

By: Solomons

H.R. No. 3

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
TABLE OF CONTENTS

RULE	
1. DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER	2
2. EMPLOYEES	10
3. STANDING COMMITTEES	21
4. ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES	47
5. FLOOR PROCEDURE	78
6. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS	97
7. MOTIONS	114
8. BILLS	130
9. JOINT RESOLUTIONS	144
10. HOUSE RESOLUTIONS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS	146
11. AMENDMENTS	148
12. PRINTING	156
13. INTERACTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SENATE	160

14. GENERAL PROVISIONS 170

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

H.R. No. 3

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;

(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;

(7) have printed and distributed correct copies of all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (b) The chief clerk shall also:

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (7) have printed and distributed the list of Items

1 Eligible for Consideration as required by the rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (E) a listing of reports made by standing
27 committees;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (M) reasons for a vote;

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

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

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

25 (2) prepare a daily journal for each calendar day that
26 the house is in session and distribute copies to the members of the
27 house on the succeeding calendar day or the earliest possible date;

1 and

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

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

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

9 (ii) one copy to each member of the senate;

10 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (2) attend the house and the committee of the whole

1 during all meetings and maintain order under the direction of the
2 speaker or other presiding officer;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (10) supervise the doorkeeper.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (3) prepare official copies of all record votes for

1 the journal;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (6) receive committee reports as required by Rule 4,
26 Section 37, and refer them for printing as provided by Rule 6,
27 Section 19; and

H.R. No. 3

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

RULE 3. STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK. The committee shall have nine [~~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; and

(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., and the Texas Wildlife [~~Animal~~] Damage Management [~~Control~~] Service.

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

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

(2) all bills and resolutions containing provisions

1 resulting in automatic allocation of funds from the state treasury;

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

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

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

12 Sec. 3. BORDER AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. The committee
13 shall have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters
14 pertaining to:

15 (1) the relations between the State of Texas and other
16 nations;

17 (2) international commerce and trade;

18 (3) international and border area economic
19 development, public health and safety issues affecting the border,
20 tourist development, and goodwill, and economic development,
21 tourist development, and goodwill in other areas of the state that
22 have experienced a significant increase in the percentage of the
23 population that consists of immigrants from other nations,
24 according to the last two federal decennial censuses or another
25 reliable measure; and

26 (4) the provision of public services to persons
27 residing in proximity to Texas' international border or in other

1 areas of the state that have experienced a significant increase in
2 the percentage of the population that consists of immigrants from
3 other nations, according to the last two federal decennial censuses
4 or another reliable measure.

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

7 (1) industry and manufacturing;

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

10 (3) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the
11 relationship between employers and employees;

12 (4) the regulation of business transactions and
13 transactions involving property interests;

14 (5) the organization, incorporation, management, and
15 regulation of private corporations and professional associations
16 and the Uniform Commercial Code and the Texas Revised Limited
17 Partnership Act;

18 (6) the protection of consumers, governmental
19 regulations incident thereto, the agencies of government
20 authorized to regulate such activities, and the role of the
21 government in consumer protection; ~~and~~

22 (7) privacy and identity theft;

23 (8) homeowners' associations; and

24 (9) the following state agencies: the State Office of
25 Risk Management, the Risk Management Board, the Division of [Texas]
26 Workers' Compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance
27 [Commission], the Office of Injured Employee Counsel, including the

1 ombudsman program of that office, and the Texas Mutual Insurance
2 Company Board of Directors.

3 Sec. 5. CALENDARS (PROCEDURAL). The committee shall have
4 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

5 (1) the placement of bills and resolutions on
6 appropriate calendars, except those within the jurisdiction of the
7 Committee on Rules and Resolutions;

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

10 (3) all other matters concerning the calendar system
11 and the expediting of the business of the house as may be assigned
12 by the speaker.

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

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

16 (2) civil law, including rights, duties, remedies, and
17 procedures thereunder;

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

19 (4) administrative law and the adjudication of rights
20 by administrative agencies; and

21 (5) permission to sue the state.

22 Sec. 7. CORRECTIONS. The committee shall have seven
23 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

24 (1) the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted
25 felons;

26 (2) the establishment and maintenance of programs that
27 provide alternatives to incarceration;

1 (3) the commitment and rehabilitation of youths;

2 (4) the construction, operation, and management of
3 correctional facilities of the state and facilities used for the
4 commitment and rehabilitation of youths; and

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

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

13 (1) counties, including their organization, creation,
14 boundaries, government, and finance and the compensation and duties
15 of their officers and employees;

16 (2) establishing districts for the election of
17 governing bodies of counties;

18 (3) regional councils of governments;

19 (4) multicounty boards or commissions;

20 (5) relationships or contracts between counties;

21 (6) other units of local government; and

22 (7) the following state agency: the Commission on
23 Jail Standards.

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

26 (1) criminal law, prohibitions, standards, and
27 penalties;

1 (2) probation and parole;
2 (3) criminal procedure in the courts of Texas;
3 (4) revision or amendment of the Penal Code; and
4 (5) the following state agencies: the Office of State
5 Prosecuting Attorney and the Texas State Council for Interstate
6 Adult Offender Supervision.

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

9 (1) the creation, operation, and control of state
10 parks;

11 (2) the regulation and control of the propagation and
12 preservation of wildlife and fish in the state;

13 (3) the development and regulation of the fish and
14 oyster industries of the state;

15 (4) hunting and fishing in the state, and the
16 regulation and control thereof;

17 (5) the regulation of other recreational activities;

18 (6) cultural resources and their promotion,
19 development, and regulation;

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

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

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

26 (10) international and interstate tourist promotion
27 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 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 sovereign states of the United States;

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

(4) the realignment or closure of military bases;

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

(6) emergency preparedness;

(7) veterans of military and related services; and

(8) the following state agencies: the Office of State-Federal Relations, the Texas Military Facilities Commission,

1 the Adjutant General's Department, the Texas Veterans Commission,
2 the Veterans' [~~Veterans~~] Land Board, the Texas Military
3 Preparedness Commission, the Division of Emergency Management, and
4 the Emergency Management Council.

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

7 (1) commerce, trade, and manufacturing;
8 (2) economic and industrial development;
9 (3) job creation and job-training programs;
10 (4) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the
11 relationship between employers and employees;

12 (5) unemployment compensation, including coverage,
13 benefits, taxes, and eligibility;

14 (6) boiler inspection and safety standards and
15 regulation;

16 (7) labor unions and their organization, control,
17 management, and administration;

18 (8) weights and measures;

19 (9) advances in science and technology, including
20 telecommunications, electronic technology, and automated data
21 processing;

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

24 (11) matters relating to cooperation of state and
25 local governments with the scientific and technological community,
26 which includes industry, the universities, and federal
27 governmental laboratories; and

1 (12) the following state agencies: the Texas Economic
2 Development and Tourism Office, the Texas Emerging Technology
3 Committee, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Workforce
4 Investment Council, and the Texas National Research Laboratory
5 Commission.

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

- 8 (1) the right of suffrage in Texas;
9 (2) primary, special, and general elections;
10 (3) revision, modification, amendment, or change of
11 the Election Code;
12 (4) the secretary of state in relation to elections;
13 (5) campaign finance;
14 (6) the duties and conduct of candidates for public
15 office and of persons with an interest in influencing public
16 policy; and
17 (7) the following state agencies: the Office of the
18 Secretary of State and the Texas Ethics Commission.

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

- 21 (1) the conservation of the energy resources of Texas;
22 (2) the production, regulation, transportation, and
23 development of oil, gas, and other energy resources;
24 (3) mining and the development of mineral deposits
25 within the state;
26 (4) the leasing and regulation of mineral rights under
27 public lands;

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

3 (6) electric utility regulation as it relates to
4 energy production and consumption; and

5 (7) the following state agencies: the Railroad
6 Commission of Texas, the Office of Interstate Oil Compact
7 Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Interstate Mining Compact
8 Commissioner for Texas, the Texas Energy Coordination Council, and
9 the Office of Southern States Energy Board Member for Texas.

10 Sec. 15. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION. The committee shall
11 have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
12 to:

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

15 (2) the regulation of waste disposal;

16 (3) environmental matters that are regulated by the
17 Department of State Health Services or the Texas Commission on
18 Environmental Quality;

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

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

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

27 (1) banking and the state banking system;

- (2) savings and loan associations;
- (3) credit unions;
- (4) the regulation of state and local bonded indebtedness;
- (5) the lending of money; and
- (6) the following state agencies: the Finance Commission of Texas, the Credit Union Commission, the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner, the Office of Banking Commissioner, the Texas Department of Banking, the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending [~~Loan Department of Texas~~], the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, the Texas Public Finance Authority, and the Bond Review Board.

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

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

(b) The committee has all the powers and duties of a general investigating committee and shall operate as the general investigating committee of the house according to the procedures prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and the rules of the house, as applicable.

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

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

- (1) the organization, operation, powers, regulations,

1 and management of state departments, agencies, institutions, and
2 advisory committees;

3 (2) elimination of inefficiencies in the provision of
4 state services; and

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

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

9 (1) education beyond high school;

10 (2) the colleges and universities of the State of
11 Texas; and

12 (3) the following state agencies: the Texas
13 Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension
14 Service, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas
15 Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the State Medical Education
16 Board, the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, and the Texas
17 Transportation Institute.

18 Sec. 20. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION (PROCEDURAL). The committee
19 shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

20 (1) administrative operation of the house and its
21 employees;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (9) the electronic recording of the proceedings of the
13 house of representatives and the custody of the recordings of
14 testimony before house committees, with authority to promulgate
15 reasonable rules, regulations, and conditions concerning the
16 safekeeping, reproducing, and transcribing of the recordings, and
17 the defraying of costs for transcribing the recordings, subject to
18 other provisions of these rules;

19 (10) all witnesses appearing before the house or any
20 committee thereof in support of or in opposition to any pending
21 legislative proposal; and

22 (11) the following state agency: the State
23 Preservation Board.

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

26 (1) welfare and rehabilitation programs and their
27 development, administration, and control;

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

4 (3) mental retardation and the development of programs
5 incident thereto;

6 (4) the prevention and treatment of mental
7 retardation; and

8 (5) the following state agencies: the Department of
9 Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Assistive and
10 Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Family and Protective
11 Services, the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, the
12 Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities, and the
13 Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

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

16 (1) insurance and the insurance industry;

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

21 (3) the following state agencies: the Texas
22 Department of Insurance, the Texas Health Benefits Purchasing
23 Cooperative, and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

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

26 (1) uniform state laws;

27 (2) creating, changing, or otherwise affecting courts

1 of judicial districts of the state;

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

4 (4) the Texas Judicial Council;

5 (5) the State Commission on Judicial Conduct;

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

8 (7) courts and court procedures except where
9 jurisdiction is specifically granted to some other standing
10 committee; and

11 (8) the following state agencies: the Supreme Court,
12 the Courts of Appeals, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the State
13 Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Office of Court Administration
14 of the Texas Judicial System, the State Law Library, the Texas
15 Judicial Council, the Guardianship Certification Board, the Office
16 of the Attorney General, the Court Reporters Certification Board,
17 and the Board of Law Examiners.

18 Sec. 24. JUVENILE JUSTICE AND FAMILY ISSUES. The committee
19 shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters
20 pertaining to:

21 (1) juvenile delinquency and gang violence;

22 (2) criminal law, prohibitions, standards, and
23 penalties as applied to juveniles;

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

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

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

3 Sec. 25. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. The committee shall
4 have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
5 to:

6 (1) the management of public lands;

7 (2) the power of eminent domain;

8 (3) annexation, zoning, and other governmental
9 regulation of land use;

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

12 (5) the following state agencies: the School Land
13 Board, the Board for Lease of University Lands, the Coastal
14 Coordination Council, the Office of Rural Community Affairs, and
15 the General Land Office.

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

18 (1) law enforcement;

19 (2) the prevention of crime and the apprehension of
20 criminals;

21 (3) the provision of security services by private
22 entities; and

23 (4) the following state agencies: the Commission on
24 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, the Department of
25 Public Safety, the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the Polygraph
26 Examiners Board, the Texas [~~Commission on~~] Private Security Board,
27 the Commission on State Emergency Communications, and the Crime

1 Stoppers Advisory Council.

2 Sec. 27. LICENSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The
3 committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all
4 matters pertaining to:

5 (1) the oversight of businesses, industries, general
6 trades, and occupations regulated by this state;

7 (2) the regulation of greyhound and horse racing and
8 other gaming industries;

9 (3) regulation of the sale of intoxicating beverages
10 and local option control;

11 (4) the Alcoholic Beverage Code; and

12 (5) the following state agencies: the Texas
13 Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of
14 Administrative Hearings, the Texas Board of Architectural
15 Examiners, the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, the Texas
16 Real Estate Commission, the Texas State Board of Plumbing
17 Examiners, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, the Real
18 Estate Research Center, the Texas Board of Professional Land
19 Surveying, the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Appraiser
20 Licensing and Certification Board, the Texas Lottery Commission,
21 the State Bar of Texas, the Board of Tax Professional Examiners, and
22 the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

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

25 (1) the placement on appropriate calendars of bills
26 and resolutions that, in the opinion of the committee, are in fact
27 local or will be uncontested, and have been recommended as such by

1 the standing committee of original jurisdiction; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (5) all bills and resolutions relating to the local
17 government provisions of the Property Tax Code, including
18 provisions related to the appraisal of property and the levy and
19 collection of property taxes by local governments.

20 (b) In this section, "local government" means a city,
21 county, school district, special purpose district, or other
22 political subdivision.

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

25 (1) the conservation of the natural resources of
26 Texas;

27 (2) the control and development of land and water and

1 land and water resources, including the taking, storing, control,
2 and use of all water in the state, and its appropriation and
3 allocation;

4 (3) irrigation, irrigation companies, and irrigation
5 districts, and their incorporation, management, and powers;

6 (4) the creation, modification, and regulation of
7 water supply districts, water control and improvement districts,
8 conservation and reclamation districts, and all similar organs of
9 local government dealing with water and water supply;

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

12 (6) the following state agencies: the Office of
13 Canadian River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Pecos
14 River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Red River
15 Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Rio Grande Compact
16 Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Sabine River Compact
17 Administrator for Texas, the Multi-State Water Resources Planning
18 Commission, and the Texas Water Development Board.

19 Sec. 31. PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS. The committee shall
20 have seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining
21 to:

22 (1) benefits or participation in benefits of a public
23 retirement system and the financial obligations of a public
24 retirement system;

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

26 (3) the following state agencies: the Office of Fire
27 Fighters' Pension Commissioner, the ~~[State]~~ Board of Trustees of

1 the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, the [~~State~~] Board of
2 Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas, the Board of
3 Trustees of the Texas County and District Retirement System, the
4 Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal Retirement System, the
5 State Pension Review Board, and the State Securities Board.

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

8 (1) the public schools and the public school system of
9 Texas and the financing thereof;

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

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

14 (4) the following state agencies: the State Board of
15 Education, the Texas Education Agency, the Office of Compact for
16 Education Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Southern Regional
17 Education Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Texas School for the
18 Blind and Visually Impaired, the State Board for Educator
19 Certification, and the Texas School for the Deaf.

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

22 (1) the protection of public health, including
23 supervision and control of the practice of medicine and dentistry
24 and other allied health services;

25 (2) mental health and the development of programs
26 incident thereto;

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

1 (4) oversight of the Health and Human Services
2 Commission as it relates to the subject matter jurisdiction of this
3 committee; and

4 (5) the following state agencies: the Department of
5 State Health Services, the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas,
6 the Texas Funeral Service Commission, the State Committee of
7 Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments, the
8 Texas Optometry Board, the Radiation Advisory Board, the Texas
9 State Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Nurse Examiners, the Texas
10 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Texas Board of Physical
11 Therapy Examiners, the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical
12 Examiners, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the
13 State Board of Dental Examiners, the Texas [~~State Board of~~ Medical
14 Board ~~Examiners~~], the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers, the
15 Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee, [~~the State Board of Barber~~
16 ~~Examiners, the Texas Cosmetology Commission,~~ the Texas Cancer
17 Council, the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners, the Health
18 Professions Council, the Office of Patient Protection, and the
19 Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners[~~, the Texas State~~
20 ~~Board of Examiners of Perfusionists, and the Texas Health Care~~
21 ~~Information Council~~].

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

24 (1) legislative districts, both house and senate, and
25 any changes or amendments;

26 (2) congressional districts, their creation, and any
27 changes or amendments;

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

4 (4) preparations for the redistricting process.

5 Sec. 35. REGULATED INDUSTRIES. The committee shall have
6 seven members, with jurisdiction over all matters related to:

7 (1) the regulation and deregulation of electric
8 utilities and the electric industry;

9 (2) the regulation and deregulation of
10 telecommunications utilities and the telecommunications industry;

11 (3) the regulation of science and technology,
12 including telecommunications, electronic technology, and automated
13 data processing;

14 (4) electric utility regulation as it relates to
15 energy production and consumption;

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

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

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

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

26 (1) Rules of Procedure of the House of
27 Representatives, and all proposed amendments;

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

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

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

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

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

11 (1) questions and matters of state policy;

12 (2) the administration of state government;

13 (3) the organization, powers, regulation, and
14 management of state departments and agencies;

15 (4) the operation and regulation of public lands and
16 state buildings;

17 (5) the organization, regulation, operation, and
18 management of state institutions;

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

21 (7) the regulation of the residential construction
22 industry;

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

26 (9) access of the state agencies to scientific and
27 technological information; and

1 (10) the following state agencies: the Council of
2 State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures,
3 the Governor's Office, the Texas Building and Procurement
4 Commission, [~~the State Aircraft Pooling Board,~~] the Department of
5 Information Resources, the Inaugural Endowment Fund Committee, and
6 the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

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

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

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

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

15 (4) the regulation and control of traffic on the
16 public highways of the State of Texas;

17 (5) railroads, street railway lines, interurban
18 railway lines, steamship companies, and express companies;

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

21 (7) water transportation in the State of Texas, and
22 the rivers, harbors, and related facilities used in water
23 transportation and the agencies of government exercising
24 supervision and control thereover;

25 (8) the regulation of metropolitan transit; and

26 (9) the following state agencies: the Texas Department
27 of Transportation and the Texas Transportation Commission.

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

3 (1) cities, municipalities, and town corporations,
4 including their creation, organization, powers, government, and
5 finance, and the compensation and duties of their officers and
6 employees;

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

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

11 (4) problems and issues particularly affecting
12 metropolitan areas of the state;

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

15 (6) establishing districts for the election of
16 governing bodies of cities; and

17 (7) the following state agencies: the Texas
18 Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas
19 Commission on Fire Protection.

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

22 (1) all bills and resolutions proposing to raise state
23 revenue;

24 (2) all bills or resolutions proposing to levy state
25 taxes or other fees;

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

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

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

5 (6) 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;

8 (7) all bills and resolutions relating to the Tax
9 Code; and

10 (8) the following state agencies: the Office of
11 Multistate Tax Compact Commissioner for Texas and the State
12 Comptroller of Public Accounts.

1 RULE 4. ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

2 CHAPTER A. ORGANIZATION

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

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

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

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

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

27 (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 in favor of, in opposition to, or without
7 taking a position on a measure or other matter before the committee.

8 (c) Committee minutes shall be corrected only at the
9 direction of the chair as authorized by a majority vote of the
10 committee. Duplicate originals of committee minutes shall be
11 maintained, one to remain with the committee chair and the other to
12 be filed with the committee coordinator. The committee minutes of a
13 meeting of the Appropriations Committee on the general
14 appropriations bill must be filed with the committee coordinator
15 within five days of the committee meeting. All other committee
16 minutes must be filed with the committee coordinator within three
17 days of the committee meeting for a substantive committee, and
18 within one day of the committee meeting for a procedural committee.
19 If the date on which the committee minutes are due occurs on a
20 Saturday, Sunday, or holiday on which the house is not in session,
21 the committee minutes shall be filed on the following working day.
22 The time at which the minutes are filed shall be time-stamped on the
23 duplicate originals of the minutes that are filed with the
24 committee coordinator. The duplicate originals shall be available
25 at all reasonable business hours for inspection by members or the
26 public.

27 (d) The committee coordinator shall maintain the minutes

1 and records safe from loss, destruction, and alteration at all
2 times, and may, at any time, turn them, or any portion, over to the
3 Committee on House Administration.

4 Sec. 19. RECORDING OF TESTIMONY. All testimony before
5 committees and subcommittees shall be electronically recorded
6 under the direction of the Committee on House Administration.
7 Copies of the testimony may be released under guidelines
8 promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

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

15 (1) the committee or subcommittee;

16 (2) the name, address, and telephone number of the
17 person appearing;

18 (3) the person, firm, corporation, class, or group
19 represented;

20 (4) the type of business, profession, or occupation in
21 which the person is engaged, if the person is representing himself
22 or herself; and

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

26 (b) No person shall be recognized by the chair to address
27 the committee in favor of, in opposition to, or without taking a

1 position on a matter until the sworn statement has been filed with
2 the chair of the committee. The chair of the committee shall
3 indicate on the sworn statement whether the person completing the
4 statement was recognized to address the committee.

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

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

12 Sec. 21. POWER TO ISSUE PROCESS AND SUMMON WITNESSES. (a)
13 By a record vote of not less than two-thirds of those present and
14 voting, a quorum being present, each standing committee shall have
15 the power and authority to issue process to witnesses at any place
16 in the State of Texas, to compel their attendance, and to compel the
17 production of all books, records, and instruments. If necessary to
18 obtain compliance with subpoenas or other process, the committee
19 shall have the power to issue writs of attachment. All process
20 issued by the committee may be addressed to and served by an agent
21 of the committee or a sergeant-at-arms appointed by the committee
22 or by any peace officer of the State of Texas. The committee shall
23 also have the power to cite and have prosecuted for contempt, in the
24 manner provided by law, anyone disobeying the subpoenas or other
25 process lawfully issued by the committee. The chair of the
26 committee shall issue, in the name of the committee, the subpoenas
27 and other process as the committee may direct.

1 (b) The chair may summon the governing board or other
2 representatives of a state agency to appear and testify before the
3 committee without issuing process under Subsection (a) of this
4 section. The summons may be communicated in writing, orally, or
5 electronically. If the persons summoned fail or refuse to appear,
6 the committee may issue process under Subsection (a) of this
7 section.

8 Sec. 22. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM FOR WITNESSES. Subject to
9 prior approval by the Committee on House Administration, witnesses
10 attending proceedings of any committee under process of the
11 committee shall be allowed the same mileage and per diem as are
12 allowed members of the committee when in a travel status, to be paid
13 out of the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives
14 on vouchers approved by the chair of the committee, the chair of the
15 Committee on House Administration, and the speaker of the house.

16 Sec. 23. POWER TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF STATE
17 AGENCIES. Each committee is authorized to request the assistance,
18 when needed, of all state departments, agencies, and offices, and
19 it shall be the duty of the departments, agencies, and offices to
20 assist the committee when requested to do so. Each committee shall
21 have the power and authority to inspect the records, documents, and
22 files of every state department, agency, and office, to the extent
23 necessary to the discharge of its duties within the area of its
24 jurisdiction.

25 Sec. 23A. ASSISTANCE OF OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS. At a meeting
26 of a committee, the chair may recognize a member of the house who is
27 not a member of the committee to provide information to the

1 committee. Recognition is solely within the discretion of the
2 chair and is not subject to appeal by that member.

3 CHAPTER C. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

4 Sec. 24. INTERIM STUDIES. Standing committees, en banc or
5 by subcommittees, are hereby authorized to conduct studies that are
6 authorized by the speaker pursuant to Rule 1, Section 17. Studies
7 may not be authorized by resolution. The speaker may appoint public
8 citizens and officials of state and local governments to standing
9 committees to augment the membership for the purpose of interim
10 studies and shall provide a list of such appointments to the chief
11 clerk. The chair of the standing committee shall have authority to
12 name the subcommittees necessary and desirable for the conduct of
13 the interim studies and shall also prepare a budget for interim
14 studies for approval by the Committee on House Administration.

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

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

25 Sec. 27. VOTE ON MOTION TO REPORT. Motions made in
26 committee to report favorably or unfavorably must receive
27 affirmative majority votes, majority negative votes to either

1 motion being insufficient to report. If a committee is unable to
2 agree on a recommendation for action, as in the case of a tie vote,
3 it should submit a statement of this fact as its report, and the
4 house shall decide, by a majority vote, the disposition of the
5 matter by one of the following alternatives:

6 (1) leave the bill in the committee for further
7 consideration;

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

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

12 Sec. 28. MINORITY REPORTS. The report of a minority of a
13 committee shall be made in the same general form as a majority
14 report. No minority report shall be recognized by the house unless
15 it has been signed by not less than 4 members of a committee
16 consisting of 21 or more members, 3 members of a committee
17 consisting of less than 21 members and more than 10 members, or 2
18 members of a committee consisting of 10 or less members. Only
19 members who were present when the vote was taken on the bill,
20 resolution, or other matter being reported, and who voted on the
21 losing side, may sign a minority report. Notice of intention to
22 file a minority report shall be given to the assembled committee
23 after the vote on the bill, resolution, or other matter, and before
24 the recess or adjournment of the committee, provided ample
25 opportunity is afforded for the giving of notice; otherwise, notice
26 may be given in writing to the chief clerk within 24 hours after the
27 recess or adjournment of the committee.

1 Sec. 29. ACTION ON BILLS REPORTED UNFAVORABLY. If the
2 majority report on a bill is unfavorable, and a favorable minority
3 report is not signed in accordance with Section 28 of this rule and
4 filed with the chief clerk within two calendar days, exclusive of
5 Sunday and the date of committee action, the chief clerk shall file
6 the bill away as dead; except during the last 15 calendar days of a
7 regular session, or the last 7 calendar days of a special session,
8 when the chief clerk shall hold a bill only one calendar day,
9 exclusive of Sunday and the date of committee action, awaiting the
10 filing of a minority report before the bill is filed away as dead.
11 If the favorable minority report is properly signed and filed, the
12 chief clerk shall hold the bill for five legislative days,
13 exclusive of the legislative day in which the minority report was
14 filed, awaiting adoption by the house of a motion to print the bill
15 on minority report. If the motion to print is carried, the bill
16 shall be printed as if it had been reported favorably, and shall
17 then be immediately forwarded to the Committee on Calendars for
18 placement on a calendar and for proposal of an appropriate rule
19 for house consideration. If a motion to print a bill on minority
20 report is not made within the five legislative days authorized
21 above, the chief clerk shall file the bill away as dead. It shall
22 not be in order to move to recommit a bill adversely reported with
23 no minority report, except as provided in Section 30 of this rule.
24 A two-thirds vote of the house shall be required to print on
25 minority report a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
26 Constitution of Texas.

27 Sec. 30. MAKING ADVERSE REPORTS WITHOUT HEARING THE

1 AUTHOR. No adverse report shall be made on any bill or resolution
2 by any committee without first giving the author or sponsor of the
3 bill an opportunity to be heard. If it becomes evident to the house
4 that a bill has been reported adversely without the author or
5 sponsor having had an opportunity to be heard as provided in this
6 section, the house may, by a majority vote, order the bill
7 recommitted even though no minority report was filed in the manner
8 prescribed by the rules. This provision shall have precedence over
9 Rule 7, Section 20.

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

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

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

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

20 (2) be addressed to the speaker;

21 (3) contain a statement of the recommendations of the
22 committee with reference to the matter which is the subject of the
23 report;

24 (4) contain the date the committee made its
25 recommendation;

26 (5) indicate whether a copy of a bill or resolution was
27 forwarded to the Legislative Budget Board for preparation of a

1 fiscal note or other impact statement, if applicable;

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

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

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

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

13 (10) include a list of the names of the persons, other
14 than members of the legislature, and persons or entities
15 represented by those persons, who were recognized by the chair to
16 address the committee in favor of, in opposition to, or without
17 taking a position on the bill or resolution.

18 (c) Except for the general appropriations bill, each
19 committee report on a bill or joint resolution, including a
20 complete committee substitute, and, to the extent considered
21 necessary by the committee, a committee report on any other
22 resolution, must include in summary or section-by-section form a
23 detailed analysis of the subject matter of the bill or resolution,
24 specifically including:

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

27 (2) an analysis of the content of the bill or

1 resolution;

2 (3) a statement indicating whether or not any
3 rulemaking authority is expressly delegated to a state officer,
4 department, agency, or institution, and, if so, identifying the
5 sections of the measure in which that rulemaking authority is
6 delegated;

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

9 (5) a brief explanation of each amendment adopted by
10 the committee.

11 (d) It shall be the duty of the committee chair, on all
12 matters reported by the committee, to see that all provisions of
13 Rule 12 are satisfied. The chair shall strictly construe this
14 provision to achieve the desired purposes.

15 Sec. 33. FISCAL NOTES. (a) If the chair of a standing
16 committee determines that a bill or joint resolution, other than
17 the general appropriations bill, authorizes or requires the
18 expenditure or diversion of state funds for any purpose, the chair
19 shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for
20 the preparation of a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications
21 and probable cost of the measure.

22 (b) If the chair of a standing committee determines that a
23 bill or joint resolution has statewide impact on units of local
24 government of the same type or class and authorizes or requires the
25 expenditure or diversion of local funds, or creates or impacts a
26 local tax, fee, license charge, or penalty, the chair shall send a
27 copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the

1 preparation of a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications and
2 probable cost of the measure.

3 (c) In preparing a fiscal note, the director of the
4 Legislative Budget Board may utilize information or data supplied
5 by any person, agency, organization, or governmental unit that the
6 director deems reliable. If the director determines that the fiscal
7 implications of the measure cannot be ascertained, the director
8 shall so state in the fiscal note, in which case the fiscal note
9 shall be in full compliance with the rules. If the director of the
10 Legislative Budget Board is unable to acquire or develop sufficient
11 information to prepare the fiscal note within 15 days of receiving
12 the measure from the chair of a committee, the director shall so
13 state in the fiscal note, in which case the note shall be in full
14 compliance with the rules.

15 (d) If the chair determines that a fiscal note is required,
16 copies of the fiscal note must be distributed to the members of the
17 committee not later than the first time the measure is laid out in a
18 committee meeting. The fiscal note shall be attached to the measure
19 on first printing. If the measure is amended by the committee so as
20 to alter its fiscal implications, the chair shall obtain an updated
21 fiscal note, which shall also be attached to the measure on first
22 printing.

23 (e) All fiscal notes shall remain with the measure
24 throughout the entire legislative process, including submission to
25 the governor.

26 Sec. 34. OTHER IMPACT STATEMENTS. (a) It is the intent of
27 this section that all members of the house are timely informed as to

1 the impact of proposed legislation on the state or other unit of
2 government.

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

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

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

13 (3) proposes to change benefits or participation in
14 benefits of a public retirement system or change the financial
15 obligations of a public retirement system, the chair shall send a
16 copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the
17 preparation of an actuarial impact statement in cooperation with
18 the State Pension Review Board;

19 (4) proposes to create a water district under the
20 authority of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution,
21 the chair shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget
22 Board for the preparation of a water development policy impact
23 statement; or

24 (5) creates or impacts a state tax or fee, the chair
25 shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for
26 the preparation of a tax equity note that estimates the general
27 effects of the proposal on the distribution of tax and fee burdens

1 among individuals and businesses.

2 (c) In preparing an impact statement, the director of the
3 Legislative Budget Board may utilize information or data supplied
4 by any person, agency, organization, or governmental unit that the
5 director deems reliable. If the director determines that the
6 particular implications of the measure cannot be ascertained, the
7 director shall so state in the impact statement, in which case the
8 impact statement shall be in full compliance with the rules.

9 (d) An impact statement is not required to be present before
10 a measure is laid out in a committee meeting. If timely received,
11 the impact statement shall be attached to the measure on first
12 printing. If the measure is amended by the committee so as to alter
13 its particular implications, the chair shall obtain an updated
14 impact statement. If timely received, the updated impact statement
15 shall also be attached to the measure on first printing.

16 (e) An impact statement that is received after the first
17 printing of a measure has been distributed to the members shall be
18 forwarded by the chair of the committee to the committee
19 coordinator. The committee coordinator shall have the impact
20 statement printed and distributed to the members.

21 (f) All impact statements received shall remain with the
22 measure throughout the entire legislative process, including
23 submission to the governor.

24 Sec. 35. REPORTS ON HOUSE AND CONCURRENT
25 RESOLUTIONS. Committee reports on house and concurrent
26 resolutions shall be made in the same manner and shall follow the
27 same procedure as provided for bills, subject to any differences

1 otherwise authorized or directed by the rules.

2 Sec. 36. ACTION BY HOUSE ON REPORTS NOT REQUIRED. No
3 action by the house is necessary on the report of a standing
4 committee. The bill, resolution, or proposition recommended or
5 reported by the committee shall automatically be before the house
6 for its consideration after the bill or resolution has been
7 referred to the appropriate calendars committee for placement on a
8 calendar and for proposal of an appropriate rule for house
9 consideration.

10 Sec. 37. REFERRAL OF REPORTS TO COMMITTEE COORDINATOR. All
11 committee reports on bills or resolutions shall be immediately
12 referred to the committee coordinator. The chair of the committee
13 shall be responsible for delivery of the report to the committee
14 coordinator.

15 Sec. 38. DELIVERY OF REPORTS TO CALENDARS
16 COMMITTEES. After printing, the chief clerk shall be responsible
17 for delivery of a certified copy of the committee report to the
18 appropriate calendars committee, which committee shall immediately
19 accept the bill or resolution for placement on a calendar and for
20 the proposal of an appropriate rule for house consideration.

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

26 Sec. 40. SUBSTITUTES. The committee may adopt and report a
27 complete germane committee substitute containing the title,

1 enacting clause, and text of the bill in lieu of an original bill,
2 in which event the complete substitute bill on committee report
3 shall be laid before the house and shall be the matter then before
4 the house for its consideration, instead of the original bill. If
5 the substitute bill is defeated at any legislative stage, the bill
6 is considered not passed.

7 Sec. 41. GERMANENESS OF SUBSTITUTE. If a point of order is
8 raised that a complete committee substitute is not germane, in
9 whole or in part, and the point of order is sustained, the committee
10 substitute shall be returned to the Committee on Calendars, which
11 may have the original bill printed and distributed and placed on a
12 calendar in lieu of the substitute or may return the original bill
13 to the committee from which it was reported for further action.

14 Sec. 42. AUTHOR'S RIGHT TO OFFER AMENDMENTS TO REPORT.
15 Should the author or sponsor of the bill, resolution, or other
16 proposal not be satisfied with the final recommendation or form of
17 the committee report, the member shall have the privilege of
18 offering on the floor of the house such amendments or changes as he
19 or she considers necessary and desirable, and those amendments or
20 changes shall be given priority during the periods of time when
21 original amendments are in order under the provisions of Rule 11,
22 Section 7.

23 CHAPTER D. SUBCOMMITTEES

24 Sec. 43. JURISDICTION. Each committee is authorized to
25 conduct its activities and perform its work through the use of
26 subcommittees as shall be determined by the chair of the committee.
27 Subcommittees shall be created, organized, and operated in such a

1 way that the subject matter and work area of each subcommittee shall
2 be homogeneous and shall pertain to related governmental
3 activities. The size and jurisdiction of each subcommittee shall
4 be determined by the chair of the committee.

5 Sec. 44. MEMBERSHIP. The chair of each standing committee
6 shall appoint from the membership of the committee the members who
7 are to serve on each subcommittee. Any vacancy on a subcommittee
8 shall be filled by appointment of the chair of the standing
9 committee. The chair and vice-chair of each subcommittee shall be
10 named by the chair of the committee.

11 Sec. 45. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The Rules of
12 Procedure of the House of Representatives, to the extent
13 applicable, shall govern the hearings and operations of each
14 subcommittee. Subject to the foregoing, and to the extent
15 necessary for orderly transaction of business, each subcommittee
16 may promulgate and adopt additional rules and procedures by which
17 it will function.

18 Sec. 46. QUORUM. A majority of a subcommittee shall
19 constitute a quorum, and no action or recommendation of a
20 subcommittee shall be valid unless taken at a meeting with a quorum
21 actually present. All reports of a subcommittee must be approved by
22 record vote by a majority of the membership of the subcommittee.
23 Minutes of the subcommittee shall be maintained in a manner similar
24 to that required by the rules for standing committees. Proxies
25 cannot be used in subcommittees.

26 Sec. 47. POWER AND AUTHORITY. Each subcommittee, within
27 the area of its jurisdiction, shall have all of the power,

1 authority, and rights granted by the Rules of Procedure of the House
2 of Representatives to the standing committee, except subpoena
3 power, to the extent necessary to discharge the duties and
4 responsibilities of the subcommittee.

5 Sec. 48. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO
6 SUBCOMMITTEE. All bills and resolutions referred to a standing
7 committee shall be reviewed by the chair to determine appropriate
8 disposition of the bills and resolutions. All bills and
9 resolutions shall be considered by the entire standing committee
10 unless the chair of that standing committee determines to refer the
11 bills and resolutions to subcommittee. If a bill or resolution is
12 referred by the chair of the standing committee to a subcommittee,
13 it shall be considered by the subcommittee in the same form in which
14 the measure was referred to the standing committee, and any action
15 taken by the standing committee on a proposed amendment or
16 committee substitute before a measure is referred to subcommittee
17 is therefore voided at the time the measure is referred to
18 subcommittee. The subcommittee shall be charged with the duty and
19 responsibility of conducting the hearing, doing research, and
20 performing such other functions as the subcommittee or its parent
21 standing committee may determine. All meetings of the subcommittee
22 shall be scheduled by the subcommittee chair, with appropriate
23 public notice and notification of each member of the subcommittee
24 under the same rules of procedure as govern the conduct of the
25 standing committee.

26 Sec. 49. REPORT BY SUBCOMMITTEE. At the conclusion of its
27 deliberations on a bill, resolution, or other matter referred to

1 it, the subcommittee may prepare a written report, comprehensive
2 in nature, for submission to the full committee. The report shall
3 include background material as well as recommended action and shall
4 be accompanied by a complete draft of the bill, resolution, or other
5 proposal in such form as the subcommittee shall determine.

6 Sec. 50. ACTION ON SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS. Subcommittee
7 reports shall be directed to the chair of the committee, who shall
8 schedule meetings of the standing committee from time to time as
9 necessary and appropriate for the reception of subcommittee reports
10 and for action on reports by the standing committee. No
11 subcommittee report shall be scheduled for action by the standing
12 committee until at least 24 hours after a copy of the subcommittee
13 report is provided to each member of the standing committee.

14 CHAPTER E. COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

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

20 Sec. 52. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The rules governing
21 the proceedings of the house and those governing committees shall
22 be observed in committees of the whole, to the extent that they are
23 applicable.

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

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

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

4 (3) for the consideration of any designated class of
5 bills.

6 (b) When a call of the committee of the whole is moved and
7 seconded by 10 members, of whom the chair may be one, and is ordered
8 by majority vote, the main entrance of the hall and all other doors
9 leading out of the hall shall be locked, and no member shall be
10 permitted to leave the hall without written permission. Other
11 proceedings under a call of the committee shall be the same as under
12 a call of the house.

13 Sec. 54. HANDLING OF A BILL. A bill committed to a
14 committee of the whole house shall be handled in the same manner as
15 in any other committee. The body of the bill shall not be defaced or
16 interlined, but all amendments shall be duly endorsed by the chief
17 clerk as they are adopted by the committee, and so reported to the
18 house. When a bill is reported by the committee of the whole house
19 it shall be referred immediately to the appropriate calendars
20 committee for placement on the appropriate calendar and shall
21 follow the same procedure as any other bill on committee report.

22 Sec. 55. FAILURE TO COMPLETE WORK AT ANY SITTING. In the
23 event that the committee of the whole, at any sitting, fails to
24 complete its work on any bill or resolution under consideration for
25 lack of time, or desires to take any action on that measure that is
26 permitted under the rules for other committees, it may, on a motion
27 made and adopted by majority vote, rise, report progress, and ask

1 leave of the house to sit again generally, or at a time certain.

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

6 CHAPTER F. INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

7 Sec. 57. INTERIM STUDIES. Pursuant to Rule 1, Section 17,
8 the speaker may create interim study committees to conduct studies
9 by issuing a proclamation for each committee, which shall specify
10 the issue to be studied, committee membership, and any additional
11 authority and duties. A copy of each proclamation creating an
12 interim study committee shall be filed with the chief clerk. An
13 interim study committee expires on release of its final report or
14 when the next legislature convenes, whichever is earlier. An
15 interim study committee may not be created by resolution.

16 Sec. 58. APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP. The speaker shall
17 appoint all members of an interim study committee, which may
18 include public citizens and officials of state and local
19 governments. The speaker shall also designate the chair and
20 vice-chair and may authorize the chair to create subcommittees and
21 appoint citizen advisory committees.

22 Sec. 59. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The rules governing
23 the proceedings of the house and those governing standing
24 committees shall be observed by an interim study committee, to the
25 extent that they are applicable. An interim study committee shall
26 have the power to issue process and to request assistance of state
27 agencies as provided for a standing committee in Sections 21, 22,

1 and 23 of this rule.

2 Sec. 60. FUNDING AND STAFF. An interim study committee
3 shall use existing staff resources of its members, standing
4 committees, house offices, and legislative service agencies. The
5 chair of an interim study committee shall prepare a detailed budget
6 for approval by the speaker and the Committee on House
7 Administration. An interim study committee may accept gifts,
8 grants, and donations for the purpose of funding its activities as
9 provided by Sections 301.032(b) and (c), Government Code.

10 Sec. 61. STUDY REPORTS. The final report or
11 recommendations of an interim study committee shall be approved by
12 a majority of the committee membership. Dissenting members may
13 attach statements to the final report. Five copies of the report
14 shall be submitted to the speaker; 50 copies shall be provided to
15 House Bill Distribution for sale at cost; and 75 copies shall be
16 provided to the committee coordinator, who shall make the
17 appropriate distribution to the Legislative Reference Library and
18 state library and archives. This section shall also apply to
19 interim study reports of standing committees.

20 Sec. 62. JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM
21 STUDIES. Procedures may be established by a concurrent resolution
22 adopted by both houses, by which the speaker may authorize and
23 appoint, jointly with the senate, committees to conduct interim
24 studies. A copy of the authorization for and the appointments to a
25 joint interim study committee shall be filed with the chief clerk.
26 Individual joint interim study committees may not be authorized or
27 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.

23 Sec. 20. MEDIA ACCESS TO HOUSE CHAMBER. (a) When the
24 house is in session, no media representative shall be admitted to
25 the floor of the house or allowed its privileges unless the person
26 is a salaried staff correspondent, reporter, or photographer
27 regularly employed by a newspaper, a press association or news

1 service serving newspapers, a publication requiring telegraphic
2 coverage, or a duly licensed radio or television station or
3 network.

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

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

24 (c) If the Committee on House Administration determines
25 that a person's media credentials meet the requirements of this
26 section, the committee shall issue a pass card to the person. This
27 pass card must be presented to the doorkeeper each time the person

1 seeks admission to the floor of the house while the house is in
2 session. Pass cards issued under this section shall not be
3 transferable. Persons admitted to the floor of the house pursuant
4 to the provisions of this section shall work in appropriate
5 convenient seats or work stations in the house, which shall be
6 designated for that purpose by the Committee on House
7 Administration.

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

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

1 to determine whether or not to permit television or radio
2 broadcasts of any of its proceedings.

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

10 CHAPTER C. SPEAKING AND DEBATE

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

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

21 Sec. 24. RECOGNITION. There shall be no appeal from the
22 speaker's recognition, but the speaker shall be governed by rules
23 and usage in priority of entertaining motions from the floor. When
24 a member seeks recognition, the speaker may ask, "For what purpose
25 does the member rise?" or "For what purpose does the member seek
26 recognition?" and may then decide if recognition is to be
27 granted.

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

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

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

21 Sec. 28. TIME LIMITS ON SPEECHES. All speeches shall be
22 limited to 10 minutes in duration, except as provided in Section 27
23 of this rule, and the speaker shall call the members to order at the
24 expiration of their time. If the house by a majority vote extends
25 the time of any member, the extension shall be for 10 minutes only.
26 A second extension of time shall be granted only by unanimous
27 consent. During the last 10 calendar days of the regular session,

1 and the last 5 calendar days of a special session, Sundays excepted,
2 all speeches shall be limited to 10 minutes and shall not be
3 extended. The time limits established by this rule shall include
4 time consumed in yielding to questions from the floor.

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

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

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

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

21 Sec. 33. TRANSGRESSION OF RULES WHILE SPEAKING. If any
22 member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the
23 house, the speaker shall, or any member may, call the member to
24 order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately
25 be seated; however, that member may move for an appeal to the house,
26 and if appeal is duly seconded by 10 members, the matter shall be
27 submitted to the house for decision by majority vote. In such

1 cases, the speaker shall not be required to relinquish the chair, as
2 is required in cases of appeals from the speaker's decisions. The
3 house shall, if appealed to, decide the matter without debate. If
4 the decision is in favor of the member called to order, the member
5 shall be at liberty to proceed; but if the decision is against the
6 member, he or she shall not be allowed to proceed, and, if the case
7 requires it, shall be liable to the censure of the house, or such
8 other punishment as the house may consider proper.

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

15 CHAPTER D. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

16 Sec. 35. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE DEFINED. Questions of
17 privilege shall be:

18 (1) those affecting the rights of the house
19 collectively, its safety and dignity, and the integrity of its
20 proceedings; and

21 (2) those affecting the rights, reputation, and
22 conduct of members individually in their representative capacity
23 only.

24 Sec. 36. PRECEDENCE OF QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE. Questions
25 of privilege shall have precedence over all other questions except
26 motions to adjourn. When in order, a member may address the house
27 on a question of privilege, or may at any time print it in the

1 journal, provided it contains no reflection on any member of the
2 house.

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

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

8 (2) between the time the previous question is ordered
9 and the vote is taken on the last proposition included under the
10 previous question; or

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

13 Sec. 38. CONFINING REMARKS TO QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE. When
14 speaking on privilege, members must confine their remarks within
15 the limits of Section 35 of this rule, which will be strictly
16 construed to achieve the purposes hereof.

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

20 CHAPTER E. VOTING

21 Sec. 40. RECORDING ALL VOTES ON VOTING MACHINE. On all
22 votes, except viva voce votes, members shall record their votes on
23 the voting machine and shall not be recognized by the chair to cast
24 their votes from the floor. If a member attempts to vote from the
25 floor, the speaker shall sustain a point of order directed against
26 the member's so doing. This rule shall not be applicable to the
27 mover or the principal opponent of the proposition being voted on

1 nor to a member whose voting machine is out of order.

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

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

10 Sec. 43. DIVIDING THE QUESTION. By a majority vote of the
11 house, a quorum being present, the question shall be divided, if it
12 includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being
13 taken away, a substantive proposition remains. A motion for a
14 division vote cannot be made after the previous question has been
15 ordered, after a motion to table has been offered, after the
16 question has been put, nor after the yeas and nays have been
17 ordered. Under this subsection, the speaker may divide the
18 question into groups of propositions that are closely related.

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

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

26 Sec. 46. LOCKING VOTING MACHINES OF ABSENT MEMBERS. During
27 each calendar day in which the house is in session, it shall be the

duty of the voting clerk to lock the voting machine of each member who is excused or who is otherwise known to be absent. Each such machine shall remain locked until the member in person contacts the journal clerk and personally requests the unlocking of the machine. Unless otherwise directed by the speaker, the voting clerk shall not unlock any machine except at the personal request of the member to whom the machine is assigned. Any violation, or any attempt by a member or employee to circumvent the letter or spirit of this section, shall be reported immediately to the speaker for such disciplinary action by the speaker, or by the house, as may be warranted under the circumstances.

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

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

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

(b) A "Reason for Vote" must be in writing and filed with the journal clerk. If timely received, the "Reason for Vote" shall be printed immediately following the results of the vote in the

1 journal. Otherwise, "Reasons for Vote" shall be printed in a
2 separate section at the end of the journal for the day on which the
3 reasons were recorded with the journal clerk. Such "Reason for
4 Vote" shall not deal in personalities or contain any personal
5 reflection on any member of the legislature, the speaker, the
6 lieutenant governor, or the governor, and shall not in any other
7 manner transgress the rules of the house relating to decorum and
8 debate.

9 (c) A member absent when a vote was taken may file with the
10 journal clerk while the house is in session a statement of how the
11 member would have voted if present. If timely received, the
12 statement shall be printed immediately following the results of the
13 vote in the journal. Otherwise, statements shall be printed in a
14 separate section at the end of the journal for the day on which the
15 statements were recorded with the journal clerk.

16 Sec. 50. PAIRS. All pairs must be announced before the
17 vote is declared by the speaker, and a written statement sent to the
18 journal clerk. The statement must be signed by the absent member to
19 the pair, or the member's signature must have been authorized in
20 writing, by telegraph, or by telephone, and satisfactory evidence
21 presented to the speaker if deemed necessary. If authorized by
22 telephone, the call must be to and confirmed by the chief clerk in
23 advance of the vote to which it applies. Pairs shall be entered in
24 the journal, and the member present shall be counted to make a
25 quorum.

26 Sec. 51. ENTRY OF YEA AND NAY VOTE IN JOURNAL; EFFECT OF
27 APPROVAL OF BILL OR JOINT RESOLUTION WITHOUT OBJECTION. (a) At the

1 desire of any member present, the yeas and nays of the members of
2 the house on any question shall be taken and entered in the journal.
3 No member or members shall be allowed to call for a yea and nay vote
4 after a vote has been declared by the speaker.

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

7 (c) The yeas and nays of the members of the house on final
8 passage of any bill, and on any joint resolution proposing or
9 ratifying a constitutional amendment, shall be taken and entered in
10 the journal. For purposes of this subsection, a vote on final
11 passage means a vote on:

12 (1) third reading;

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

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

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

17 (d) ~~[(b)]~~ Passage of a bill or joint resolution "without
18 objection" is the functional equivalent of a recorded vote in that
19 the journal will show that every member present must have favored
20 passage of the measure unless the member exercised the opportunity
21 to register the member's vote otherwise. However, passage of a bill
22 or joint resolution "without objection" does not satisfy a
23 requirement that the vote be taken by yeas and nays and entered in
24 the journal under the Texas Constitution or another rule, including
25 Rule 8, Section 19, relating to the vote required for a bill to have
26 immediate effect.

27 Sec. 52. JOURNAL RECORDING OF VOTES ON ANY QUESTION. On

1 any question where a record of the yeas and nays has not been
2 ordered, members may have their votes recorded in the journal as
3 "yea" or "nay" by filing such information with the journal clerk
4 before adjournment or recess to another calendar day.

5 Sec. 53. CHANGING A VOTE. Before the result of a vote has
6 been finally and conclusively pronounced by the chair, but not
7 thereafter, a member may change his or her vote; however, if a
8 member's vote is erroneous, the member shall be allowed to change
9 that vote at a later time provided:

10 (1) the result of the record vote is not changed
11 thereby;

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

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

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

20 Sec. 55. VERIFICATION OF A YEA AND NAY VOTE. When the
21 result of a yea and nay vote is close, the speaker may on the request
22 of any member order a verification vote, or the speaker may order a
23 verification on his or her own initiative. During verification, no
24 member shall change a vote unless it was erroneously recorded, nor
25 may any member not having voted cast a vote; however, when the clerk
26 errs in reporting the yeas and nays, and correction thereof leaves
27 decisive effect to the speaker's vote, the speaker may exercise the

1 right to vote, even though the result has been announced. A
2 verification shall be called for immediately after the vote is
3 announced. The speaker shall not entertain a request for
4 verification after the house has proceeded to the next question, or
5 after a recess or an adjournment. A vote to recess or adjourn, like
6 any other proposition, may be verified. Only one vote verification
7 can be pending at a time. A verification may be dispensed with by a
8 two-thirds vote.

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

13 Sec. 57. MOTION FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE PENDING
14 VERIFICATION. A motion for a call of the house, and all incidental
15 motions relating to it, shall be in order pending the verification
16 of a vote. These motions must be made before the roll call on
17 verification begins, and it shall not be in order to break into the
18 roll call to make them.

19 Sec. 58. ERRONEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF A
20 VOTE. If, by an error of the voting clerk or reading clerk in
21 reporting the yeas and nays from a registration or verification,
22 the speaker announces a result different from that shown by the
23 registration or verification, the status of the question shall be
24 determined by the vote as actually recorded. If the vote is
25 erroneously announced in such a way as to change the true result,
26 all subsequent proceedings in connection therewith shall fail, and
27 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

H.R. No. 3

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.

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.

24 (b) Prior to the time that an amendment is offered, if the
25 amendment exceeds one page in length, the sponsoring member must
26 provide to the chief clerk a minimum of 15 copies to be available
27 for distribution to those members requesting copies of the

1 amendment.

2 (c) If the amendment is only one page in length or less, the
3 sponsoring member must provide one additional copy of the amendment
4 to the chief clerk, who shall immediately proceed to have
5 additional copies made and available for those members requesting
6 copies of the amendment.

7 (d) The provisions of this section with respect to extra
8 copies shall not apply to committee amendments or to amendments
9 which do nothing more than delete material from the bill or
10 resolution.

11 (e) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an
12 original amendment that exceeds one page in length and that is in
13 the form of a complete substitute for the bill or resolution laid
14 before the house, or in the opinion of the speaker is a substantial
15 substitute, unless 25 copies of the amendment have been provided to
16 the chief clerk and were available in the chief clerk's office at
17 least 12 hours prior to the time the calendar on which the bill or
18 resolution to be amended is eligible for consideration. The chief
19 clerk shall not be required to retain, for possible consideration
20 in the future, copies of an amendment to a measure that is
21 recommitted or returned to committee.

22 (f) An amendment may be typed, hand-printed, or
23 handwritten, but must be legible in order to be offered.

24 (g) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an
25 original amendment to a bill extending an agency, commission, or
26 advisory committee under the Texas Sunset Act unless 25 copies of
27 the amendment have been provided to the chief clerk and were

1 available in the chief clerk's office at least 12 hours prior to the
2 time the calendar on which the bill or resolution to be amended is
3 eligible for consideration. The chief clerk shall not be required
4 to retain, for possible consideration in the future, copies of an
5 amendment to a measure that is recommitted or returned to
6 committee.

7 Sec. 7. ORDER OF OFFERING MOTIONS TO AMEND. Classes of
8 motions to amend shall be offered in the following order:

9 (1) motions to amend by striking out the enacting
10 clause of a bill (or the resolving clause of a resolution), which
11 amendment cannot be amended or substituted;

12 (2) motions to amend an original bill, resolution,
13 motion, or proposition (other than substitute bills as provided for
14 in Subdivision (3) below), which shall have precedence as follows:

15 (A) original amendment;

16 (B) amendment to the amendment;

17 (C) substitute for the amendment to the
18 amendment.

19 Recognition for the offering of original amendments shall be
20 as follows: first, the main author; second, the member or members
21 offering the committee amendment; and third, members offering other
22 amendments from the floor;

23 (3) motions to amend an original bill by striking out
24 all after the enacting clause (substitute bills), which substitute
25 bills shall be subject to amendment as follows:

26 (A) amendment to the substitute bill;

27 (B) substitute for the amendment to the

1 substitute bill.

2 Recognition for offering such substitute bills shall be as
3 follows: first, the main author of the original bill, if the
4 member has not sought to perfect the bill by amendments as provided
5 for in Subdivision (2) above; second, the member or members
6 offering the committee amendment; and, third, members offering
7 amendments from the floor.

8 It shall be in order under the procedure described in this
9 subdivision to have as many as four complete measures pending
10 before the house at one time; that is, an original bill, an
11 amendment striking out all after the enacting clause of the bill and
12 inserting a new bill body, an amendment to the amendment striking
13 out all after the enacting clause of the bill and inserting a new
14 bill body, and a substitute for this amendment to the amendment to
15 the original bill which is also a new bill body. These "substitute
16 bills" shall be voted on in the reverse order of their offering;

17 (4) motions to amend the caption of a bill or joint
18 resolution, which may also be offered in accordance with Section
19 9(a) of this rule.

20 Sec. 8. STRIKE OUTS AND INSERTIONS. (a) A motion to strike
21 out and to insert new matter in lieu of that to be stricken out shall
22 be regarded as a substitute and shall be indivisible.

23 (b) Matter inserted or stricken out of an original bill by
24 way of amendment may not be taken out or reinserted at a later time
25 on the same reading except under the following conditions:

26 (1) reconsideration of the inserting or deleting
27 amendment;

1 (2) adoption of a "substitute bill" amendment;

2 (3) adoption of an amendment for a whole paragraph,
3 section or subdivision of a bill which so materially changes the
4 original text that the portion inserted or deleted is in fact of
5 minor importance.

6 Sec. 9. AMENDING CAPTIONS. (a) An amendment to the caption
7 of a bill or resolution shall not be in order until all other
8 proposed amendments have been acted on and the house is ready to
9 vote on the passage of the measure, and it shall then be decided
10 without debate.

11 (b) If the previous question has been ordered on a bill or
12 joint resolution at any reading, an amendment to the caption of that
13 bill or joint resolution may be offered and voted on immediately
14 preceding the final vote on the bill or joint resolution.

15 Sec. 10. MOTION TO LIMIT AMENDMENTS. (a) A motion to limit
16 amendments shall be admitted only when seconded by 25 members. The
17 motion may take either of two forms:

18 (1) to limit amendments to those pending before the
19 house; or

20 (2) to limit amendments to those pending on the
21 speaker's desk.

22 (b) The motion shall be put by the chair in this manner: "The
23 motion has been seconded. Three minutes pro and con debate will be
24 allowed on the motion to limit amendments." As soon as the debate
25 has ended, the chair shall continue: "As many as are in favor of
26 limiting amendments on (here state on which question or questions)
27 will say 'Aye,'" and then "As many as are opposed say 'Nay.'" As in

1 all other propositions, a motion to limit amendments shall be
2 decided by a record vote if demanded by any member. If ordered by a
3 majority of the members voting, a quorum being present, the motion
4 shall have the effect of confining further debate and consideration
5 to those amendments included within the motion, and thereafter the
6 chair will accept no more amendments to the proposition to which the
7 motion is applied.

8 (c) The motion to limit amendments, if adopted, shall not in
9 any way cut off or limit debate or other parliamentary maneuvers on
10 the pending proposition or propositions or amendment or amendments
11 included within the motion. The sole function of the motion is to
12 prevent the chair from accepting further amendments to the
13 proposition to which the motion is applied.

14 (d) Except as otherwise provided, the motion to limit
15 amendments shall have no effect on the parliamentary situation to
16 which the motion is applied, and the matter to which the motion is
17 applied shall continue to be considered by the house in all other
18 respects as though the motion had not been made.

19 (e) The amendments that are included within the motion to
20 limit amendments shall each be subject to amendment, if otherwise
21 permitted under the rules.

22 Sec. 11. MOTION TO TABLE A MOTION TO LIMIT AMENDMENTS. The
23 motion to limit amendments is not subject to a motion to table.

24 Sec. 12. ORDER OF VOTING ON AMENDMENTS. When an amendment
25 is offered, followed by an amendment to that amendment, and then a
26 substitute for the amendment to the amendment, these questions
27 shall be voted on in the reverse order of their offering.

1 Sec. 13. CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS. When an
2 amendment is adopted, such action shall be certified by the chief
3 clerk on the amendment, and the official copy of the amendment shall
4 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

H.R. No. 3

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 made available to
18 each member before any action can be taken on the senate amendments
19 by the house.

20 CHAPTER C. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

21 Sec. 6. MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION. In all conferences
22 between the senate and the house by committee, the number of
23 committee members from each house shall be five. All votes on
24 matters of difference shall be taken by each committee separately.
25 A majority of each committee shall be required to determine the
26 matter in dispute. Reports by conference committees must be signed
27 by a majority of each committee of the conference.

1 Sec. 7. MEETINGS. House conferees when meeting with senate
2 conferees to adjust differences shall meet in public and shall give
3 a reasonable amount of notice of the meeting in the place designated
4 for giving notice of meetings of house standing committees. Any
5 such meeting shall be open to the news media. Any conference
6 committee report adopted in private shall not be considered by the
7 house.

8 Sec. 8. INSTRUCTIONS. Instructions to a conference
9 committee shall be made after the conference is ordered and before
10 the conferees are appointed by the speaker, and not thereafter.

11 Sec. 9. LIMITATIONS ON JURISDICTION. (a) Conference
12 committees shall limit their discussions and their actions solely
13 to the matters in disagreement between the two houses. A conference
14 committee shall have no authority with respect to any bill or
15 resolution:

16 (1) to change, alter, or amend text which is not in
17 disagreement;

18 (2) to omit text which is not in disagreement;

19 (3) to add text on any matter which is not in
20 disagreement;

21 (4) to add text on any matter which is not included in
22 either the house or senate version of the bill or resolution.

23 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
24 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

25 (b) Conference committees on appropriations bills, like
26 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and
27 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two

1 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the
2 rules, a conference committee on appropriations bills shall be
3 strictly limited in its authority as follows:

4 (1) If an item of appropriation appears in both house
5 and senate versions of the bill, the item must be included in the
6 conference committee report.

7 (2) If an item of appropriation appears in both house
8 and senate versions of the bill, and in identical amounts, no change
9 can be made in the item or the amount.

10 (3) If an item of appropriation appears in both house
11 and senate versions of the bill but in different amounts, no change
12 can be made in the item, but the amount shall be at the discretion of
13 the conference committee, provided that the amount shall not exceed
14 the larger version and shall not be less than the smaller version.

15 (4) If an item of appropriation appears in one version
16 of the bill and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted
17 at the discretion of the conference committee. If the item is
18 included, the amount shall not exceed the sum specified in the
19 version containing the item.

20 (5) If an item of appropriation appears in neither the
21 house nor the senate version of the bill, the item must not be
22 included in the conference committee report. However, the
23 conference committee report may include appropriations for
24 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed and
25 sent to the governor and may include contingent appropriations for
26 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed by at
27 least one house.

1 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
2 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

3 (c) Conference committees on tax bills, like other
4 conference committees, shall limit their discussions and their
5 actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two
6 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the
7 rules, a conference committee on a tax bill shall be strictly
8 limited in its authority as follows:

9 (1) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
10 versions of the bill, the item must be included in the conference
11 committee report.

12 (2) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
13 versions of the bill, and in identical form and with identical
14 rates, no change can be made in the item or the rate provided.

15 (3) If a tax item appears in both house and senate
16 versions of the bill but at differing rates, no change can be made
17 in the item, but the rate shall be at the discretion of the
18 conference committee, provided that the rate shall not exceed the
19 higher version and shall not be less than the lower version.

20 (4) If a tax item appears in one version of the bill
21 and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted at the
22 discretion of the conference committee. If the item is included,
23 the rate shall not exceed the rate specified in the version
24 containing the item.

25 (5) If a tax item appears in neither the house nor the
26 senate version of the bill, the item must not be included in the
27 conference committee report.

1 This rule shall be strictly construed by the presiding
2 officer in each house to achieve these purposes.

3 (d) Conference committees on reapportionment bills, to the
4 extent possible, shall limit their discussions and their actions to
5 the matters in disagreement between the two houses. Since the
6 adjustment of one district in a reapportionment bill will
7 inevitably affect other districts, the strict rule of construction
8 imposed on other conference committees must be relaxed somewhat
9 when reapportionment bills are involved. Accordingly, the
10 following authority and limitations shall apply only to conference
11 committees on reapportionment bills:

12 (1) If the matters in disagreement affect only certain
13 districts, and other districts are identical in both house and
14 senate versions of the bill, the conference committee shall make
15 adjustments only in those districts whose rearrangement is
16 essential to the effective resolving of the matters in
17 disagreement. All other districts shall remain unchanged.

18 (2) If the matters in disagreement permeate the entire
19 bill and affect most, if not all, of the districts, the conference
20 committee shall have wide discretion in rearranging the districts
21 to the extent necessary to resolve all differences between the two
22 houses.

23 (3) Insofar as the actual structure of the districts
24 is concerned, and only to that extent, the provisions of Subsection
25 (a) of this section shall not apply to conference committees on
26 reapportionment bills.

27 (e) Conference committees on recodification bills, like

1 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and
2 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two
3 houses. The comprehensive and complicated nature of recodification
4 bills makes necessary the relaxing of the strict rule of
5 construction imposed on other conference committees only to the
6 following extent:

7 (1) If it develops in conference committee that
8 material has been inadvertently included in both house and senate
9 versions which properly has no place in the recodification, that
10 material may be omitted from the conference committee report, if by
11 that omission the existing statute is not repealed, altered, or
12 amended.

13 (2) If it develops in conference committee that
14 material has been inadvertently omitted from both the house and
15 senate versions which properly should be included if the
16 recodification is to achieve its purpose of being all-inclusive of
17 the statutes being recodified, that material may be added to the
18 conference committee report, if by the addition the existing
19 statute is merely restated without substantive change in existing
20 law.

21 (f) Limitations imposed on certain conference committees by
22 the provisions of this section may be suspended in part by
23 permission of the house to allow consideration of and action on a
24 specific matter or matters which otherwise would be prohibited.
25 Permission shall be granted only by resolution passed by majority
26 vote of the house. All such resolutions shall be privileged in
27 nature and need not be referred to a committee. The introduction of

1 such a resolution shall be announced from the house floor and the
2 resolution shall be eligible for consideration by the house one
3 hour after a copy of the resolution has been distributed to each
4 member. The time at which the copies of such a resolution are
5 distributed to the members shall be time-stamped on the originals
6 of the resolution. The resolution shall specify in detail:

7 (1) the exact nature of the matter or matters proposed
8 to be considered;

9 (2) the specific limitation or limitations to be
10 suspended;

11 (3) the specific action contemplated by the conference
12 committee; and

13 (4) except for a resolution suspending the limitations
14 on the conferees for the general appropriations bill, the reasons
15 that suspension of the limitations is being requested.

16 In the application of this subsection to appropriations
17 bills, the resolution need not include changes in amounts resulting
18 from a proposed salary plan or changes in format that do not affect
19 the amount of an appropriation or the method of finance of an
20 appropriation, but shall include a general statement describing the
21 salary plan or format change. The resolution need not include
22 differences in language which do not affect the substance of the
23 bill.

24 Permission thus granted shall suspend the limitations only
25 for the matter or matters clearly specified in the resolution, and
26 the action of the conference committee shall be in conformity with
27 the resolution.

1 Sec. 10. PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. (a) All
2 conference committee reports must be printed and a copy furnished
3 to each member at least 24 hours before action can be taken on the
4 report by the house during a regular or special session.

5 (b) Three original copies of a conference committee report
6 shall be submitted to the chief clerk for printing. Each original
7 conference committee report shall contain the following:

8 (1) the signatures of the house conferees and senate
9 conferees who voted to adopt the conference committee report;

10 (2) the text of the bill or resolution as adopted by
11 the conference committee; and

12 (3) an analysis of the conference committee report as
13 required by Section 11 of this rule.

14 (c) Before action can be taken by the house on a conference
15 committee report on a bill or joint resolution, other than the
16 general appropriations bill, a fiscal note outlining the fiscal
17 implications and probable cost of the conference committee report
18 shall be submitted to the chief clerk, and a copy of the fiscal note
19 shall be made available to each member.

20 Sec. 11. ANALYSIS OF REPORTS. All reports of conference
21 committees shall include an analysis showing wherein the report
22 differs from the house and senate versions of the bill, resolution,
23 or other matter in disagreement. The analysis of appropriations
24 bills shall show in dollar amounts the differences between the
25 conference committee report and the house and senate versions. No
26 conference committee report shall be considered by the house unless
27 such an analysis has been prepared and distributed to each

1 member.

2 Sec. 12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS. A conference committee
3 report is not subject to amendment, but must be accepted or rejected
4 in its entirety. While a conference committee report is pending, a
5 motion to deal with individual amendments in disagreement is not in
6 order.

7 Sec. 13. WHEN REPORTS NOT ACCEPTABLE. When a conference
8 committee report is not acceptable to the house for any reason, it
9 may be recommitted to the same committee with the request for
10 further consideration, and the house may or may not give any
11 specific instructions on the report to the conference committee; or
12 the house may request the appointment by the senate of a new
13 conference committee and then proceed to empower the speaker to
14 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.

1 Sec. 6. DISPOSAL OF MEASURES TAKEN UP UNDER SUSPENSION. Any
2 measure taken up under suspension and not disposed of on the same
3 day shall go over as pending or unfinished business to the next day
4 that the house is in session, and shall be considered thereafter
5 from day to day (except the days used for the consideration of
6 senate bills) until disposed of.