Each such motion shall require a
6 two-thirds vote for its adoption. In each instance, the Committee
7 on Local and Consent Calendars shall prepare and distribute to each
8 member a printed calendar at least 48 hours in advance of the hour
9 set for consideration. Once a printed calendar is distributed, no
10 additional bills or resolutions will be added to it. This
11 requirement can be suspended only by unanimous consent. No local,
12 consent, and resolutions calendar may be considered by the house if
13 it is determined that the rules of the house were not complied with
14 by the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars in preparing that
15 calendar.

16 Sec. 14. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL, CONSENT, AND
17 RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS. During the consideration of a local,
18 consent, and resolutions calendar set by the Committee on Local and
19 Consent Calendars the following procedures shall be observed:

20 (1) The chair shall allow the sponsor of each bill or
21 resolution three minutes to explain the measure, and the time shall
22 not be extended except by unanimous consent of the house. This rule
23 shall have precedence over all other rules limiting time for
24 debate.

25 (2) If it develops that any bill or resolution on a
26 local, consent, and resolutions calendar is to be contested on the
27 floor of the house, the chair shall withdraw the bill or resolution

1 from further consideration and remove it from the calendar.

2 (3) Any bill or resolution on a local, consent, and
3 resolutions calendar shall be considered contested if notice is
4 given by five or more members that they intend to oppose the bill or
5 resolution, either by a raising of hands or the delivery of written
6 notice to the chair.

7 (4) Any bill or resolution on a local, consent, and
8 resolutions calendar shall be considered contested if debate
9 exceeds 10 minutes. The chair shall strictly enforce this time
10 limit and automatically withdraw the bill from further
11 consideration if the time limit herein imposed is exceeded.

12 Sec. 15. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF CALENDARS. Except for
13 local, consent, and resolutions calendars and congratulatory and
14 memorial calendars, consideration of calendars shall be in the
15 order named in Section 7 of this rule, subject to any exceptions
16 ordered by the Committee on Calendars. With respect to a particular
17 calendar, bills and resolutions on third reading shall have
18 precedence over bills and resolutions on second reading.

19 Sec. 16. DAILY CALENDARS, SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDARS, AND LISTS
20 OF ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION. (a) Calendars shall be
21 printed daily when the house is in session. A printed copy of each
22 calendar shall be placed in the newspaper mailbox of each member at
23 least 36 hours if convened in regular session and 24 hours if
24 convened in special session before the calendar may be considered
25 by the house. Deviations from the calendars as printed and
26 distributed shall not be permitted except that the Committee on
27 Calendars shall be authorized to print and distribute, not later

1 than two hours before the house convenes, a supplemental daily
2 house calendar, on which shall appear:

3 (1) bills or resolutions which were passed to third
4 reading on the previous legislative day;

5 (2) bills or resolutions which appeared on the Daily
6 House Calendar for a previous calendar day which were not reached
7 for floor consideration;

8 (3) postponed business from a previous calendar day;
9 and

10 (4) notice to take from the table a bill or resolution
11 which was laid on the table subject to call on a previous
12 legislative day.

13 In addition to the items listed above, the bills and
14 resolutions from a daily house calendar that will be eligible for
15 consideration may be incorporated, in their proper order as
16 determined by these rules, into the supplemental daily house
17 calendar.

18 (b) In addition, when the volume of legislation shall
19 warrant, and upon request of the speaker, the chief clerk shall have
20 printed and distributed to the members, a list of Items Eligible for
21 Consideration, on which shall appear only:

22 (1) house bills with senate amendments that are
23 eligible for consideration under Rule 13, Section 5;

24 (2) senate bills for which the senate has requested
25 appointment of a conference committee; and

26 (3) conference committee reports that are eligible for
27 consideration under Rule 13, Section 10.

1 (c) A copy of the list of Items Eligible for Consideration
2 must be placed in the newspaper mailbox of each member at least six
3 hours before the list may be considered by the house.

4 (d) The time at which the copies of a calendar or list are
5 placed in the newspaper mailboxes of the members shall be
6 time-stamped on the originals of the calendar or list.

7 (e) No house calendar shall be eligible for consideration if
8 it is determined that the rules of the house were not complied with
9 by the Committee on Calendars in preparing that calendar.

10 (f) If the Committee on Calendars has proposed a rule for
11 floor consideration of a bill or resolution that is eligible to be
12 placed on a calendar of the daily house calendar, the rule must be
13 printed and a copy distributed to each member. If the bill or
14 resolution to which the rule will apply has already been placed on a
15 calendar of the daily house calendar, a copy of the rule must be
16 attached to the printed calendar on which the bill or resolution
17 appears. The speaker shall lay a proposed rule before the house
18 prior to the consideration of the bill or resolution to which the
19 rule will apply. The rule may be laid before the house anytime
20 after a copy of the rule has been distributed to each member in
21 accordance with this subsection. The rule shall not be subject to
22 amendment, but to be effective, the rule must be approved by the
23 house by an affirmative vote of a majority of those members present
24 and voting. If approved by the house in accordance with this
25 subsection, the rule will be effective for the consideration of the
26 bill or resolution on both second and third readings.

27 Sec. 17. POSITION ON A CALENDAR. Once a bill or resolution

1 is placed on its appropriate calendar under these rules, and has
2 appeared on a house calendar, as printed and distributed to all
3 members, the bill shall retain its relative position on the
4 calendar until reached for floor consideration, and the calendars
5 committee with jurisdiction over the bill or resolution shall have
6 no authority to place other bills on the calendar ahead of that
7 bill, but all additions to the calendar shall appear subsequent to
8 the bill.

9 Sec. 18. REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT ON A CALENDAR. Except
10 as provided in Section 11 of this rule as it relates to
11 congratulatory and memorial resolutions, no bill or resolution
12 shall be placed on a calendar until:

13 (1) it has been referred to and reported from its
14 appropriate standing committee by favorable committee action; or

15 (2) it is ordered printed on minority report or after a
16 committee has reported its inability to recommend a course of
17 action.

18 Sec. 19. REFERRAL TO CALENDARS COMMITTEES. All bills and
19 resolutions, on being reported from committee, shall be referred
20 immediately to the committee coordinator for printing and then to
21 the appropriate calendars committee for placement on the
22 appropriate calendar.

23 Sec. 20. TIME LIMIT FOR VOTE TO PLACE ON A CALENDAR. Within
24 30 calendar days after a bill or resolution has been referred to the
25 appropriate calendars committee, the committee must vote on whether
26 to place the bill or resolution on one of the calendars of the daily
27 house calendar or the local, consent, and resolutions calendar, as

1 applicable. A vote against placement of the bill or resolution on a
2 calendar does not preclude a calendars committee from later voting
3 in favor of placement of the bill or resolution on a calendar.

4 Sec. 21. MOTION TO PLACE ON A CALENDAR. (a) When a bill or
5 resolution has been in the appropriate calendars committee for 30
6 calendar days, exclusive of the calendar day on which it was
7 referred, awaiting placement on one of the calendars of the daily
8 house calendar or on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar,
9 it shall be in order for a member to move that the bill or resolution
10 be placed on a specific calendar of the daily house calendar or on
11 the local, consent, and resolutions calendar without action by the
12 committee. This motion must be seconded by five members and shall
13 require a majority vote for adoption.

14 (b) A motion to place a bill or resolution on a specific
15 calendar of the daily house calendar or on the local, consent, and
16 resolutions calendar is not a privileged motion and must be made
17 during the routine motion period unless made under a suspension of
18 the rules.

19 Sec. 22. REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT ON LOCAL, CONSENT, AND
20 RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR. No bill or resolution shall be considered
21 for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar by
22 the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars unless a request for
23 that placement has been made to the chair of the standing committee
24 from which the bill or resolution was reported and unless the
25 committee report of the standing committee recommends that the bill
26 or resolution be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent
27 Calendars for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions

1 calendar. The recommendation of the standing committee shall be
2 advisory only, and the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars
3 shall have final authority to determine whether or not a bill or
4 resolution shall be placed on the local, consent, and resolutions
5 calendar. If the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars
6 determines that the bill or resolution is not eligible for
7 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar, the
8 measure shall be sent to the Committee on Calendars for further
9 action.

10 Sec. 23. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE LOCAL,
11 CONSENT, AND RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR. (a) No bill defined as a local
12 bill by Rule 8, Section 10(c), shall be placed on the local,
13 consent, and resolutions calendar unless:

14 (1) evidence of publication of notice in compliance
15 with the Texas Constitution and these rules is filed with the
16 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars; and

17 (2) it has been recommended unanimously by the present
18 and voting members of the committee from which it was reported that
19 the bill be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars for
20 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar.

21 (b) No other bill or resolution shall be placed on the
22 local, consent, and resolutions calendar unless it has been
23 recommended unanimously by the present and voting members of the
24 committee from which it was reported that the bill be sent to the
25 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars for placement on the
26 local, consent, and resolutions calendar.

27 (c) No bill or resolution shall be placed on the local,

1 consent, and resolutions calendar that:

2 (1) directly or indirectly prevents from being
3 available for purposes of funding state government generally any
4 money that under existing law would otherwise be available for that
5 purpose, including a bill that transfers or diverts money in the
6 state treasury from the general revenue fund to another fund; or

7 (2) authorizes or requires the expenditure or
8 diversion of state funds for any purpose, as determined by a fiscal
9 note attached to the bill.

10 Sec. 24. REPLACEMENT OF CONTESTED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS. A
11 bill or resolution once removed from the local, consent, and
12 resolutions calendar shall be returned to the Committee on Local
13 and Consent Calendars for further action. The Committee on Local
14 and Consent Calendars, if it feels such action is warranted, may
15 again place the bill or resolution on the local, consent, and
16 resolutions calendar, provided, however, that if the bill or
17 resolution is not placed on the next local, consent, and
18 resolutions calendar set by the Committee on Local and Consent
19 Calendars, the bill or resolution shall immediately be referred to
20 the Committee on Calendars for further action. If the bill or
21 resolution is then removed from the calendar a second time by being
22 contested on the floor of the house, the bill or resolution shall
23 not again be placed on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar
24 by the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars during that session
25 of the legislature but shall be returned to the Committee on
26 Calendars for further action.

27 Sec. 25. DISCRETION IN PLACEMENT ON CALENDARS. Subject to

1 the limitations contained in this rule, the Committee on Calendars
2 shall have full authority to make placements on calendars in
3 whatever order is necessary and desirable under the circumstances
4 then existing, except that bills on third reading on a particular
5 calendar shall have precedence over bills on second reading on the
6 same calendar. It is the intent of the calendar system to give the
7 Committee on Calendars wide discretion to insure adequate
8 consideration by the house of important legislation.

RULE 7. MOTIONS

CHAPTER A. GENERAL MOTIONS

Sec. 1. MOTIONS DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE. The following motions, in addition to any elsewhere provided herein, shall be decided without debate, except as otherwise provided in these rules:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) to lay on the table;
- (3) to lay on the table subject to call;
- (4) to suspend the rule as to the time for introduction of bills;
- (5) to order a call of the house, and all motions incidental thereto;
- (6) an appeal by a member called to order;
- (7) on questions relating to priority of business;
- (8) to amend the caption of a bill or resolution;
- (9) to extend the time of a member speaking under the previous question or to allow a member who has the right to speak after the previous question is ordered to yield the time, or a part of it, to another;
- (10) to reconsider and table.

Sec. 2. MOTIONS SUBJECT TO DEBATE. The speaker shall permit the mover and one opponent of the motion three minutes each during which to debate the following motions without debating the merits of the bill, resolution, or other matter, and the mover of the motion may elect to either open the debate or close the debate, but the mover's time may not be divided:

1 (1) to suspend the regular order of business and take
2 up some measure out of its regular order;

3 (2) to instruct a committee to report a certain bill or
4 resolution;

5 (3) to rerefer a bill or resolution from one committee
6 to another;

7 (4) to place a bill or resolution on a specific
8 calendar without action by the appropriate calendars committee;

9 (5) to take up a bill or resolution laid on the table
10 subject to call;

11 (6) to set a special order;

12 (7) to suspend the rules;

13 (8) to suspend the constitutional rule requiring bills
14 to be read on three several days;

15 (9) to pass a resolution suspending the joint rules;

16 (10) to order the previous question;

17 (11) to order the limiting of amendments to a bill or
18 resolution;

19 (12) to print documents, reports, or other material in
20 the journal;

21 (13) to take any other action required or permitted
22 during the routine motion period by Rule 6, Section 1;

23 (14) to divide the question.

24 Sec. 3. MOTIONS ALLOWED DURING DEBATE. When a question is
25 under debate, the following motions, and none other, shall be in
26 order, and such motions shall have precedence in the following
27 order:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) to take recess;
- (3) to lay on the table;
- (4) to lay on the table subject to call;
- (5) for the previous question;
- (6) to postpone to a day certain;
- (7) to commit, recommit, refer, or rerefer;
- (8) to amend by striking out the enacting or resolving clause, which, if carried, shall have the effect of defeating the bill or resolution;
- (9) to amend;
- (10) to postpone indefinitely.

Sec. 4. STATEMENT OR READING OF A MOTION. When a motion has been made, the speaker shall state it, or if it is in writing, order it read by the clerk; and it shall then be in possession of the house.

Sec. 5. ENTRY OF MOTIONS IN JOURNAL. Every motion made to the house and entertained by the speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any member, and shall be entered on the journal with the name of the member making it.

Sec. 6. WITHDRAWAL OF A MOTION. A motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before a decision on the motion, even though an amendment may have been offered and is pending. It cannot be withdrawn, however, if the motion has been amended. After the previous question has been ordered, a motion can be withdrawn only by unanimous consent.

Sec. 7. MOTIONS TO ADJOURN OR RECESS. A motion to adjourn

1 or recess shall always be in order, except:

2 (1) when the house is voting on another motion;

3 (2) when the previous question has been ordered and
4 before the final vote on the main question, unless a roll call shows
5 the absence of a quorum;

6 (3) when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded
7 for that purpose; or

8 (4) when no business has been transacted since a
9 motion to adjourn or recess has been defeated.

10 Sec. 8. CONSIDERATION OF SEVERAL MOTIONS TO ADJOURN OR
11 RECESS. When several motions to recess or adjourn are made at the
12 same period, the motion to adjourn carrying the shortest time shall
13 be put first, then the next shortest time, and in that order until a
14 motion to adjourn has been adopted or until all have been voted on
15 and lost; and then the same procedure shall be followed for motions
16 to recess.

17 Sec. 9. WITHDRAWAL OR ADDITION OF A MOTION TO ADJOURN OR
18 RECESS. A motion to adjourn or recess may not be withdrawn when it
19 is one of a series upon which voting has commenced, nor may an
20 additional motion to adjourn or recess be made when voting has
21 commenced on a series of such motions.

22 Sec. 10. RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE TO ADJOURN OR RECESS. The
23 vote by which a motion to adjourn or recess is carried or lost shall
24 not be subject to a motion to reconsider.

25 Sec. 11. ADJOURNING WITH LESS THAN A QUORUM. A smaller
26 number of members than a quorum may adjourn from day to day, and may
27 compel the attendance of absent members.

1 Sec. 12. MOTION TO TABLE. A motion to lay on the table, if
2 carried, shall have the effect of killing the bill, resolution,
3 amendment, or other immediate proposition to which it was applied.
4 Such a motion shall not be debatable, but the mover of the
5 proposition to be tabled, or the member reporting it from
6 committee, shall be allowed to close the debate after the motion to
7 table is made and before it is put to a vote. When a motion to table
8 is made to a debatable main motion, the main motion mover shall be
9 allowed 20 minutes to close the debate, whereas the movers of other
10 debatable motions sought to be tabled shall be allowed only 10
11 minutes to close. The vote by which a motion to table is carried or
12 lost cannot be reconsidered. After the previous question has been
13 ordered, a motion to table is not in order. The provisions of this
14 section do not apply to motions to "lay on the table subject to
15 call"; however, a motion to lay on the table subject to call cannot
16 be made after the previous question has been ordered.

17 Sec. 13. MATTERS TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL. When a bill,
18 resolution, or other matter is pending before the house, it may be
19 laid on the table subject to call, and one legislative day's notice,
20 as printed on the Supplemental House Calendar, must be given before
21 the proposition can be taken from the table, unless it is on the
22 same legislative day, in which case it can be taken from the table
23 at any time except when there is another matter pending before the
24 house. A bill, resolution, or other matter can be taken from the
25 table only by a majority vote of the house. When a special order is
26 pending, a motion to take a proposition from the table cannot be
27 made unless the proposition is a privileged matter.

1 Sec. 14. MOTION TO POSTPONE. A motion to postpone to a day
2 certain may be amended and is debatable within narrow limits, but
3 the merits of the proposition sought to be postponed cannot be
4 debated. A motion to postpone indefinitely opens to debate the
5 entire proposition to which it applies.

6 Sec. 15. POSTPONED MATTERS. (a) A bill or proposition
7 postponed to a day certain shall be laid before the house at the
8 time on the calendar day to which it was postponed, provided it is
9 otherwise eligible under the rules and no other business is then
10 pending. If business is pending, the postponed matter shall be
11 deferred until the pending business is disposed of without
12 prejudice otherwise to its right of priority. When a privileged
13 matter is postponed to a particular time, and that time arrives, the
14 matter, still retaining its privileged nature, shall be taken up
15 even though another matter is pending.

16 (b) Consideration of a bill postponed to a day certain from
17 the local, consent, and resolutions calendar is governed on second
18 reading by the rules applicable to the calendar from which it was
19 postponed to the extent practicable.

20 Sec. 16. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF POSTPONED MATTERS. If
21 two or more bills, resolutions, or other propositions are postponed
22 to the same time, and are otherwise eligible for consideration at
23 that time, they shall be considered in the chronological order of
24 their setting.

25 Sec. 17. MOTION TO REFER. When motions are made to refer a
26 subject to a select or standing committee, the question on the
27 subject's referral to a standing committee shall be put first.

1 Sec. 18. MOTION TO RECOMMIT. A motion to recommit a bill,
2 after being defeated at the routine motion period, may again be made
3 when the bill itself is under consideration; however, a motion to
4 recommit a bill shall not be in order at the routine motion period
5 if the bill is then before the house as either pending business or
6 unfinished business.

7 A motion to recommit a bill or resolution can be made and
8 voted on even though the author, sponsor, or principal proponent is
9 not present.

10 Sec. 19. TERMS OF DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO REFER, REREFER,
11 COMMIT, OR RECOMMIT. A motion to refer, rerefer, commit, or
12 recommit is debatable within narrow limits, but the merits of the
13 proposition may not be brought into the debate. A motion to refer,
14 rerefer, commit, or recommit with instructions is fully debatable.

15 Sec. 20. RECOMMITTING TO COMMITTEE FOR A SECOND TIME.
16 Except as provided in Rule 4, Section 30, when a bill has been
17 recommitted once at any reading and has been reported adversely by
18 the committee to which it was referred, it shall be in order to
19 again recommit the bill only if a minority report has been filed in
20 the time required by the rules of the house. A two-thirds vote of
21 those present shall be required to recommit a second time.

22 CHAPTER B. MOTION FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION

23 Sec. 21. MOTION FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION. There shall be a
24 motion for the previous question, which shall be admitted only when
25 seconded by 25 members. It shall be put by the chair in this manner:
26 "The motion has been seconded. Three minutes pro and con debate
27 will be allowed on the motion for ordering the previous question."

1 As soon as the debate has ended, the chair shall continue: "As many
2 as are in favor of ordering the previous question on (here state on
3 which question or questions) will say 'Aye,'" and then, "As many as
4 are opposed say 'Nay.'" As in all other propositions, a motion for
5 the previous question may be taken by a record vote if demanded by
6 any member. If ordered by a majority of the members voting, a
7 quorum being present, it shall have the effect of cutting off all
8 debate, except as provided in Section 23 of this rule, and bringing
9 the house to a direct vote on the immediate question or questions on
10 which it has been asked and ordered.

11 Sec. 22. DEBATE ON MOTION FOR PREVIOUS QUESTION. On the
12 motion for the previous question, there shall be no debate except as
13 provided in Sections 2 and 21 of this rule. All incidental
14 questions of order made pending decision on such motion shall be
15 decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

16 Sec. 23. LIMITATION OF DEBATE AFTER PREVIOUS QUESTION
17 ORDERED. After the previous question has been ordered, there shall
18 be no debate upon the questions on which it has been ordered, or
19 upon the incidental questions, except that the mover of the
20 proposition or any of the pending amendments or any other motions,
21 or the member making the report from the committee, or, in the case
22 of the absence of either of them, any other member designated by
23 such absentee, shall have the right to close the debate on the
24 particular proposition or amendment. Then a vote shall be taken
25 immediately on the amendments or other motions, if any, and then on
26 the main question.

27 Sec. 24. SPEAKING AND VOTING AFTER THE PREVIOUS QUESTION

1 ORDERED. All members having the right to speak after the previous
2 question has been ordered shall speak before the question is put on
3 the first proposition covered by the previous question. All votes
4 shall then be taken in the correct order, and no vote or votes shall
5 be deferred to allow any member to close on any one of the
6 propositions separately after the voting has commenced.

7 Sec. 25. SPEAKING ON AN AMENDMENT AS SUBSTITUTED. When an
8 amendment has been substituted and the previous question is then
9 moved on the adoption of the amendment as substituted, the author of
10 the amendment as substituted shall have the right to close the
11 debate on that amendment in lieu of the author of the original
12 amendment.

13 Sec. 26. SPEAKING ON A MOTION TO POSTPONE OR AMEND. When
14 the previous question is ordered on a motion to postpone
15 indefinitely or to amend by striking out the enacting clause of a
16 bill, the member moving to postpone or amend shall have the right to
17 close the debate on that motion or amendment, after which the mover
18 of the proposition or bill proposed to be so postponed or amended,
19 or the member reporting it from the committee, or, in the absence of
20 either of them, any other member designated by the absentee, shall
21 be allowed to close the debate on the original proposition.

22 Sec. 27. APPLICATION OF THE PREVIOUS QUESTION. The
23 previous question may be asked and ordered on any debatable single
24 motion or series of motions, or any amendment or amendments
25 pending, or it may be made to embrace all authorized debatable
26 motions or amendments pending and include the bill, resolution, or
27 proposition that is on second or third reading. The previous

1 question cannot be ordered, however, on the main proposition
2 without including other pending motions of lower rank as given in
3 Section 3 of this rule.

4 Sec. 28. LIMIT OF APPLICATION. The previous question shall
5 not extend beyond the final vote on a motion or sequence of motions
6 to which the previous question has been ordered.

7 Sec. 29. AMENDMENTS NOT YET LAID BEFORE THE HOUSE.
8 Amendments on the speaker's desk for consideration which have not
9 actually been laid before the house and read cannot be included
10 under a motion for the previous question.

11 Sec. 30. MOVING THE PREVIOUS QUESTION AFTER A MOTION TO
12 TABLE. If a motion to table is made directly to a main motion, the
13 motion for the previous question is not in order. In a case where an
14 amendment to a main motion is pending, and a motion to table the
15 amendment is made, it is in order to move the previous question on
16 the main motion, the pending amendment, and the motion to table the
17 amendment.

18 Sec. 31. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR MOTION FOR THE PREVIOUS
19 QUESTION. There is no acceptable substitute for a motion for the
20 previous question, nor can other motions be applied to it.

21 Sec. 32. MOTION FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION NOT SUBJECT TO
22 TABLING. The motion for the previous question is not subject to a
23 motion to table.

24 Sec. 33. MOTION TO ADJOURN AFTER MOTION FOR PREVIOUS
25 QUESTION ACCEPTED. The motion to adjourn is not in order after a
26 motion for the previous question is accepted by the chair, or after
27 the seconding of such motion and before a vote is taken.

1 Sec. 34. MOTIONS IN ORDER AFTER PREVIOUS QUESTION ORDERED.
2 After the previous question has been ordered, no motion shall be in
3 order until the question or questions on which it was ordered have
4 been voted on, without debate, except:

5 (1) a motion for a call of the house, and motions
6 incidental thereto;

7 (2) a motion to extend the time of a member closing on
8 a proposition;

9 (3) a motion to permit a member who has the right to
10 speak to yield the time or a part thereof to another member;

11 (4) a request for and a verification of a vote;

12 (5) a motion to reconsider the vote by which the
13 previous question was ordered. A motion to reconsider may be made
14 only once and that must be before any vote under the previous
15 question has been taken;

16 (6) a motion to table a motion to reconsider the vote
17 by which the previous question has been ordered;

18 (7) a double motion to reconsider and table the vote by
19 which the previous question was ordered.

20 Sec. 35. MOTION TO ADJOURN OR RECESS AFTER PREVIOUS
21 QUESTION ORDERED. No motion for an adjournment or a recess shall be
22 in order after the previous question is ordered until the final vote
23 under the previous question has been taken, unless the roll call
24 shows the absence of a quorum.

25 Sec. 36. ADJOURNING WITHOUT A QUORUM. When the house
26 adjourns without a quorum under the previous question, the previous
27 question shall remain in force and effect when the bill,

1 resolution, or other proposition is again laid before the house.

2 CHAPTER C. RECONSIDERATION

3 Sec. 37. MOTION TO RECONSIDER A VOTE. (a) When a question
4 has been decided by the house and the yeas and nays have been called
5 for and recorded, any member voting with the prevailing side may, on
6 the same legislative day, or on the next legislative day, move a
7 reconsideration; however, if a reconsideration is moved on the next
8 legislative day, it must be done before the order of the day, as
9 designated in the 11th item of Rule 6, Section 1(a), is taken up.
10 If the house refuses to reconsider, or on reconsideration, affirms
11 its decision, no further action to reconsider shall be in order.

12 (b) Where the yeas and nays have not been called for and
13 recorded, any member, regardless of whether he or she voted on the
14 prevailing side or not, may make the motion to reconsider; however,
15 even when the yeas and nays have not been recorded, the following
16 shall not be eligible to make a motion to reconsider:

- 17 (1) a member who was absent;
18 (2) a member who was paired and, therefore, did not
19 vote; and
20 (3) a member who was recorded in the journal as having
21 voted on the losing side.

22 Sec. 38. DEBATE ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to
23 reconsider shall be debatable only when the question to be
24 reconsidered is debatable. Even though the previous question was
25 in force before the vote on a debatable question was taken, debate
26 is permissible on the reconsideration of such debatable question.

27 Sec. 39. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED. Every motion to

1 reconsider shall be decided by a majority vote, even though the vote
2 on the original question requires a two-thirds vote for affirmative
3 action. If the motion to reconsider prevails, the question then
4 immediately recurs on the question reconsidered.

5 Sec. 40. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to
6 reconsider cannot be withdrawn unless permission is given by a
7 majority vote of the house, and the motion may be called up by any
8 member.

9 Sec. 41. TABLING MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to
10 reconsider shall be subject to a motion to table, which, if carried,
11 shall be a final disposition of the motion to reconsider.

12 Sec. 42. DOUBLE MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND TABLE. The double
13 motion to reconsider and table shall be in order. It shall be
14 undebatable. When carried, the motion to reconsider shall be
15 tabled. When it fails, the question shall then be on the motion to
16 reconsider, and the motion to reconsider shall, without further
17 action, be spread on the journal, but it may be called up by any
18 member, in accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of this
19 rule.

20 Sec. 43. DELAYED DISPOSITION OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER. (a)
21 If a motion to reconsider is not disposed of when made, it shall be
22 entered in the journal, and cannot, after that legislative day, be
23 called up and disposed of unless one legislative day's notice has
24 been given.

25 (b) Unless called up and disposed of prior to 72 hours
26 before final adjournment of the session, all motions to reconsider
27 shall be regarded as determined and lost.

1 (c) All motions to reconsider made during the last 72 hours
2 of the session shall be disposed of when made; otherwise, the motion
3 shall be considered as lost.

4 Sec. 44. MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND SPREAD ON JOURNAL. (a) A
5 member voting on the prevailing side may make a motion to reconsider
6 and spread on the journal, which does not require a vote, and on the
7 motion being made, it shall be entered on the journal. Any member,
8 regardless of whether he or she voted on the prevailing side or not,
9 who desires immediate action on a motion to reconsider which has
10 been spread on the journal, can call it up as soon as it is made, and
11 demand a vote on it, or can call it up and move to table it.

12 (b) If the motion to table the motion to reconsider is
13 defeated, the motion to reconsider remains spread on the journal
14 for future action; however, any member, regardless of whether he or
15 she voted on the prevailing side or not, can call the motion from
16 the journal for action by the house, and, once disposed of, no other
17 motion to reconsider can be made.

18 Sec. 45. MOTION TO REQUIRE COMMITTEE TO REPORT. (a) During
19 the first 76 calendar days of a regular session, when any bill,
20 resolution, or other paper has been in committee for 6 calendar
21 days, exclusive of the calendar day on which it was referred, it
22 shall be in order for a member to move that the committee be
23 required to report the same within 7 calendar days. This motion
24 shall require a two-thirds vote for passage.

25 (b) After the first 76 calendar days of a regular session,
26 when any bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for
27 6 calendar days, exclusive of the calendar day on which it was

1 referred, it shall be in order for a member to move that the
2 committee be required to report the same within 7 calendar days.
3 This motion shall require a majority vote for passage.

4 (c) A motion to instruct a committee to report is not a
5 privileged motion and must be made during the routine motion period
6 unless made under a suspension of the rules.

7 (d) The house shall have no authority to instruct a
8 subcommittee directly; however, instructions recognized under the
9 rules may be given to a committee and shall be binding on all
10 subcommittees.

11 Sec. 46. MOTION TO REREFER TO ANOTHER COMMITTEE. (a)
12 During the first 76 calendar days of a regular session, when any
13 bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for 7
14 calendar days after the committee was instructed by the house to
15 report that measure by a motion made under Section 45 of this rule,
16 it shall be in order for a member to move to rerefer the bill,
17 resolution, or other paper to a different committee. This motion
18 shall require a two-thirds vote for passage.

19 (b) After the first 76 calendar days of a regular session,
20 when any bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for
21 7 calendar days after the committee has been instructed to report
22 that measure by a motion made under Section 45 of this rule, it
23 shall be in order for a member to move to rerefer the bill,
24 resolution, or other paper to a different committee. This motion
25 shall require a majority vote for passage.

26 (c) A motion to rerefer a bill, resolution, or other paper
27 from one committee to another committee is not a privileged motion

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1 and must be made during the routine motion period unless made under
2 a suspension of the rules.

RULE 8. BILLS

Sec. 1. CONTENTS OF BILLS. Proposed laws or changes in laws must be incorporated in bills, which shall consist of:

(1) a title or caption, beginning with the words "A Bill to be Entitled An Act" and a brief statement that gives the legislature and the public reasonable notice of the subject of the proposed measure;

(2) an enacting clause, "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas"; and

(3) the bill proper.

Sec. 2. PUBLISHING ACTS IN THEIR ENTIRETY. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its title. The act revived, or the section or sections amended, shall be reenacted and published at length. This rule does not apply to revisions adopted under Article III, Section 43, of the Texas Constitution.

Sec. 3. LIMITING A BILL TO A SINGLE SUBJECT. Each bill (except a general appropriations bill, which may embrace the various subjects and accounts for which money is appropriated or a revision adopted under Article III, Section 43, of the Texas Constitution) shall contain only one subject.

Sec. 4. CHANGING GENERAL LAW THROUGH AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL. A general law may not be changed by the provisions in an appropriations bill.

Sec. 5. COAUTHORSHIP, JOINT AUTHORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, COSPONSORSHIP, AND JOINT SPONSORSHIP. (a) A house bill or resolution may have only one primary author. The signature of the primary author shall be the only signature that appears on the

1 original measure and all copies filed with the chief clerk. The
2 signatures of all coauthors or joint authors shall appear on the
3 appropriate forms in the chief clerk's office.

4 (b) Any member may become the coauthor of a bill or
5 resolution by securing permission from the author. If permission
6 is secured from the author prior to the time the measure is filed
7 with the chief clerk, the primary author and the coauthor shall sign
8 the appropriate form, which shall be included with the measure when
9 it is filed with the chief clerk. If a member wishes to become the
10 coauthor of a measure after it has been filed, no action shall be
11 required by the house, but it shall be the duty of the member
12 seeking to be a coauthor to obtain written authorization on the
13 appropriate form from the author. This authorization shall be
14 filed with the chief clerk before the coauthor signs the form for
15 the bill or resolution. The chief clerk shall report daily to the
16 journal clerk the names of members filed as coauthors of bills or
17 resolutions. If a coauthor of a bill or resolution desires to
18 withdraw from such status, the member shall notify the chief clerk,
19 who in turn shall notify the journal clerk.

20 (c) The primary author of a measure may designate up to four
21 joint authors by providing written authorization on the appropriate
22 form to the chief clerk. If a member designated as a joint author
23 has not already signed on the measure as a coauthor, that member
24 must also sign the form before the records will reflect the joint
25 author status of that member. The names of all joint authors shall
26 be shown immediately following the primary author's name on all
27 official printings of the measure, on all house calendars, in the

1 house journal, and in the electronic legislative information
2 system.

3 (d) The determination of the house sponsor of a senate
4 measure is made at the time the measure is reported from committee.
5 In the case of multiple requests for house sponsorship, the house
6 sponsor of a senate measure shall be determined by the chair of the
7 committee, in consultation with the senate author of the measure.
8 The chair of the committee must designate a primary sponsor and may
9 designate up to four joint sponsors or an unlimited number of
10 cosponsors. The names of all joint sponsors shall be shown
11 immediately following the primary sponsor's name on all official
12 printings of the measure, on all house calendars, in the house
13 journal, and in the electronic legislative information system.

14 Sec. 6. FILING, FIRST READING, AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.
15 Each bill shall be filed with the chief clerk when introduced and
16 shall be numbered in its regular order. Each bill shall be read
17 first time by caption and referred by the speaker to the appropriate
18 committee with jurisdiction.

19 Sec. 7. PREFILING. Beginning the first Monday after the
20 general election preceding the next regular legislative session, or
21 within 30 days prior to any special session, it shall be in order to
22 file with the chief clerk bills and resolutions for introduction in
23 that session. On receipt of the bills or resolutions, the chief
24 clerk shall number them and make them a matter of public record,
25 available for distribution. Once a bill or resolution has been so
26 filed, it may not be recalled. This shall apply only to
27 members-elect of the succeeding legislative session.

1 Sec. 8. DEADLINE FOR INTRODUCTION. (a) Bills and joint
2 resolutions introduced during the first 60 calendar days of the
3 regular session may be considered by the committees and in the house
4 and disposed of at any time during the session, in accordance with
5 the rules of the house. After the first 60 calendar days of a
6 regular session, any bill or joint resolution, except local bills,
7 emergency appropriations, and all emergency matters submitted by
8 the governor in special messages to the legislature, shall require
9 an affirmative vote of four-fifths of those members present and
10 voting to be introduced.

11 (b) In addition to a bill defined as a "local bill" under
12 Section 10(c) of this rule, a bill is considered local for purposes
13 of this section if it relates to a specified district created under
14 Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution (water
15 districts, etc.), a specified hospital district, or another
16 specified special purpose district, even if neither these rules nor
17 the Texas Constitution require publication of notice for that bill.

18 Sec. 9. NUMBER OF COPIES FILED. (a) Thirteen copies of
19 every bill, except bills relating to conservation and reclamation
20 districts and governed by the provisions of Article XVI, Section
21 59, of the Texas Constitution, must be filed with the chief clerk at
22 the time that the bill is introduced.

23 (b) Fifteen copies of every bill relating to conservation
24 and reclamation districts and governed by the provisions of Article
25 XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, with copies of the
26 notice to introduce the bill attached, must be filed with the chief
27 clerk at the time that the bill is introduced if the bill is

intended to:

(1) create a particular conservation and reclamation district; or

(2) amend the act of a particular conservation and reclamation district to:

(A) add additional land to the district;

(B) alter the taxing authority of the district;

(C) alter the authority of the district with respect to issuing bonds; or

(D) alter the qualifications or terms of office of the members of the governing body of the district.

(c) No bill may be laid before the house on first reading until it is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 10. LOCAL BILLS. (a) The house may not consider a local bill unless notice of intention to apply for the passage of the bill was published as provided by law and evidence of the publication is attached to the bill. If not attached to the bill on filing with the chief clerk or receipt of the bill from the senate, copies of the evidence of timely publication shall be filed with the chief clerk and must be distributed to the members of the committee not later than the first time the bill is laid out in a committee meeting. The evidence shall be attached to the bill on first printing and shall remain with the measure throughout the entire legislative process, including submission to the governor.

(b) Neither the house nor a committee of the house may consider a bill whose application is limited to one or more political subdivisions by means of population brackets or other

1 artificial devices in lieu of identifying the political subdivision
2 or subdivisions by name. However, this subsection does not prevent
3 consideration of a bill that classifies political subdivisions
4 according to a minimum or maximum population or other criterion
5 that bears a reasonable relation to the purpose of the proposed
6 legislation or a bill that updates laws based on population
7 classifications to conform to a federal decennial census.

8 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this section,
9 "local bill" for purposes of this section means:

10 (1) a bill for which publication of notice is required
11 under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution (water
12 districts, etc.);

13 (2) a bill for which publication of notice is required
14 under Article IX, Section 9, of the Texas Constitution (hospital
15 districts);

16 (3) a bill relating to hunting, fishing, or
17 conservation of wildlife resources of a specified locality;

18 (4) a bill creating or affecting a county court or
19 statutory court or courts of one or more specified counties or
20 municipalities;

21 (5) a bill creating or affecting the juvenile board or
22 boards of a specified county or counties; or

23 (6) a bill creating or affecting a road utility
24 district under the authority of Article III, Section 52, of the
25 Texas Constitution.

26 (d) A bill is not considered to be a local bill under
27 Subsection (c)(3), (4), or (5) if it affects a sufficient number of

1 localities, counties, or municipalities so as to be of general
2 application or of statewide importance.

3 Sec. 11. CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE. (a) No bill shall be
4 considered unless it first has been referred to a committee and
5 reported from it.

6 (b) After a bill has been recommitted, it shall be
7 considered by the committee as a new subject.

8 Sec. 12. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION. All bills and resolutions
9 before the house shall be taken up and acted on in the order in which
10 they appear on their respective calendars, and each calendar shall
11 have the priority accorded to it by the provisions of Rule 6,
12 Sections 7 and 8.

13 Sec. 13. DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION. (a) No house bill
14 that is local as defined by Section 10(c) of this rule and that
15 appears on a local, consent, and resolutions calendar shall be
16 considered for any purpose after the 130th day of a regular session,
17 except to:

18 (1) act on senate amendments;
19 (2) adopt a conference committee report;
20 (3) reconsider the bill to make corrections; or
21 (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of
22 the governor.

23 (b) No other house bill or joint resolution shall be
24 considered on its second reading after the 122nd day of a regular
25 session if it appears on a daily or supplemental daily house
26 calendar, or for any purpose after the 123rd day of a regular
27 session, except to:

- (1) act on senate amendments;
- (2) adopt a conference committee report;
- (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to make corrections; or
- (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of the governor.

(c) No senate bill or joint resolution shall be considered on its second reading after the 134th day of a regular session if it appears on a daily or supplemental daily house calendar, or for any purpose after the 135th day of a regular session, except to:

- (1) adopt a conference committee report;
- (2) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house amendments;
- (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to make corrections; or
- (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of the governor.

(d) The speaker shall not lay any bill or joint resolution before the house or permit a vote to be taken on its passage on the 136th and 137th days of a regular session, except to:

- (1) act on senate amendments;
- (2) adopt a conference committee report;
- (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house amendments;
- (4) reconsider the bill or resolution to make corrections; or
- (5) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of

1 the governor.

2 (e) The speaker shall not lay any bill or joint resolution
3 before the house or permit a vote to be taken on its passage on the
4 138th and 139th days of a regular session, except to:

5 (1) adopt a conference committee report;

6 (2) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house
7 amendments;

8 (3) discharge house conferees and concur in senate
9 amendments;

10 (4) reconsider the bill or resolution to make
11 corrections; or

12 (5) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of
13 the governor.

14 (f) No vote shall be taken upon the passage of any bill or
15 resolution within 24 hours of the final adjournment of a regular
16 session unless it be to reconsider the bill or resolution to make
17 corrections, or to adopt a corrective resolution.

18 Sec. 14. PRINTED COPIES REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION.

19 (a) A printed copy of each bill or resolution, except the general
20 appropriations bill, shall be placed in the newspaper mailbox of
21 each member at least 36 hours if convened in regular session and 24
22 hours if convened in special session before the bill can be
23 considered by the house on second reading. A printed copy of the
24 general appropriations bill shall be placed in the newspaper
25 mailbox of each member at least 168 hours during a regular session
26 and at least 72 hours during a special session before the bill can
27 be considered by the house on second reading.

1 (b) By majority vote, the house may order both the original
2 bill or resolution and the complete committee substitute to be
3 printed. It shall not be necessary for the house to order complete
4 committee substitutes printed in lieu of original bills.

5 (c) A two-thirds vote of the house is necessary to order
6 that bills, other than local bills, be not printed. It shall not be
7 necessary for the house to order that local bills be not printed.

8 Sec. 15. REQUIREMENT FOR THREE READINGS. A bill shall not
9 have the force of law until it has been read on three several
10 legislative days in each house and free discussion allowed, unless
11 this provision is suspended by a vote of four-fifths of the members
12 present and voting, a quorum being present. The yeas and nays shall
13 be taken on the question of suspension and entered in the journal.

14 Sec. 16. CONSIDERATION SECTION BY SECTION. (a) During the
15 consideration of any bill or resolution, the house may, by a
16 majority vote, order the bill or resolution to be considered
17 section by section, or department by department, until each section
18 or department has been given separate consideration. If such a
19 procedure is ordered, only amendments to the section or department
20 under consideration at that time shall be in order. However, after
21 each section or department has been considered separately, the
22 entire bill or resolution shall be open for amendment, subject to
23 the provisions of Rule 11, Section 8(b). Once the consideration of
24 a bill section by section or department by department has been
25 ordered, it shall not be in order to move the previous question on
26 the entire bill, to recommit it, to lay it on the table, or to
27 postpone it, until each section or department has been given

1 separate consideration or until the vote by which section by
2 section consideration was ordered is reconsidered.

3 (b) A motion to consider a bill section by section is
4 debatable within narrow limits; that is, the pros and cons of the
5 proposed consideration can be debated but not the merits of the
6 bill.

7 Sec. 17. PASSAGE TO ENGROSSMENT OR THIRD READING. After a
8 bill or complete committee substitute for a bill has been taken up
9 and read, amendments shall be in order. If no amendment is made, or
10 if those proposed are disposed of, then the final question on its
11 second reading shall be, in the case of a house bill, whether it
12 shall be passed to engrossment, or, in the case of a senate bill,
13 whether it shall pass to its third reading. All bills ordered
14 passed to engrossment or passed to a third reading shall remain on
15 the calendar on which placed, but with future priority over bills on
16 the same calendar that have not passed second reading.

17 Sec. 18. CERTIFICATION OF FINAL PASSAGE. The chief clerk
18 shall certify the final passage of each bill, noting on the bill the
19 date of its passage, and the vote by which it passed, if by a yea and
20 nay vote.

21 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATE. Every law passed by the
22 legislature, except the General Appropriations Act, shall take
23 effect or go into force on the 91st day after the adjournment of the
24 session at which it was enacted, unless the legislature provides
25 for an earlier effective date by a vote of two-thirds of all the
26 members elected to each house. The vote shall be taken by yeas and
27 nays and entered in the journals.

1 Sec. 20. BILLS CONTAINING SAME SUBSTANCE AS DEFEATED BILL.
2 After a bill or resolution has been considered and defeated by
3 either house of the legislature, no bill or resolution containing
4 the same substance shall be passed into law during the same session.

5 Sec. 21. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS INVOLVING STATE FUNDS. (a)
6 In order to assure the continuation of financial support of
7 existing state services through the passage of the general
8 appropriations bill, it shall not be in order during the first 118
9 days of the regular session for the speaker to lay before the house,
10 prior to the consideration, passage, and certification by the
11 comptroller of the general appropriations bill, any bill that
12 directly or indirectly prevents from being available for purposes
13 of funding state government generally any money that under existing
14 law would otherwise be available for that purpose, including a bill
15 that transfers or diverts money in the state treasury from the
16 general revenue fund to another fund.

17 (b) In order to assure compliance with the limitation on
18 appropriations of state tax revenue not dedicated by the
19 constitution as provided by Article VIII, Section 22, of the Texas
20 Constitution, it is not in order for the speaker to lay before the
21 house, prior to the time that the general appropriations bill has
22 been finally passed and sent to the comptroller, any bill that
23 appropriates funds from the state treasury that are not dedicated
24 by the constitution.

25 (c) When bills subject to the provisions of Subsection (a)
26 of this section become eligible for consideration, they shall be
27 considered for passage under the rules of the house and the joint

1 rules as any other bill but shall not be signed by the speaker as
2 required by the Constitution of Texas and the rules of the house
3 until the general appropriations bill has been signed by the
4 presiding officers of both houses of the legislature and
5 transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for certification
6 as required by Article III, Section 49a, of the Constitution of
7 Texas.

8 (d) All bills subject to the provisions of Subsection (a) of
9 this section that have finally passed both houses shall be enrolled
10 as required by the rules and transmitted to the speaker. The
11 speaker shall note on each bill the date and hour of final
12 legislative action and shall withhold his or her signature and any
13 further action on all such bills until the general appropriations
14 bill has been signed by the presiding officers of both houses and
15 transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for
16 certification. Immediately thereafter, the speaker shall sign in
17 the presence of the house all bills on which further action was
18 being withheld because the bills were subject to the provisions of
19 this section. After being signed by the speaker, the bills shall
20 then be transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for
21 certification or to the governor, as the case may be, in the order
22 in which final legislative action was taken. "Final legislative
23 action," as that term is used in this subsection, shall mean the
24 last act of either house meeting in general session necessary to
25 place the bill in its final form preparatory to enrollment.

26 (e) Subsections (a)-(d) of this section shall not apply to
27 any bills providing for:

1 (1) the payment of expenses of the legislature;

2 (2) the payment of judgments against the state;

3 (3) any emergency matter when requested by the
4 governor in a formal message to the legislature; or

5 (4) the reduction of taxes.

6 (f) Unless within the authority of a resolution or
7 resolutions adopted pursuant to Article VIII, Section 22(b), of the
8 Texas Constitution, it is not in order for the house to consider for
9 final passage on third reading, on motion to concur in senate
10 amendments, or on motion to adopt a conference committee report, a
11 bill appropriating funds from the state treasury in an amount that,
12 when added to amounts previously appropriated by bills finally
13 passed and sent or due to be sent to the comptroller, would exceed
14 the limit on appropriations established under Chapter 316,
15 Government Code.

16 (g) The general appropriations bill shall be reported to the
17 house by the Committee on Appropriations not later than the 90th
18 calendar day of the regular session. Should the Committee on
19 Appropriations fail to report by the deadline, Subsections (a)-(d)
20 of this section shall be suspended for the balance of that regular
21 session.

RULE 9. JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Sec. 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION. (a) A proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution shall take the form of a joint resolution, which shall be subject to the rules that govern the proceedings on bills, except as provided by this section.

(b) A joint resolution is not subject to the provisions of Rule 8, Section 3, or Rule 11, Section 3.

(c) A joint resolution shall be adopted on any reading after the first if it receives a two-thirds vote of the elected membership of the house. If such a joint resolution receives only a majority vote on second reading, it shall be passed to engrossment, and subsequent proceedings shall be the same as those governing the final passage of bills which have been passed to engrossment. If such a joint resolution does not receive a two-thirds vote of the elected membership of the house on third reading and final passage, it shall fail of adoption.

Sec. 2. RATIFYING OR PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. Ratification by Texas of a proposed amendment to or application to Congress for a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States shall take the form of a joint resolution, which shall be subject to the rules that govern the proceedings on bills, except that it shall be adopted on second reading if it receives a majority vote of the members present and voting, a quorum being present. If such a joint resolution fails to receive a majority vote, it shall fail of adoption and shall not be considered again unless revived by a motion to reconsider as otherwise provided in the rules.

1 Sec. 3. PLACEMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON A CALENDAR. Joint
2 resolutions on committee report shall be referred to the Committee
3 on Calendars for placement on an appropriate calendar. The
4 Committee on Calendars shall maintain a separate calendar for house
5 joint resolutions and a separate calendar for senate joint
6 resolutions. Senate joint resolutions shall be considered on
7 calendar Wednesdays and calendar Thursdays along with senate bills.

1 RULE 10. HOUSE RESOLUTIONS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

2 Sec. 1. FILING. Resolutions shall be introduced by the
3 filing of 13 identical copies with the chief clerk, who shall number
4 and record house resolutions in one series and concurrent
5 resolutions in a separate series.

6 Sec. 2. REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE. (a) After numbering and
7 recording, all resolutions shall be sent to the speaker for
8 referral to the proper committee.

9 (b) Resolutions proposing the expenditure of money out of
10 the contingent expense fund of the legislature shall be referred to
11 the Committee on House Administration.

12 (c) All other resolutions shall be referred to the
13 appropriate committee with jurisdiction.

14 Sec. 3. REFERRAL TO CALENDARS COMMITTEES. All resolutions
15 on committee report, other than privileged resolutions, shall be
16 referred immediately to the appropriate calendars committee for
17 placement on the appropriate calendar.

18 Sec. 4. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION. Unless privileged,
19 resolutions shall be considered by the house only at the time
20 assigned for their consideration on the calendar, in accordance
21 with the provisions of Rule 6, Section 7.

22 Sec. 5. SIGNING BY GOVERNOR. Concurrent resolutions shall
23 take the same course as house resolutions, except that they shall be
24 sent to the governor for signing when finally passed by both houses.

25 Sec. 6. MASCOT RESOLUTIONS. (a) All candidates for the
26 office of mascot shall be named in and elected by a single house
27 resolution.

1 (b) Only children of house members who are under the age of
2 12 years shall be eligible for election to the honorary office of
3 mascot. A child once named a mascot shall not be eligible for the
4 honor a second time.

5 (c) No separate classification or special title shall be
6 given to any mascot, but all shall receive the same title of
7 honorary mascot of the house of representatives.

8 (d) The speaker shall issue a certificate showing the
9 election of each mascot and deliver it to the parent member of the
10 child.

11 Pictures of mascots shall appear on the panel picture of the
12 house.

13 Sec. 7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS DURING CALLED
14 SESSIONS. The subject matter of house resolutions and concurrent
15 resolutions does not have to be submitted by the governor in a
16 called session before they can be considered.

17 Sec. 8. RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.
18 Resolutions authorizing the enrolling clerk of the house or senate
19 to make technical corrections to a measure that has been finally
20 acted upon by both houses of the legislature shall be privileged in
21 nature and need not be referred to committee. Such resolutions
22 shall be eligible for consideration by the house upon introduction
23 in the house or receipt from the senate.

24 Sec. 9. AUTHOR'S SIGNATURE ON CONGRATULATORY OR MEMORIAL
25 RESOLUTION. The enrolled printing of a house congratulatory or
26 memorial resolution shall include a place for the signature of the
27 primary author of the resolution. The chief clerk shall provide the

1 primary author with the opportunity to sign the resolution after
2 the resolution is enrolled. The absence of the primary author's
3 signature does not affect the validity of the resolution as adopted
4 by the house.

RULE 11. AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. ACCEPTABLE MOTIONS TO AMEND. When a bill, resolution, motion, or proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order. It shall also be in order to offer a further amendment by way of a substitute. Such a substitute may not be amended. If the substitute is adopted, the question shall then be on the amendment as substituted, and under this condition an amendment is not in order.

Sec. 2. MOTIONS ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT OFFERED AS AMENDMENTS. No motion or proposition on a subject different from the subject under consideration shall be admitted as an amendment or as a substitute for the motion or proposition under debate. "Proposition" as used in this section shall include a bill, resolution, joint resolution, or any other motion which is amendable.

Amendments pertaining to the organization, powers, regulation, and management of the agency, commission, or advisory committee under consideration are germane to bills extending state agencies, commissions, or advisory committees under the provisions of the Texas Sunset Act (Chapter 325, Government Code).

An amendment to a committee substitute laid before the house in lieu of an original bill is germane if each subject of the amendment is a subject that is included in the committee substitute or was included in the original bill.

Sec. 3. AMENDING A BILL TO CHANGE ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE. No bill shall be amended in its passage through either house so as to

1 change its original purpose.

2 Sec. 4. AMENDMENTS TO BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON LOCAL,
3 CONSENT, AND RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS. Amendments to a bill or
4 resolution shall not be in order during its consideration on a
5 local, consent, and resolutions calendar set by the Committee on
6 Local and Consent Calendars, unless the amendments have first been
7 submitted to and approved by the Committee on Local and Consent
8 Calendars, which shall be noted thereon by the chair of the
9 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars prior to the offering of
10 the amendments.

11 Sec. 5. AMENDMENTS ON THIRD READING. When a bill has been
12 taken up on its third reading, amendments shall be in order, but
13 shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present for their
14 adoption. A bill on third reading may be recommitted to a committee
15 and later reported to the house with amendments, in which case the
16 bill shall again take the course of a bill at its second reading.

17 Sec. 6. COPIES OF AN AMENDMENT. (a) Five copies of each
18 amendment shall be filed with the speaker. When the amendment is
19 read, two copies shall go to the chief clerk, one copy to the
20 journal clerk, one copy to the reading clerk, and one copy to the
21 speaker. No amendment offered from the floor shall be in order
22 unless the sponsoring member has complied with the provisions of
23 this section with respect to copies of the amendment. The chief
24 clerk shall retain one copy of each amendment filed with the speaker
25 under this section whether or not the amendment was offered by the
26 filing member.

27 (b) Prior to the time that an amendment is offered, if the

1 amendment exceeds one page in length, the sponsoring member must
2 provide to the chief clerk a minimum of 15 copies to be available
3 for distribution to those members requesting copies of the
4 amendment.

5 (c) If the amendment is only one page in length or less, the
6 sponsoring member must provide one additional copy of the amendment
7 to the chief clerk, who shall immediately proceed to have
8 additional copies made and available for those members requesting
9 copies of the amendment.

10 (d) The provisions of this section with respect to extra
11 copies shall not apply to committee amendments or to amendments
12 which do nothing more than delete material from the bill or
13 resolution.

14 (e) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an
15 original amendment that exceeds one page in length and that is in
16 the form of a complete substitute for the bill or resolution laid
17 before the house, or in the opinion of the speaker is a substantial
18 substitute, unless 25 copies of the amendment have been provided to
19 the chief clerk and were available in the chief clerk's office at
20 least 12 hours prior to the time the calendar on which the bill or
21 resolution to be amended is eligible for consideration. ~~[The chief~~
22 ~~clerk shall not be required to retain, for possible consideration~~
23 ~~in the future, copies of an amendment to a measure that is~~
24 ~~recommitted or returned to committee.]~~

25 (f) An amendment may be typed, hand-printed, or
26 handwritten, but must be legible in order to be offered.

27 (g) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an

1 original amendment to a bill extending an agency, commission, or
2 advisory committee under the Texas Sunset Act unless 25 copies of
3 the amendment have been provided to the chief clerk and were
4 available in the chief clerk's office at least 12 hours prior to the
5 time the calendar on which the bill or resolution to be amended is
6 eligible for consideration. [~~The chief clerk shall not be required~~
7 ~~to retain, for possible consideration in the future, copies of an~~
8 ~~amendment to a measure that is recommitted or returned to~~
9 ~~committee.~~]

10 (h) The Committee on House Administration shall ensure
11 that:

12 (1) the floor amendment system through which members
13 of the house may view an electronic image of current or past
14 amendments, or the system's successor in function, is available to
15 the public on the Internet; and

16 (2) members of the public using the system available
17 on the Internet may view the same information that members may view
18 at the same time that members may view the information.

19 Sec. 7. ORDER OF OFFERING MOTIONS TO AMEND. Classes of
20 motions to amend shall be offered in the following order:

21 (1) motions to amend by striking out the enacting
22 clause of a bill (or the resolving clause of a resolution), which
23 amendment cannot be amended or substituted;

24 (2) motions to amend an original bill, resolution,
25 motion, or proposition (other than substitute bills as provided for
26 in Subdivision (3) below), which shall have precedence as follows:

27 (A) original amendment;

1 (B) amendment to the amendment;

2 (C) substitute for the amendment to the
3 amendment.

4 Recognition for the offering of original amendments shall be
5 as follows: first, the main author; second, the member or members
6 offering the committee amendment; and third, members offering other
7 amendments from the floor;

8 (3) motions to amend an original bill by striking out
9 all after the enacting clause (substitute bills), which substitute
10 bills shall be subject to amendment as follows:

11 (A) amendment to the substitute bill;

12 (B) substitute for the amendment to the
13 substitute bill.

14 Recognition for offering such substitute bills shall be as
15 follows: first, the main author of the original bill, if the
16 member has not sought to perfect the bill by amendments as provided
17 for in Subdivision (2) above; second, the member or members
18 offering the committee amendment; and, third, members offering
19 amendments from the floor.

20 It shall be in order under the procedure described in this
21 subdivision to have as many as four complete measures pending
22 before the house at one time; that is, an original bill, an
23 amendment striking out all after the enacting clause of the bill and
24 inserting a new bill body, an amendment to the amendment striking
25 out all after the enacting clause of the bill and inserting a new
26 bill body, and a substitute for this amendment to the amendment to
27 the original bill which is also a new bill body. These "substitute

1 bills" shall be voted on in the reverse order of their offering;

2 (4) motions to amend the caption of a bill or joint
3 resolution, which may also be offered in accordance with Section
4 9(a) of this rule.

5 Sec. 8. STRIKE OUTS AND INSERTIONS. (a) A motion to strike
6 out and to insert new matter in lieu of that to be stricken out shall
7 be regarded as a substitute and shall be indivisible.

8 (b) Matter inserted or stricken out of an original bill by
9 way of amendment may not be taken out or reinserted at a later time
10 on the same reading except under the following conditions:

11 (1) reconsideration of the inserting or deleting
12 amendment;

13 (2) adoption of a "substitute bill" amendment;

14 (3) adoption of an amendment for a whole paragraph,
15 section or subdivision of a bill which so materially changes the
16 original text that the portion inserted or deleted is in fact of
17 minor importance.

18 Sec. 9. AMENDING CAPTIONS. (a) An amendment to the caption
19 of a bill or resolution shall not be in order until all other
20 proposed amendments have been acted on and the house is ready to
21 vote on the passage of the measure, and it shall then be decided
22 without debate.

23 (b) If the previous question has been ordered on a bill or
24 joint resolution at any reading, an amendment to the caption of that
25 bill or joint resolution may be offered and voted on immediately
26 preceding the final vote on the bill or joint resolution.

27 Sec. 10. MOTION TO LIMIT AMENDMENTS. (a) A motion to limit

1 amendments shall be admitted only when seconded by 25 members. The
2 motion may take either of two forms:

3 (1) to limit amendments to those pending before the
4 house; or

5 (2) to limit amendments to those pending on the
6 speaker's desk.

7 (b) The motion shall be put by the chair in this manner: "The
8 motion has been seconded. Three minutes pro and con debate will be
9 allowed on the motion to limit amendments." As soon as the debate
10 has ended, the chair shall continue: "As many as are in favor of
11 limiting amendments on (here state on which question or questions)
12 will say 'Aye,'" and then "As many as are opposed say 'Nay.'" As in
13 all other propositions, a motion to limit amendments shall be
14 decided by a record vote if demanded by any member. If ordered by a
15 majority of the members voting, a quorum being present, the motion
16 shall have the effect of confining further debate and consideration
17 to those amendments included within the motion, and thereafter the
18 chair will accept no more amendments to the proposition to which the
19 motion is applied.

20 (c) The motion to limit amendments, if adopted, shall not in
21 any way cut off or limit debate or other parliamentary maneuvers on
22 the pending proposition or propositions or amendment or amendments
23 included within the motion. The sole function of the motion is to
24 prevent the chair from accepting further amendments to the
25 proposition to which the motion is applied.

26 (d) Except as otherwise provided, the motion to limit
27 amendments shall have no effect on the parliamentary situation to

1 which the motion is applied, and the matter to which the motion is
2 applied shall continue to be considered by the house in all other
3 respects as though the motion had not been made.

4 (e) The amendments that are included within the motion to
5 limit amendments shall each be subject to amendment, if otherwise
6 permitted under the rules.

7 Sec. 11. MOTION TO TABLE A MOTION TO LIMIT AMENDMENTS. The
8 motion to limit amendments is not subject to a motion to table.

9 Sec. 12. ORDER OF VOTING ON AMENDMENTS. When an amendment
10 is offered, followed by an amendment to that amendment, and then a
11 substitute for the amendment to the amendment, these questions
12 shall be voted on in the reverse order of their offering.

13 Sec. 13. CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS. When an
14 amendment is adopted, such action shall be certified by the chief
15 clerk on the amendment, and the official copy of the amendment shall
16 then be securely attached to the bill or resolution which it amends.

RULE 12. PRINTING

Sec. 1. PRINTINGS OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS. (a)
Except as otherwise provided in this rule, all bills and joint resolutions shall be printed and a copy provided to each member at each of the following stages in the parliamentary progress of the bill or joint resolution:

(1) at the time of the committee report on the bill or joint resolution, which shall be known as "First Printing" and which shall consist of:

(A) a complete text of the bill or joint resolution as reported from committee;

(B) a complete copy of the bill analysis, a complete copy of the summary of committee action, and a complete copy of the witness list;

(C) the text of the committee report;

(D) the record vote by which the measure was reported from committee, including the vote of individual members;

(E) a copy of the latest fiscal note; and

(F) a copy of each impact statement received by the committee;

(2) at the time the bill or joint resolution, if amended, finally passes the senate, senate amendments and house engrossment text will be printed, which shall be known as "Second Printing"; and

(3) at the time the conference committee, if any, makes its report on the bill or joint resolution, which shall be known as "Third Printing."

1 (b) In any section of the first printing of a bill or joint
2 resolution that proposes to amend an existing statute or
3 constitutional provision, language sought to be deleted must be
4 bracketed and stricken through, and language sought to be added
5 must be underlined. This requirement does not apply to:

- 6 (1) an appropriations bill;
7 (2) a local bill;
8 (3) a game bill;
9 (4) a recodification bill;
10 (5) a redistricting bill;
11 (6) a section of a bill or joint resolution not
12 purporting to amend an existing statute or constitutional
13 provision;
14 (7) a section of a bill or joint resolution that
15 revises the entire text of an existing statute or constitutional
16 provision, to the extent that it would confuse rather than clarify
17 to show deletions and additions; and
18 (8) a section of a bill or joint resolution providing
19 for severability, nonseverability, emergency, or repeal of an
20 existing statute or constitutional provision.

21 (c) The speaker may overrule a point of order raised as to a
22 violation of Subsection (b) of this section if the violation is
23 typographical or minor and does not tend to deceive or mislead.

24 Sec. 2. LOCAL BILLS. Local bills shall not be reprinted
25 after the first printing except when ordered printed by a majority
26 vote of the house.

27 Sec. 3. CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS. A concurrent resolution

1 shall be printed only if the resolution:

- 2 (1) grants permission to sue the state;
- 3 (2) memorializes Congress to take or to refrain from
4 taking certain action;
- 5 (3) sets legislative policy or declares legislative
6 intent;
- 7 (4) makes corrective changes in any bill, joint
8 resolution, or conference committee report;
- 9 (5) establishes or interprets policy for a state
10 agency, department, or political subdivision;
- 11 (6) establishes, modifies, or changes internal
12 procedures or administration of the legislature or any component
13 part thereof;
- 14 (7) proposes an amendment to the Joint Rules of the
15 Senate and the House of Representatives; or
- 16 (8) is ordered printed by a majority vote of the house.

17 Sec. 4. HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. A house resolution shall be
18 printed only if the resolution:

- 19 (1) proposes an amendment to the rules of the house;
- 20 (2) establishes, modifies, or changes the internal
21 procedures and administration of the house;
- 22 (3) establishes legislative policy or interprets
23 legislative intent; or
- 24 (4) is ordered printed by a majority of the house.

25 Sec. 5. ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF COMPLIANCE WITH PRINTING
26 REQUIREMENTS. Except for matter to be printed in the journal, all
27 requirements contained in the rules with respect to the printing of

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1 bills, resolutions, reports, and other matters shall be considered
2 complied with if the material is adequately and properly reproduced
3 by any acceptable means of reproduction.

RULE 13. INTERACTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SENATE

CHAPTER A. MESSAGES

Sec. 1. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR. Messages and communications from the governor shall be received when announced, and shall be read on the calendar day received.

Sec. 2. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE. (a) All messages from the senate shall be received when announced. Senate bills announced as passed shall be read for the first time and referred to the appropriate committee as soon as practicable.

(b) Messages from the senate announcing amendments to house bills and resolutions, nonconcurrence in house amendments to senate bills and resolutions, requests for conference committees, reports of conference committees, and all other matters of disagreement, amendments, and requests between the two houses, shall go to the speaker's desk in their regular order, but may be called up for action by the house at any time as a privileged matter, yielding only to a motion to adjourn.

CHAPTER B. SENATE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 3. HOUSE ACTION ON SENATE AMENDMENTS. When a bill, resolution, or other matter is returned to the house with senate amendments, the house may:

- (1) agree to the amendments; or
- (2) disagree to all of the amendments and ask for a conference committee; or
- (3) agree to one or more of the amendments and disagree as to the remainder and request a conference committee to consider those in disagreement; or

1 (4) agree to one or more and disagree as to the
2 remainder; or

3 (5) disagree to all amendments.

4 Sec. 4. ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS FOR BILLS WITH
5 IMMEDIATE EFFECT. If a bill is to go into immediate effect, senate
6 amendments thereto must be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the
7 elected membership of the house.

8 Sec. 5. PRINTING SENATE AMENDMENTS. (a) Senate amendments
9 to house bills and resolutions must be printed and copies provided
10 to the members at least 24 hours before any action can be taken
11 thereon by the house during a regular or special session.

12 (b) When a house bill or joint resolution, other than the
13 general appropriations bill, with senate amendments is returned to
14 the house, the chief clerk shall request the Legislative Budget
15 Board to prepare a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications
16 and probable cost of the measure as impacted by the senate
17 amendments. A copy of the fiscal note shall be distributed with the
18 senate amendments on their printing ~~[made available to each member]~~
19 before any action can be taken on the senate amendments by the
20 house.

21 (c) When a house bill or joint resolution, other than the
22 general appropriations bill, with senate amendments is returned to
23 the house, the chief clerk shall request the Texas Legislative
24 Council to prepare an analysis that describes the substantive
25 changes made to the house version of the bill by the senate
26 amendments. A copy of the council's analysis of senate amendments
27 shall be provided to the members electronically or as a printed copy

1 at least 12 hours before action is taken on the senate amendments by
2 the house. The Texas Legislative Council shall make all reasonable
3 efforts to timely provide the analysis in as accurate a form as time
4 allows. However, an unavoidable inability to provide the analysis
5 or an inadvertent error in the analysis is not a sustainable
6 question of order.

7 (d) When a house bill or joint resolution for which a tax
8 equity note was required under Rule 4, Section 34(b)(5), is
9 returned to the house with senate amendments, the chief clerk shall
10 request the Legislative Budget Board to prepare a tax equity note
11 estimating the general effects of the senate amendments on the
12 distribution of tax and fee burdens among individuals and
13 businesses. A copy of the updated tax equity note shall be made
14 available to each member, in some format, before any vote on the
15 floor can be taken on the senate amendments by the house.

16 CHAPTER C. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

17 Sec. 6. MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION. In all conferences
18 between the senate and the house by committee, the number of
19 committee members from each house shall be five. All votes on
20 matters of difference shall be taken by each committee separately.
21 A majority of each committee shall be required to determine the
22 matter in dispute. Reports by conference committees must be signed
23 by a majority of each committee of the conference.

24 Sec. 7. MEETINGS. House conferees when meeting with senate
25 conferees to adjust differences shall meet in public and shall give
26 a reasonable amount of notice of the meeting in the place designated
27 for giving notice of meetings of house standing committees. Any

1 such meeting shall be open to the news media. Any conference
2 committee report adopted in private shall not be considered by the
3 house.

4 Sec. 8. INSTRUCTIONS. Instructions to a conference
5 committee shall be made after the conference is ordered and before
6 the conferees are appointed by the speaker, and not thereafter.

7 Sec. 9. LIMITATIONS ON JURISDICTION. (a) Conference
8 committees shall limit their discussions and their actions solely
9 to the matters in disagreement between the two houses. A conference
10 committee shall have no authority with respect to any bill or
11 resolution:

12 (1) to change, alter, or amend text which is not in
13 disagreement;

14 (2) to omit text which is not in disagreement;

15 (3) to add text on any matter which is not in
16 disagreement;

17 (4) to add text on any matter which is not included in
18 either the house or senate version of the bill or resolution.

19 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
20 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

21 (b) Conference committees on appropriations bills, like
22 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and
23 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two
24 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the
25 rules, a conference committee on appropriations bills shall be
26 strictly limited in its authority as follows:

27 (1) If an item of appropriation appears in both house

1 and senate versions of the bill, the item must be included in the
2 conference committee report.

3 (2) If an item of appropriation appears in both house
4 and senate versions of the bill, and in identical amounts, no change
5 can be made in the item or the amount.

6 (3) If an item of appropriation appears in both house
7 and senate versions of the bill but in different amounts, no change
8 can be made in the item, but the amount shall be at the discretion of
9 the conference committee, provided that the amount shall not exceed
10 the larger version and shall not be less than the smaller version.

11 (4) If an item of appropriation appears in one version
12 of the bill and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted
13 at the discretion of the conference committee. If the item is
14 included, the amount shall not exceed the sum specified in the
15 version containing the item.

16 (5) If an item of appropriation appears in neither the
17 house nor the senate version of the bill, the item must not be
18 included in the conference committee report. However, the
19 conference committee report may include appropriations for
20 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed and
21 sent to the governor and may include contingent appropriations for
22 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed by at
23 least one house.

24 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
25 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

26 (c) Conference committees on tax bills, like other
27 conference committees, shall limit their discussions and their

1 actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two
2 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the
3 rules, a conference committee on a tax bill shall be strictly
4 limited in its authority as follows:

5 (1) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
6 versions of the bill, the item must be included in the conference
7 committee report.

8 (2) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
9 versions of the bill, and in identical form and with identical
10 rates, no change can be made in the item or the rate provided.

11 (3) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
12 versions of the bill but at differing rates, no change can be made
13 in the item, but the rate shall be at the discretion of the
14 conference committee, provided that the rate shall not exceed the
15 higher version and shall not be less than the lower version.

16 (4) If a tax item appears in one version of the bill
17 and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted at the
18 discretion of the conference committee. If the item is included,
19 the rate shall not exceed the rate specified in the version
20 containing the item.

21 (5) If a tax item appears in neither the house nor the
22 senate version of the bill, the item must not be included in the
23 conference committee report.

24 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
25 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

26 (d) Conference committees on reapportionment bills, to the
27 extent possible, shall limit their discussions and their actions to

1 the matters in disagreement between the two houses. Since the
2 adjustment of one district in a reapportionment bill will
3 inevitably affect other districts, the strict rule of construction
4 imposed on other conference committees must be relaxed somewhat
5 when reapportionment bills are involved. Accordingly, the
6 following authority and limitations shall apply only to conference
7 committees on reapportionment bills:

8 (1) If the matters in disagreement affect only certain
9 districts, and other districts are identical in both house and
10 senate versions of the bill, the conference committee shall make
11 adjustments only in those districts whose rearrangement is
12 essential to the effective resolving of the matters in
13 disagreement. All other districts shall remain unchanged.

14 (2) If the matters in disagreement permeate the entire
15 bill and affect most, if not all, of the districts, the conference
16 committee shall have wide discretion in rearranging the districts
17 to the extent necessary to resolve all differences between the two
18 houses.

19 (3) Insofar as the actual structure of the districts
20 is concerned, and only to that extent, the provisions of Subsection
21 (a) of this section shall not apply to conference committees on
22 reapportionment bills.

23 (e) Conference committees on recodification bills, like
24 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and
25 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two
26 houses. The comprehensive and complicated nature of recodification
27 bills makes necessary the relaxing of the strict rule of

1 construction imposed on other conference committees only to the
2 following extent:

3 (1) If it develops in conference committee that
4 material has been inadvertently included in both house and senate
5 versions which properly has no place in the recodification, that
6 material may be omitted from the conference committee report, if by
7 that omission the existing statute is not repealed, altered, or
8 amended.

9 (2) If it develops in conference committee that
10 material has been inadvertently omitted from both the house and
11 senate versions which properly should be included if the
12 recodification is to achieve its purpose of being all-inclusive of
13 the statutes being recodified, that material may be added to the
14 conference committee report, if by the addition the existing
15 statute is merely restated without substantive change in existing
16 law.

17 (f) Limitations imposed on certain conference committees by
18 the provisions of this section may be suspended in part by
19 permission of the house to allow consideration of and action on a
20 specific matter or matters which otherwise would be prohibited.
21 Permission shall be granted only by resolution passed by majority
22 vote of the house. All such resolutions shall be privileged in
23 nature and need not be referred to a committee. The introduction of
24 such a resolution shall be announced from the house floor and the
25 resolution shall be eligible for consideration by the house three
26 hours [~~one hour~~] after a copy of the resolution has been distributed
27 to each member. The time at which the copies of such a resolution

1 are distributed to the members shall be time-stamped on the
2 originals of the resolution. The resolution shall specify in
3 detail:

4 (1) the exact language [~~nature~~] of the matter or
5 matters proposed to be considered;

6 (2) the specific limitation or limitations to be
7 suspended;

8 (3) the specific action contemplated by the conference
9 committee; [~~and~~]

10 (4) except for a resolution suspending the limitations
11 on the conferees for the general appropriations bill, the reasons
12 that suspension of the limitations is being requested; and

13 (5) a fiscal note distributed with the resolution
14 outlining the fiscal implications and probable cost of the items to
15 be included in the conference committee report that would otherwise
16 be prohibited but for the passage of the resolution.

17 In the application of this subsection to appropriations
18 bills, the resolution need not include changes in amounts resulting
19 from a proposed salary plan or changes in format that do not affect
20 the amount of an appropriation or the method of finance of an
21 appropriation, but shall include a general statement describing the
22 salary plan or format change. The resolution need not include
23 differences in language which do not affect the substance of the
24 bill.

25 Permission thus granted shall suspend the limitations only
26 for the matter or matters clearly specified in the resolution, and
27 the action of the conference committee shall be in conformity with

1 the resolution.

2 Sec. 10. PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. (a) All
3 conference committee reports must be printed and a copy furnished
4 to each member at least 24 hours before action can be taken on the
5 report by the house during a regular or special session.

6 (b) Three original copies of a conference committee report
7 shall be submitted to the chief clerk for printing. Each original
8 conference committee report shall contain the following:

9 (1) the signatures of the house conferees and senate
10 conferees who voted to adopt the conference committee report;

11 (2) the text of the bill or resolution as adopted by
12 the conference committee; and

13 (3) an analysis of the conference committee report as
14 required by Section 11 of this rule.

15 (c) Before action can be taken by the house on a conference
16 committee report on a bill or joint resolution, other than the
17 general appropriations bill, a fiscal note outlining the fiscal
18 implications and probable cost of the conference committee report
19 shall be submitted to the chief clerk, and a copy of the fiscal note
20 shall be distributed with the conference committee report on its
21 printing [~~made available to each member~~].

22 (d) Before a vote on the floor can be taken by the house on a
23 conference committee report on a bill or joint resolution for which
24 a tax equity note was required under Rule 4, Section 34(b)(5), a tax
25 equity note estimating the general effects of the conference
26 committee report on the distribution of tax and fee burdens among
27 individuals and businesses shall be submitted to the chief clerk,

1 and a copy of the tax equity note shall be made available to each
2 member.

3 Sec. 11. ANALYSIS OF REPORTS. All reports of conference
4 committees shall include an analysis showing wherein the report
5 differs from the house and senate versions of the bill, resolution,
6 or other matter in disagreement. The analysis of appropriations
7 bills shall show in dollar amounts the differences between the
8 conference committee report and the house and senate versions. No
9 conference committee report shall be considered by the house unless
10 such an analysis has been prepared and distributed to each
11 member.

12 Sec. 12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS. A conference committee
13 report is not subject to amendment, but must be accepted or rejected
14 in its entirety. While a conference committee report is pending, a
15 motion to deal with individual amendments in disagreement is not in
16 order.

17 Sec. 13. WHEN REPORTS NOT ACCEPTABLE. When a conference
18 committee report is not acceptable to the house for any reason, it
19 may be recommitted to the same committee with the request for
20 further consideration, and the house may or may not give any
21 specific instructions on the report to the conference committee; or
22 the house may request the appointment by the senate of a new
23 conference committee and then proceed to empower the speaker to
24 name new conferees for the house.

RULE 14. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 1. WHEN RULES ARE SILENT. If the rules are silent or inexplicit on any question of order or parliamentary practice, the Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and its practice as reflected in published precedents, and Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall be considered as authority.

Sec. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES. (a) Amendments to the rules of the house shall be proposed by house resolutions which shall be referred at once, without debate, to the Committee on Rules and Resolutions for study and recommendation.

(b) A resolution proposing an amendment to the rules shall not be considered by the house until a printed copy of the resolution has been provided to each member of the house at least 48 hours before consideration.

(c) Amendments to the rules shall require a majority vote of the house for adoption.

Sec. 3. MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES. A motion to suspend the rules shall be in order at any time, except when motions to adjourn or recess are pending, even when the house is operating under the previous question. A motion to "suspend all rules" shall be sufficient to suspend every rule under which the house is operating for a particular purpose except the provisions of the constitution, the statutes, and the joint rules of the two houses. If the rules have been suspended on a main motion for a given purpose, no other motion to suspend the rules on a main motion shall be in order until the original purpose has been accomplished.

1 Sec. 4. NOTICE OF PENDING MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES. It
2 shall not be in order to move to suspend the rules or the regular
3 order of business to take up a measure out of its regular order, and
4 the speaker shall not recognize anyone for either purpose, unless
5 the speaker has announced to the house in session that the speaker
6 would recognize a member for that purpose at least one hour before
7 the member is so recognized to make the motion. In making the
8 announcement to the house, the speaker shall advise the house of the
9 member's name and the bill number, and this information, together
10 with the time that the announcement was made, shall be entered in
11 the journal. This rule may be suspended only by unanimous consent.

12 Sec. 5. VOTE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUSPENSION. A standing rule
13 of the house may be suspended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds
14 of the members present. However, if a rule contains a specific
15 provision showing the vote by which that rule may be suspended, that
16 vote shall be required for the suspension of the rule. The specific
17 provision may not be suspended under the provisions of this
18 section.

19 Sec. 6. DISPOSAL OF MEASURES TAKEN UP UNDER SUSPENSION. Any
20 measure taken up under suspension and not disposed of on the same
21 day shall go over as pending or unfinished business to the next day
22 that the house is in session, and shall be considered thereafter
23 from day to day (except the days used for the consideration of
24 senate bills) until disposed of.

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1 Sec. 7. COMMITTEE GIFTS. A member of the house may not
2 offer, confer, or agree to confer to a committee member one or more
3 gifts with a total value of more than \$75 per year.

Solomons

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 3 was adopted by the House on January 12, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House