

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of  
2 Texas, That the following are adopted as the permanent rules of the  
3 House of Representatives of the 88th [~~87th~~] Legislature:

4 RULES OF  
5 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
6 OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE  
7 TABLE OF CONTENTS

8	RULE	
9	1.	DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER . . . . . 2
10	2.	OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES . . . . . 11
11	3.	STANDING COMMITTEES . . . . . 24
12	4.	ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF
13		COMMITTEES . . . . . 53
14	5.	FLOOR PROCEDURE . . . . . 89
15	6.	ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS . . . . . 113
16	7.	MOTIONS . . . . . 133
17	8.	BILLS . . . . . 149
18	9.	JOINT RESOLUTIONS . . . . . 165
19	10.	HOUSE RESOLUTIONS AND CONCURRENT
20		RESOLUTIONS . . . . . 167
21	11.	AMENDMENTS . . . . . 170
22	12.	PRINTING . . . . . 179
23	13.	INTERACTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR
24		AND SENATE . . . . . 183

1           14. GENERAL PROVISIONS . . . . . 196

2           15. APPROPRIATE WORKPLACE CONDUCT . . . . . 198

3           16. SPECIAL RULE . . . . . 200

4           STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION AND PRECEDENCE

5           Pursuant to and under the authority of Section 11, Article

6 III, Texas Constitution, and notwithstanding any provision of

7 statute, the House of Representatives adopts the following rules to

8 govern its operations and procedures. The provisions of these

9 rules shall be deemed the only requirements binding on the House of

10 Representatives under Section 11, Article III, Texas Constitution,

11 notwithstanding any other requirements expressed in statute.

12           RULE 1. DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER

13           CHAPTER A. DUTIES AS PRESIDING OFFICER

14           Sec. 1. ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES. The speaker shall

15 enforce, apply, and interpret the rules of the house in all

16 deliberations of the house and shall enforce the legislative rules

17 prescribed by the statutes and the Constitution of Texas.

18           Sec. 2. CALL TO ORDER. The speaker shall take the chair on

19 each calendar day precisely at the hour to which the house adjourned

20 or recessed at its last sitting and shall immediately call the

21 members to order.

22           Sec. 3. LAYING BUSINESS BEFORE THE HOUSE. The speaker

23 shall lay before the house its business in the order indicated by

24 the rules and shall receive propositions made by members and put

25 them to the house.

26           Sec. 4. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO COMMITTEE. All

27 proposed legislation shall be referred by the speaker to an

1 appropriate standing or select committee with jurisdiction,  
2 subject to correction by a majority vote of the house. A bill or  
3 resolution may not be referred simultaneously to more than one  
4 committee.

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

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

25       Sec. 7. STATING AND VOTING ON QUESTIONS. The speaker shall  
26 rise to put a question but may state it sitting. The question shall  
27 be put substantially in this form: "The question occurs on

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

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

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

1 question on appeal is, "Shall the chair be sustained?"

2 (b) No member shall speak more than once on an appeal unless  
3 given leave by a majority of the house. No motion shall be in order,  
4 pending an appeal, except a motion to adjourn, a motion to lay on  
5 the table, a motion for the previous question, or a motion for a  
6 call of the house. Responses to parliamentary inquiries and  
7 decisions of recognition made by the chair may not be appealed,  
8 except as provided by Rule 5, Section 24.

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

19 (d) A point of order raised as to a violation of a section of  
20 the rules governing committee reports, committee minutes, or  
21 accompanying documentation may be overruled if the purpose of that  
22 section of the rules has been substantially fulfilled and the  
23 violation does not deceive or mislead.

24 (e) When a question of order is pending before the house,  
25 only the member who raised the question of order, and one other  
26 member designated by that member, and the primary proponent of the  
27 matter or proposition to which the question of order applies, and

1 one other member designated by the proponent, may present arguments  
2 to the speaker or parliamentarian regarding the question of order.  
3 This subsection does not limit any remarks that a member may make  
4 before the full house if the member is recognized for that purpose.

5       Sec. 10. APPOINTMENT OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE AND TEMPORARY  
6 CHAIR. The speaker shall have the right to name any member to  
7 perform the duties of the chair related to presiding over the  
8 deliberations of the house and may name a member to serve as speaker  
9 pro tempore by delivering a written order to the chief clerk and a  
10 copy to the journal clerk. A permanent speaker pro tempore shall,  
11 in the absence or inability of the speaker, call the house to order  
12 and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the  
13 deliberations of the house and perform other duties and exercise  
14 other responsibilities related to presiding over the deliberations  
15 of the house as may be assigned in writing by the speaker. If the  
16 house is not in session, and a permanent speaker pro tempore has not  
17 been named, or if the speaker pro tempore is not available or for  
18 any reason is not able to function, the speaker may deliver a  
19 written order to the chief clerk, with a copy to the journal clerk,  
20 naming the member who shall call the house to order and preside  
21 during the speaker's absence. The speaker pro tempore shall serve  
22 at the pleasure of the speaker. In the event of a vacancy in the  
23 office of speaker, the speaker pro tempore does not assume the  
24 office of speaker. The authority of the speaker pro tempore to  
25 perform the duties and exercise the responsibilities of the speaker  
26 is limited as provided by this section.

27       Sec. 11. EMERGENCY ADJOURNMENT. In the event of an

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

14       Sec. 12. POSTPONEMENT OF RECONVENING. When the house is  
15 not in session, if the speaker determines that it would be a hazard  
16 to the safety of the members, officers, employees, and others  
17 attending the legislature to reconvene at the time determined by  
18 the house at its last sitting, the speaker may clear the area of the  
19 capitol under the control of the house and postpone the reconvening  
20 of the house for a period of not more than 12 hours. On making that  
21 determination, the speaker shall order the sergeant-at-arms to post  
22 an assistant at each first floor entrance to the capitol and other  
23 places and advise all persons entering of the determination and the  
24 time set for the house to reconvene. The speaker shall also notify  
25 the journal clerk and the news media of the action, and the action  
26 shall be entered in the house journal.

27       Sec. 13. SIGNING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS. All bills, joint

1 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions shall be signed by the  
2 speaker in the presence of the house, as required by the  
3 constitution; and all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by  
4 order of the house shall be signed by the speaker and attested by  
5 the chief clerk, or the person acting as chief clerk.

6 CHAPTER B. ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

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

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

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

22 (c) In announcing the membership of the standing  
23 substantive committees, the speaker shall designate which are  
24 appointees and which acquire membership by seniority.

25 (d) The speaker shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of  
26 each standing procedural committee and the remaining membership of  
27 the committee.



1 (e) If a new speaker is elected to fill a vacancy in the  
2 office after the appointment of standing committees, the new  
3 speaker may not alter the composition of any standing committee  
4 before the end of the session, except that the new speaker may:

5 (1) vacate the new speaker's membership on any  
6 committee;

7 (2) make committee appointments for the member who was  
8 removed as speaker;

9 (3) designate a different member of a standing  
10 committee as committee chair; and

11 (4) fill vacancies that occur on a committee.

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

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

24 Sec. 17. INTERIM STUDIES. When the legislature is not in  
25 session, the speaker shall have the authority to direct committees  
26 to make interim studies for such purposes as the speaker may  
27 designate, and the committees shall meet as often as necessary to

1 transact effectively the business assigned to them. The speaker  
2 shall provide to the chief clerk a copy of interim charges made to a  
3 standing or select committee.

4 CHAPTER C. CAMPAIGNS FOR SPEAKER

5 Sec. 18. PLEDGES FOR SPEAKER PROHIBITED DURING REGULAR  
6 SESSION. During a regular session of the legislature a member may  
7 not solicit written pledges from other members for their support of  
8 or promise to vote for any person for the office of speaker.

1                   RULE 2. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

2                   CHAPTER A. DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

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

4                   (1) be the custodian of all bills, resolutions, and  
5 amendments;

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

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

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

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

25                   (6) forward to a committee chair in an electronic or  
26 other format determined by the chief clerk a certified copy of each  
27 legislative document referred to the committee, including all

1 official attachments to the document;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26           (11) be responsible for noting on each house bill or  
27 joint resolution, for certification by the speaker of the house,

1 the lieutenant governor, the chief clerk of the house, and the  
2 secretary of the senate, the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (14) notify the speaker in writing that the senate did  
27 not concur in house amendments to a bill or resolution and requests

1 a conference committee, and include in this notice the names of the  
2 senate conferees;

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

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

11 (b) The chief clerk shall also:

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

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

16 (3) 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 (4) receive and file all other documents required by  
23 law or by the rules of the house;

24 (5) 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 (6) have posted the list of Items Eligible for

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

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

9 (d) The chief clerk shall provide notice to a Capitol e-mail  
10 address designated by each member when a new house calendar or list  
11 of items eligible for consideration is posted on the electronic  
12 legislative information system. If a member informs the chief  
13 clerk that the member also desires to receive a paper copy of house  
14 calendars or lists of items eligible for consideration, the chief  
15 clerk shall place paper copies of those documents designated by the  
16 member in the newspaper box of the member as soon as practicable  
17 after the electronic copies are posted.

18 Sec. 2. JOURNAL CLERK. (a) The journal clerk shall:

19 (1) keep a journal of the proceedings of the house,  
20 except when the house is acting as a committee of the whole, and  
21 enter the following:

22 (A) the number, author, and caption of every bill  
23 introduced;

24 (B) descriptions of all congratulatory and  
25 memorial resolutions on committee report, motions, amendments,  
26 questions of order and decisions on them, messages from the  
27 governor, and messages from the senate;

1 (C) the summaries of congratulatory and memorial  
2 resolutions, as printed on the congratulatory and memorial  
3 calendar;

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

6 (E) a listing of reports made by standing  
7 committees;

8 (F) reports of select committees, when ordered by  
9 the house;

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

13 (H) the names of all absentees, both excused and  
14 not excused;

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

17 (J) the date each bill is transmitted to the  
18 governor;

19 (K) the date recommendations of the Texas  
20 Commission on Environmental Quality on each bill subject to Article  
21 XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, are filed with the chief  
22 clerk;

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

25 (M) reasons for a vote;

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



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

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

5           (Q) the written copy of the speaker's ruling on a  
6 point of order, which includes the citation of the authorities  
7 relied upon in the grounds for decision, as provided in Section  
8 9(b-1) of this rule;

9           (2) prepare a daily journal for each calendar day that  
10 the house is in session and distribute on the succeeding calendar  
11 day or the earliest possible date copies to the members of the house  
12 who have submitted requests to the journal clerk to receive a copy;  
13 and

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

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

19                   (i) one copy to each member of the house of  
20 representatives who submitted a request to the journal clerk to  
21 receive a copy;

22                   (ii) one copy to each member of the senate  
23 who submitted a request to the journal clerk to receive a copy; and

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

26           (B) The journal clerk shall not receive or  
27 receipt for the permanent house journal until it has been correctly

1 published.

2 (b) The journal clerk shall lock the voting machine of each  
3 member who is excused or who is otherwise known to be absent when  
4 the house is in session until the member personally requests that  
5 the machine be unlocked.

6 (c) The journal clerk shall determine and enter in the  
7 journal the clock of record for the house and that clock may not be  
8 delayed, set back, or otherwise tampered with to deviate from the  
9 standard time, as provided by statute, for the place where the house  
10 is meeting. The journal clerk shall enter in the journal the time  
11 according to the clock of record when the house convenes, recesses,  
12 and adjourns. A motion to suspend this rule must be decided by a  
13 record vote.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25          (10) provide for issuance of an identification card to  
26 each member and employee of the house; and

27          (11) 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; and

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.

6 Sec. 8. COMMITTEE COORDINATOR. (a) The committee  
7 coordinator shall:

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

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

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

15 (4) direct the maintenance of sworn statements either  
16 in electronic or paper format and, under the direction of the  
17 Committee on House Administration, prescribe the form of those  
18 statements, as required by Rule 4, Sections 20(a) and (c);

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

21 (6) receive committee reports as required by Rule 4,  
22 Section 37, and refer them for printing as provided by Rule 6,  
23 Section 19; and

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

27 (b) The committee coordinator may exclude from the

1 committee coordinator's office or refuse to interact with a member  
2 or a member's staff if the member or member's staff engages in  
3 abusive, harassing, or threatening behavior.

4       Sec. 9. PARLIAMENTARIAN. (a) The speaker may appoint not  
5 more than two individuals to serve as parliamentarians. The  
6 parliamentarians are officers of the house who serve at the  
7 pleasure of the speaker. The parliamentarians shall advise and  
8 assist the presiding officer and the members of the house on matters  
9 of procedure. The parliamentarians have a duty of confidentiality  
10 to the speaker and to each member of the house and shall keep  
11 confidential all requests made by members of the house for advice or  
12 guidance regarding procedure unless the parties otherwise agree.

13       (b) After the initial appointment of the parliamentarians  
14 by the speaker, the appointment of a new parliamentarian to fill a  
15 vacancy must be approved by a majority of the membership of the  
16 house if the appointment is made during a regular or special  
17 session. If the appointment to fill the vacancy is made when the  
18 house is not in session, the appointment must be approved by a  
19 majority of the membership not later than the third day of the first  
20 special session that occurs after the date the appointment is made.  
21 If no special session occurs after the appointment, approval by the  
22 membership is not required.

23       (b-1) The speaker shall instruct the parliamentarians to  
24 provide to each member a written copy of the speaker's ruling on a  
25 point of order, including the citation of the authorities relied  
26 upon in the grounds for decision. The written ruling shall be  
27 provided to each member through the electronic legislative

1 information system not later than 24 hours after the ruling is  
2 announced in the house.

3 (c) In the event of a conflict between this section and the  
4 housekeeping resolution, this section controls.

5 CHAPTER B. OTHER EMPLOYEES

6 Sec. 10. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EMPLOYEES: CONFIDENTIALITY.

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

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

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

RULE 3. STANDING COMMITTEES

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

5                   (1) agriculture, horticulture, and farm husbandry;

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

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

10                  (4) problems and issues particularly affecting rural  
11 areas of the state, including issues related to rural economic  
12 development and the provision of and access to infrastructure,  
13 education, and health services; and

14                  (5) the following state agencies: the Department of  
15 Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, the State Soil and  
16 Water Conservation Board, the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Texas  
17 administrator for the South Central Interstate Forest Fire  
18 Protection Compact, the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, Texas A&M  
19 AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, [~~the~~  
20 ~~Food and Fibers Research Council,~~] the State Seed and Plant Board,  
21 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Texas A&M  
22 Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, the Produce Recovery  
23 Fund Board, the board of directors of the Texas Boll Weevil  
24 Eradication Foundation, Inc., and the Texas Wildlife Services.

25           Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS. (a) The committee shall have 27  
26 members, with jurisdiction over:

27                   (1) all bills and resolutions appropriating money from



1 the state treasury;

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

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

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

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

14 Sec. 3. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. The committee shall have  
15 nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

16 (1) industry and manufacturing;

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

19 (3) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the  
20 relationship between employers and employees;

21 (4) unemployment compensation, including coverage,  
22 benefits, taxes, and eligibility;

23 (5) labor unions and their organization, control,  
24 management, and administration;

25 (6) the regulation of business transactions and  
26 transactions involving property interests;

27 (7) the organization, incorporation, management, and

1 regulation of private corporations and professional associations  
2 and the Uniform Commercial Code and the Business Organizations  
3 Code;

4 (8) the protection of consumers, governmental  
5 regulations incident thereto, the agencies of government  
6 authorized to regulate such activities, and the role of the  
7 government in consumer protection;

8 (9) privacy and identity theft;

9 (10) homeowners' associations;

10 (11) oversight and regulation of the construction  
11 industry; and

12 (12) the following state agencies: the State Office of  
13 Risk Management, the Risk Management Board, the Division of  
14 Workers' Compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance, the  
15 workers' [~~Workers'~~] compensation research and evaluation group in  
16 the Texas Department of Insurance, the Office of Injured Employee  
17 Counsel, including the ombudsman program of that office, and the  
18 Texas Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors.

19 Sec. 4. CALENDARS (PROCEDURAL). The committee shall have  
20 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

21 (1) the placement of bills and resolutions on  
22 appropriate calendars, except those within the jurisdiction of the  
23 Committee on Resolutions Calendars;

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

26 (3) all other matters concerning the calendar system  
27 and the expediting of the business of the house as may be assigned

1 by the speaker.

2           Sec. 5. CORRECTIONS.       The committee shall have nine  
3 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

4                 (1) the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted  
5 felons;

6                 (2) the establishment and maintenance of programs that  
7 provide alternatives to incarceration; and

8                 (3) the following state agencies:       the Texas  
9 Department of Criminal Justice, the Special Prosecution Unit, the  
10 Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Texas Civil Commitment Office,  
11 and the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or  
12 Mental Impairments.

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

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

18                 (2) establishing districts for the election of  
19 governing bodies of counties;

20                 (3) regional councils of governments;

21                 (4) multicounty boards or commissions;

22                 (5) relationships or contracts between counties;

23                 (6) other units of local government; and

24                 (7) the following state agency:   the Commission on  
25 Jail Standards.

26           Sec. 7. CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE.   The committee shall have  
27 nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

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

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

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

16 (2) the regulation and control of the propagation and  
17 preservation of wildlife and fish in the state;

18 (3) the development and regulation of the fish and  
19 oyster industries of the state;

20 (4) hunting and fishing in the state, and the  
21 regulation and control thereof, including the imposition of fees,  
22 fines, and penalties relating to that regulation;

23 (5) the regulation of other recreational activities;

24 (6) cultural resources and their promotion,  
25 development, and regulation;

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

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

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

5           (10) international and interstate tourist promotion  
6 and development;

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

9           (12) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact; and

10           (13) the following state agencies: the Parks and  
11 Wildlife Department, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the State  
12 Cemetery Committee, the Texas State Library and Archives  
13 Commission, the Texas Historical Commission, the State  
14 Preservation Board, and an office of state government to the extent  
15 the office promotes the Texas music industry.

16           Sec. 9. DEFENSE AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS. The committee shall  
17 have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining  
18 to:

19           (1) the relations between the State of Texas and the  
20 federal government involving defense, emergency preparedness, and  
21 veterans issues;

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

24           (3) the realignment or closure of military bases;

25           (4) the defense of the state and nation, including  
26 terrorism response;

27           (5) emergency preparedness;

- 1           (6) veterans of military and related services; and  
2           (7) the following state agencies: the Texas Military  
3 Department, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Veterans' Land  
4 Board, the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, the Texas  
5 Division of Emergency Management, and the Emergency Management  
6 Council.

7           Sec. 10. ELECTIONS. The committee shall have nine members,  
8 with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

- 9           (1) the right of suffrage in Texas;  
10          (2) primary, special, and general elections;  
11          (3) revision, modification, amendment, or change of  
12 the Election Code;  
13          (4) the secretary of state in relation to elections;  
14          (5) campaign finance; and  
15          (6) the following state agency: the Office of the  
16 Secretary of State.

17          Sec. 11. ENERGY RESOURCES. The committee shall have 11  
18 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

- 19          (1) the conservation of the energy resources of Texas;  
20          (2) the production, regulation, transportation, and  
21 development of oil, gas, and other energy resources;  
22          (3) mining and the development of mineral deposits  
23 within the state;  
24          (4) the leasing and regulation of mineral rights under  
25 public lands;  
26          (5) pipelines, pipeline companies, and all others  
27 operating as common carriers in the state;

1           (6) electric utility regulation as it relates to  
2 energy production and consumption;

3           (7) identifying, developing, and using alternative  
4 energy sources;

5           (8) increasing energy efficiency throughout the  
6 state;

7           (9) the coordination of the state's efforts related to  
8 the federal designation of threatened and endangered species as it  
9 relates to energy resources in the state; and

10           (10) the following state agencies: the Railroad  
11 Commission of Texas, the Texas representative for the Interstate  
12 Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the Office of Interstate Mining  
13 Compact Commissioner for Texas, the State Energy Conservation  
14 Office, and the Office of Southern States Energy Board Member for  
15 Texas.

16           Sec. 12. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION. The committee shall  
17 have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining  
18 to:

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

21           (2) the regulation of waste disposal;

22           (3) environmental matters that are regulated by the  
23 Department of State Health Services or the Texas Commission on  
24 Environmental Quality;

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

27           (5) the following state agency: the Texas Low-Level

1 Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission.

2           Sec. 13. GENERAL INVESTIGATING (PROCEDURAL). (a) The  
3 committee shall have five members of the house appointed by the  
4 speaker. The speaker shall appoint the chair and the vice-chair of  
5 the committee.

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

11           (b-1) The committee may begin work as soon as it desires  
12 after its members are appointed. The committee shall meet,  
13 organize, and adopt rules of evidence and procedure and any other  
14 necessary rules. The committee rules may not conflict with Section  
15 301.025, Government Code.

16           (b-2) Whether or not the legislature is in session, the  
17 committee may meet at any time or place in the state determined  
18 necessary by the committee.

19           (b-3) If the committee decides not to conduct joint hearings  
20 as provided by Section 301.019, Government Code, the committee  
21 shall establish a liaison to fully inform the chair of the senate  
22 committee of the nature and progress of any inquiry by the other  
23 committee.

24           (b-4) On a majority vote of the committee, the committee may  
25 conduct joint hearings and investigations.

26           (b-5) The committee may:

27                 (1) initiate or continue inquiries and hearings



1 concerning:

2 (A) state government;

3 (B) any agency or subdivision of government  
4 within the state;

5 (C) the expenditure of public funds at any level  
6 of government within the state; and

7 (D) any other matter the committee considers  
8 necessary for the information of the legislature or for the welfare  
9 and protection of state citizens; and

10 (2) inspect the records, documents, and files and may  
11 examine the duties, responsibilities, and activities of each state  
12 department, agency, and officer and of each municipality, county,  
13 or other political subdivision of the state.

14 (b-6) If a person disobeys a subpoena or other process that  
15 the committee lawfully issues, the committee may cite the person  
16 for contempt and cause the person to be prosecuted for contempt  
17 according to the procedure prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,  
18 Government Code, or by other law.

19 (b-7) The committee shall make reports to members of the  
20 legislature that the committee determines are necessary and  
21 appropriate.

22 (b-8) Information held by the committee that if held by a  
23 law enforcement agency or prosecutor would be excepted from the  
24 requirements of Section 552.021, Government Code, under Section  
25 552.108 of that code is confidential and not subject to public  
26 disclosure.

27 (b-9) If for any reason it is necessary to obtain assistance

1 in addition to the services provided by the state auditor, attorney  
2 general, Texas Legislative Council, or Department of Public Safety,  
3 the committee may employ and compensate assistants to assist in any  
4 investigation, audit, or legal matter.

5 (c) The committee may investigate a matter related to the  
6 misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, abuse of office, or  
7 incompetency of an individual or officer under Chapter 665,  
8 Government Code. The committee has all the powers and duties  
9 conferred by that chapter for the purpose of conducting the  
10 investigation, including the authority to propose articles of  
11 impeachment.

12 (d) The committee has original jurisdiction over the  
13 receipt, processing, investigation, and resolution of complaints  
14 related to appropriate workplace conduct under Rule 15, the  
15 housekeeping resolution, and policies adopted by the Committee on  
16 House Administration. If a complaint relates to the conduct of a  
17 member of the committee, that member's employee, or an individual  
18 related to the member or the member's employee within the third  
19 degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity as  
20 determined under Chapter 573, Government Code:

21 (1) the member shall not participate in any committee  
22 proceedings related to the complaint; and

23 (2) the speaker shall designate a member of the house  
24 drawn by lot under Subsection (e) of this section to act in the  
25 place of the disqualified member. The designation of a member under  
26 this subsection ends when the committee makes its final disposition  
27 of the complaint.

1           (e) When a member of the committee is disqualified under  
2 Subsection (d) of this section, the chief clerk shall prepare a list  
3 of the currently qualified members of the house, omitting the names  
4 of the speaker, the disqualified member, each other member of the  
5 committee, and any member elected from the same county as the  
6 disqualified member. The chief clerk shall write on a separate  
7 piece of paper of uniform size and color the name of each member  
8 that appears on the prepared list. The chief clerk shall deposit  
9 the pieces of paper in an opaque container that is designed to  
10 permit the random distribution of the pieces of paper after their  
11 initial deposit and to prevent the viewing of any of the pieces of  
12 paper at any time. After the pieces of paper are randomly  
13 distributed in the container, the sergeant-at-arms shall draw a  
14 single piece of paper and deliver that piece of paper to the chief  
15 clerk. The chief clerk shall inform the speaker of the name drawn  
16 by the sergeant-at-arms for designation under Subsection (d).

17           Sec. 14. HIGHER EDUCATION. The committee shall have 11  
18 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

19                   (1) education beyond high school;  
20                   (2) the colleges and universities of the State of  
21 Texas; and

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

1           Sec. 15. HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.       The  
2 committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all  
3 matters pertaining to:

4                   (1) law enforcement;

5                   (2) the prevention of crime and the apprehension of  
6 criminals;

7                   (3) the provision of security services by private  
8 entities;

9                   (4) homeland security, including:

10                           (A) the defense of the state and nation,  
11 including terrorism response; and

12                           (B) disaster mitigation, preparedness, response,  
13 and recovery; and

14                   (5) the following state agencies: the Texas Commission  
15 on Law Enforcement, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas  
16 Division of Emergency Management, the Emergency Management  
17 Council, the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the Texas Military  
18 Preparedness Commission, the Commission on State Emergency  
19 Communications, and the Texas Crime Stoppers Council.

20           Sec. 16. HOUSE ADMINISTRATION (PROCEDURAL).       (a)    The  
21 committee shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

22                   (1) administrative operation of the house and its  
23 employees;

24                   (2) the adoption of policies and procedures for  
25 appropriate workplace conduct under Rule 15 and the housekeeping  
26 resolution, including policies and procedures relating to the  
27 training of members, officers, and employees;

- 1           (3) the general house fund, with full control over all  
2 expenditures from the fund;
- 3           (4) all property, equipment, and supplies obtained by  
4 the house for its use and the use of its members;
- 5           (5) all office space available for the use of the house  
6 and its members;
- 7           (6) the assignment of vacant office space, vacant  
8 parking spaces, and vacant desks on the house floor to members with  
9 seniority based on cumulative years of service in the house, except  
10 that the committee may make these assignments based on physical  
11 disability of a member where it deems proper;
- 12           (7) all admissions to the floor during sessions of the  
13 house;
- 14           (8) all proposals to invite nonmembers to appear  
15 before or address the house or a joint session;
- 16           (9) all radio, television, and Internet broadcasting,  
17 live or recorded, of sessions of the house;
- 18           (10) the electronic recording of the proceedings of  
19 the house of representatives and the custody of the recordings of  
20 testimony before house committees, with authority to promulgate  
21 reasonable rules, regulations, and conditions concerning the  
22 safekeeping, reproducing, and transcribing of the recordings, and  
23 the defraying of costs for transcribing the recordings, subject to  
24 other provisions of these rules;
- 25           (11) all witnesses appearing before the house or any  
26 committee thereof in support of or in opposition to any pending  
27 legislative proposal;

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

4           (13) other matters concerning the rules, procedures,  
5 and operation of the house assigned by the speaker; and

6           (14) the following state agency: the State  
7 Preservation Board.

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

10          Sec. 17. HUMAN SERVICES. The committee shall have nine  
11 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

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

14           (2) oversight of the Health and Human Services  
15 Commission and the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council as it  
16 relates to the subject matter jurisdiction of this committee;

17           (3) intellectual disabilities and the development of  
18 programs incident thereto;

19           (4) the prevention and treatment of intellectual  
20 disabilities; and

21           (5) the following state agencies: the Department of  
22 Family and Protective Services, the Texas State Board of Social  
23 Worker Examiners, and the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
24 Professional Counselors.

25          Sec. 18. INSURANCE. The committee shall have nine members,  
26 with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

27           (1) insurance and the insurance industry;

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

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

8           Sec. 19. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
9 The committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all  
10 matters pertaining to:

11           (1) the relations between the State of Texas and other  
12 nations, including matters related to trade relations and  
13 international trade zones;

14           (2) the relations between the State of Texas and the  
15 federal government other than matters involving defense, emergency  
16 preparedness, and veterans issues;

17           (3) the relations between the State of Texas and other  
18 states of the United States;

19           (4) commerce, trade, and manufacturing, including  
20 international commerce and trade and the regulation of persons  
21 participating in international commerce and trade;

22           (5) cooperation between the state or a local  
23 governmental entity and the scientific and technological  
24 community, including private businesses, institutions of higher  
25 education, and federal governmental laboratories;

26           (6) weights and measures;

27           (7) workforce training;

- 1           (8) economic and industrial development;
- 2           (9) development and support of small businesses;
- 3           (10) job creation and job-training programs;
- 4           (11) hours, wages, collective bargaining, and the  
5 relationship between employers and employees;
- 6           (12) international and border regions (as described in  
7 Sections [2056.002\(e\)\(2\)](#) and (3), Government Code) economic  
8 development, public health and safety issues affecting the border,  
9 tourist development, and goodwill, and economic development,  
10 tourist development, and goodwill in other areas of the state that  
11 have experienced a significant increase in the percentage of the  
12 population that consists of immigrants from other nations,  
13 according to the last two federal decennial censuses or another  
14 reliable measure;
- 15           (13) the provision of public services to persons  
16 residing in proximity to Texas' international border or in other  
17 areas of the state that have experienced a significant increase in  
18 the percentage of the population that consists of immigrants from  
19 other nations, according to the last two federal decennial censuses  
20 or another reliable measure; and
- 21           (14) the following state agencies: the Office of  
22 State-Federal Relations, the Texas Economic Development and  
23 Tourism Office, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas  
24 Workforce Investment Council.

25           Sec. 20. JUDICIARY AND CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE. The committee  
26 shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters  
27 pertaining to:



- 1 (1) fines and penalties arising under civil laws;
- 2 (2) civil law, including rights, duties, remedies, and  
3 procedures thereunder, and including probate and guardianship  
4 matters;
- 5 (3) civil procedure in the courts of Texas;
- 6 (4) administrative law and the adjudication of rights  
7 by administrative agencies;
- 8 (5) permission to sue the state;
- 9 (6) uniform state laws;
- 10 (7) creating, changing, or otherwise affecting courts  
11 of judicial districts of the state;
- 12 (8) establishing districts for the election of  
13 judicial officers;
- 14 (9) courts and court procedures except where  
15 jurisdiction is specifically granted to some other standing  
16 committee; and
- 17 (10) the following state agencies: the Supreme Court,  
18 the courts of appeals, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the State  
19 Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Office of Court Administration  
20 of the Texas Judicial System, the State Law Library, the Texas  
21 Judicial Council, the Judicial Branch Certification Commission,  
22 the Office of the Attorney General, the Board of Law Examiners, the  
23 State Bar of Texas, and the State Office of Administrative  
24 Hearings.

25 Sec. 21. JUVENILE JUSTICE AND FAMILY ISSUES. The committee  
26 shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters  
27 pertaining to:

- 1           (1) the commitment and rehabilitation of youths;
- 2           (2) the construction, operation, and management of  
3 correctional facilities of the state and facilities used for the  
4 commitment and rehabilitation of youths;
- 5           (3) juvenile delinquency and gang violence;
- 6           (4) criminal law, prohibitions, standards, and  
7 penalties as applied to juveniles;
- 8           (5) criminal procedure in the courts of Texas as it  
9 relates to juveniles;
- 10          (6) civil law as it relates to familial relationships,  
11 including rights, duties, remedies, and procedures; and
- 12          (7) the following state agencies: the Texas Juvenile  
13 Justice Board, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Office of  
14 Independent Ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department,  
15 and the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services.

16          Sec. 22. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. The committee shall  
17 have nine members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining  
18 to:

- 19           (1) the management of public lands;
- 20           (2) the power of eminent domain;
- 21           (3) the creation, modification, and regulation of  
22 municipal utility districts;
- 23           (4) annexation, zoning, and other governmental  
24 regulation of land use; and
- 25           (5) the following state agencies: the School Land  
26 Board, the Board for Lease of University Lands, and the General Land  
27 Office.

1           Sec. 23. LICENSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The  
2 committee shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over all  
3 matters pertaining to:

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

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

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

10           (4) the Alcoholic Beverage Code; and

11           (5) the following state agencies: the Texas  
12 Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of  
13 Administrative Hearings, the Texas Board of Architectural  
14 Examiners, the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, the Texas  
15 Real Estate Commission, the Texas State Board of Plumbing  
16 Examiners, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land  
17 Surveyors, the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, the  
18 Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Appraiser Licensing and  
19 Certification Board, the Texas Lottery Commission, and the Texas  
20 Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

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

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

27           (2) the determination of priorities for floor

1 consideration of bills and resolutions except those within the  
2 jurisdiction of the Committee on Calendars and the Committee on  
3 Resolutions Calendars.

4           Sec. 25. NATURAL RESOURCES. The committee shall have 11  
5 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

6                   (1) the conservation of the natural resources of  
7 Texas;

8                   (2) the control and development of land and water and  
9 land and water resources, including the taking, storing, control,  
10 and use of all water in the state, and its appropriation and  
11 allocation;

12                   (3) irrigation, irrigation companies, and irrigation  
13 districts, and their incorporation, management, and powers;

14                   (4) the creation, modification, and regulation of  
15 groundwater conservation districts, water supply districts, water  
16 control and improvement districts, conservation and reclamation  
17 districts, and all similar organs of local government dealing with  
18 water and water supply not otherwise assigned by these rules to  
19 another standing committee;

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

22                   (6) the following state agencies: the Office of  
23 Canadian River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Pecos  
24 River Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Red River  
25 Compact Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Rio Grande Compact  
26 Commissioner for Texas, the Office of Sabine River Compact  
27 Commissioners for Texas, the Southwestern States Water Commission,

1 and the Texas Water Development Board.

2           Sec. 26. PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.

3 The committee shall have nine members, with jurisdiction over all  
4 matters pertaining to:

5           (1) banking and the state banking system;

6           (2) savings and loan associations;

7           (3) credit unions;

8           (4) the regulation of state and local bonded  
9 indebtedness;

10           (5) the lending of money;

11           (6) benefits or participation in benefits of a public  
12 retirement system and the financial obligations of a public  
13 retirement system;

14           (7) the regulation of securities and investments;

15           (8) privacy and identity theft; and

16           (9) the following state agencies: the Finance

17 Commission of Texas, the Credit Union Commission, the Office of

18 Consumer Credit Commissioner, the Office of Banking Commissioner,

19 the Texas Department of Banking, the Department of Savings and

20 Mortgage Lending, the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, the

21 Texas Public Finance Authority, the Bond Review Board, the Texas

22 Emergency Services Retirement System, the Board of Trustees of the

23 Teacher Retirement System of Texas, the Board of Trustees of the

24 Employees Retirement System of Texas, the Board of Trustees of the

25 Texas County and District Retirement System, the Board of Trustees

26 of the Texas Municipal Retirement System, the State Pension Review

27 Board, and the State Securities Board.

1           Sec. 27. PUBLIC EDUCATION. The committee shall have 13  
2 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

3                   (1) the public schools and the public school system of  
4 Texas and the financing thereof;

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

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

9                   (4) the following organizations and state agencies:  
10 the State Board of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas  
11 representatives to the Education Commission of the States, the  
12 Southern Regional Education Board, the Texas School for the Blind  
13 and Visually Impaired, the State Board for Educator Certification,  
14 and the Texas School for the Deaf.

15           Sec. 28. PUBLIC HEALTH. The committee shall have 11  
16 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

17                   (1) the protection of public health, including  
18 supervision and control of the practice of medicine and dentistry  
19 and other allied health services;

20                   (2) mental health and the development of programs  
21 incident thereto;

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

23                   (4) oversight of the Health and Human Services  
24 Commission and the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council as it  
25 relates to the subject matter jurisdiction of this committee; and

26                   (5) the following state agencies: the Department of  
27 State Health Services, the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas,

1 the Texas Funeral Service Commission, the Hearing Instrument  
2 Fitters and Dispensers Advisory Board, the Texas Health Services  
3 Authority, the Texas Optometry Board, the Texas Radiation Advisory  
4 Board, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, the Texas Board of  
5 Nursing, the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Texas Board  
6 of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Massage Therapy Advisory Board,  
7 the Podiatric Medical Examiners Advisory Board, the Texas State  
8 Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Texas State Board of  
9 Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Behavior Analyst  
10 Advisory Board, the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Texas  
11 Medical Board, the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers, the Cancer  
12 Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, the Texas State Board  
13 of Acupuncture Examiners, the Health Professions Council, the  
14 Office of Patient Protection, the Texas Board of Occupational  
15 Therapy Examiners, and the Texas Child Mental Health Care  
16 Consortium.

17       Sec. 29. REDISTRICTING (PROCEDURAL). The committee shall  
18 have 15 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

19               (1) legislative districts, both house and senate, and  
20 any changes or amendments;

21               (2) congressional districts, their creation, and any  
22 changes or amendments;

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

26               (4) preparations for the redistricting process.

27       Sec. 30. RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS (PROCEDURAL). The committee

1 shall have 11 members, with jurisdiction over:

2 (1) the placement on appropriate calendars of  
3 resolutions that, in the opinion of the committee, are in fact  
4 congratulatory or memorial;

5 (2) the determination of priorities for floor  
6 consideration of resolutions except those within the jurisdiction  
7 of the Committee on Calendars and the Committee on Local and Consent  
8 Calendars;

9 (3) all procedures for expediting the business of the  
10 house in expressing concern or commendation in an orderly and  
11 efficient manner;

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

14 (5) other matters concerning rules, procedures, and  
15 operation of the house in expressing concern or commendation  
16 assigned by the speaker.

17 Sec. 31. STATE AFFAIRS. The committee shall have 13  
18 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

19 (1) questions and matters of state policy;

20 (2) the administration of state government;

21 (3) the organization, operation, powers, regulation,  
22 and management of state departments, agencies, and institutions;

23 (4) the operation and regulation of public lands and  
24 state buildings;

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

27 (6) the duties and conduct of candidates for public



1 office and of persons with an interest in influencing public  
2 policy;

3 (7) the operation of state government and its agencies  
4 and departments; all of above except where jurisdiction is  
5 specifically granted to some other standing committee;

6 (8) access of the state agencies to scientific and  
7 technological information;

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

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

12 (11) electric utility regulation as it relates to  
13 energy production and consumption;

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

16 (13) the regulation and deregulation of other  
17 industries jurisdiction of which is not specifically assigned to  
18 another committee under these rules;

19 (14) advances in science and technology, including  
20 telecommunications, electronic technology, or automated data  
21 processing, by state agencies, including institutions of higher  
22 education;

23 (15) the promotion within the state of an advance  
24 described by Subdivision (14) of this section;

25 (16) cybersecurity; and

26 (17) the following organizations and state agencies:  
27 the Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State

1 Legislatures, the Office of the Governor, the Texas Ethics  
2 Commission, the Texas Facilities Commission, the Department of  
3 Information Resources, the Inaugural Endowment Fund Committee, the  
4 Sunset Advisory Commission, the Public Utility Commission of Texas,  
5 and the Office of Public Utility Counsel.

6       Sec. 32. TRANSPORTATION.     The committee shall have 13  
7 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24            (8) the regulation of metropolitan transit; and

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

1           Sec. 33. URBAN AFFAIRS. The committee shall have nine  
2 members, with jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to:

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

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

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

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

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

14                   (6) establishing districts for the election of  
15 governing bodies of municipalities;

16                   (7) land use regulation by municipalities; and

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

20           Sec. 34. WAYS AND MEANS. The committee shall have 11  
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 proposing to permit a  
9 local government to raise revenue;
- 10          (8) all bills and resolutions proposing to permit a  
11 local government to levy or impose property taxes, sales and use  
12 taxes, or other taxes and fees;
- 13          (9) all proposals to modify, amend, or change any  
14 existing local government tax or revenue statute;
- 15          (10) all proposals to regulate the manner of  
16 collection of local government revenues and taxes;
- 17          (11) all bills and resolutions relating to the  
18 appraisal of property for taxation;
- 19          (12) all bills and resolutions relating to the Tax  
20 Code; and
- 21          (13) the following organizations and state agencies:  
22 the Multistate Tax Commission and the Comptroller of Public  
23 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, a maximum  
10 of one-half of the membership, exclusive of the chair and  
11 vice-chair, shall be determined by seniority. The remaining  
12 membership of the committee shall be appointed by the speaker.

13                   (2) Each member of the house, in order of seniority,  
14 may designate three committees on which he or she desires to serve,  
15 listed in order of preference. The member is entitled to become a  
16 member of the committee of his or her highest preference on which  
17 there remains a vacant seniority position.

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

23                   (4) After each member of the house has selected one  
24 committee on the basis of seniority, the remaining membership on  
25 each standing committee shall be filled by appointment of the  
26 speaker, subject to the limitations imposed in this chapter.

27                   (5) Seniority shall not apply to a procedural

1 committee. For purposes of these rules, the procedural committees  
2 are the Committee on Calendars, the Committee on Local and Consent  
3 Calendars, the Committee on Resolutions Calendars, the General  
4 Investigating Committee, the Committee on House Administration,  
5 and the Committee on Redistricting. The entire membership of these  
6 committees shall be appointed by the speaker.

7 (6) In announcing the membership of committees, the  
8 speaker shall designate those appointed by the speaker and those  
9 acquiring membership by seniority.

10 (7) The speaker shall designate the chair and  
11 vice-chair from the total membership of the committee.

12 (b) In the event of a vacancy in a representative district  
13 that has not been filled at the time of the determination of the  
14 membership of standing committees, the representative of the  
15 district who fills that vacancy shall not be entitled to select a  
16 committee on the basis of seniority. Committee appointments on  
17 behalf of that district shall be designated by the district number.

18 (c) In the event that a member-elect of the current  
19 legislature has not taken the oath of office by the end of the ninth  
20 day of the regular session, the representative of that district  
21 shall not be entitled to select a committee on the basis of  
22 seniority. If the member-elect has not taken the oath of office by  
23 the time committee appointments are announced, committee  
24 appointments on behalf of that district shall be designated by  
25 district number.

26 Sec. 3. RANKING OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Except for the chair  
27 and vice-chair, members of a standing committee shall rank

1 according to their seniority.

2           Sec. 4. MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS. (a) No member shall serve  
3 concurrently on more than two standing substantive committees.

4           (b) A member serving as chair of the Committee on  
5 Appropriations, the Committee on State Affairs, or the Committee on  
6 Ways and Means may not serve on any other substantive committee.

7           (c) A permanent speaker pro tempore appointed under Rule 1,  
8 Section 10, may not serve on more than one substantive committee or  
9 as chair of a standing committee.

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

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

16                   (1) be responsible for the effective conduct of the  
17 business of the committee;

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

20                   (3) in consultation with members of the committee,  
21 schedule the work of the committee and determine the order in which  
22 the committee shall consider and act on bills, resolutions, and  
23 other matters referred to the committee;

24                   (4) have authority to employ and discharge the staff  
25 and employees authorized for the committee and have supervision and  
26 control over all the staff and employees;

27                   (5) direct the preparation of all committee reports.

1 No committee report shall be official until signed by the chair of  
2 the committee, or by the person acting as chair, or by a majority of  
3 the membership of the committee;

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

7 (7) preside at all meetings of the committee and  
8 control its deliberations and activities in accordance with  
9 acceptable parliamentary procedure; and

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

12 Sec. 7. BILL ANALYSES. Except for the general  
13 appropriations bill, for each bill or joint resolution referred to  
14 the committee, the staff of the committee shall be responsible for  
15 distributing a copy of a bill analysis to each member of the  
16 committee and the author of a house measure at the earliest possible  
17 opportunity but not later than the first time the measure is laid  
18 out in a committee meeting.

19 CHAPTER B. PROCEDURE

20 Sec. 8. MEETINGS. (a) As soon as practicable after  
21 standing committees are constituted and organized, the committee  
22 coordinator, under the direction of the Committee on House  
23 Administration, shall prepare a schedule for regular meetings of  
24 all standing committees. This schedule shall be published in the  
25 house journal and posted in a convenient and conspicuous place near  
26 the entrance to the house and on other posting boards for committee  
27 meeting notices, as determined necessary by the Committee on House



1 Administration. To the extent practicable during each regular  
2 session, standing committees shall conduct regular committee  
3 meetings in accordance with the schedule of meetings prepared by  
4 the committee coordinator under the supervision of the Committee on  
5 House Administration.

6 (b) Standing committees shall meet at other times as may be  
7 determined by the committee, or as may be called by the chair.  
8 Subcommittees of standing committees shall likewise meet at other  
9 times as may be determined by the committee, or as may be called by  
10 the chair of the committee or subcommittee.

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

13 Sec. 9. MEETING WHILE HOUSE IN SESSION. No standing  
14 committee or subcommittee shall meet during the time the house is in  
15 session without permission being given by a majority vote of the  
16 house. No standing committee or subcommittee shall conduct its  
17 meeting on the floor of the house or in the house chamber while the  
18 house is in session, but shall, if given permission to meet while  
19 the house is in session, retire to a designated committee room for  
20 the conduct of its meeting.

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

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

26 (2) a formal meeting where the committee may discuss  
27 and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters

1 without testimony; and

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

4 Sec. 11. POSTING NOTICE. (a) No committee or  
5 subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall assemble for  
6 the purpose of a public hearing during a regular session unless  
7 notice of the hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules  
8 at least five calendar days in advance of the hearing. No committee  
9 or subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall assemble  
10 for the purpose of a public hearing during a special session unless  
11 notice of the hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules  
12 at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. The committee minutes  
13 shall reflect the date of each posting of notice. Notice shall not  
14 be required for a public hearing or a formal meeting on a senate  
15 bill which is substantially the same as a house bill that has  
16 previously been the subject of a duly posted public hearing by the  
17 committee.

18 (b) No committee or subcommittee, including a calendars  
19 committee, shall assemble for the purpose of a formal meeting or  
20 work session during a regular or special session unless written  
21 notice has been posted and transmitted to each member of the  
22 committee two hours in advance of the meeting or an announcement has  
23 been filed with the journal clerk and read by the reading clerk  
24 while the house is in session.

25 (c) All committees meeting during the interim for the  
26 purpose of a formal meeting, work session, or public hearing shall  
27 post notice in accordance with the rules and notify members of the

1 committee at least five calendar days in advance of the meeting.

2       Sec. 12. MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. All meetings of a  
3 committee or subcommittee, including a calendars committee, shall  
4 be open to other members, the press, and the public unless  
5 specifically provided otherwise by resolution adopted by the house.  
6 However, the General Investigating Committee or a committee  
7 considering an impeachment, an address, the punishment of a member  
8 of the house, or any other matter of a quasi-judicial nature may  
9 meet in executive session for the limited purpose of examining a  
10 witness or deliberating, considering, or debating a decision, but  
11 no decision may be made or voted on except in a meeting that is open  
12 to the public and otherwise in compliance with the rules of the  
13 house.

14       Sec. 13. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. (a) The Rules of  
15 Procedure of the House of Representatives, and to the extent  
16 applicable, the rules of evidence and procedure in the civil courts  
17 of Texas, shall govern the hearings and operations of each  
18 committee, including a calendars committee. Subject to the  
19 foregoing, and to the extent necessary for orderly transaction of  
20 business, each committee may promulgate and adopt additional rules  
21 and procedures by which it will function. A copy of the rules and  
22 procedures adopted by a committee must be filed with the chief  
23 clerk. If the house is convened in a regular or special session, a  
24 copy of the rules and procedures shall also be delivered to the  
25 journal clerk and printed in the journal.

26       (b) No standing committee, including a calendars committee,  
27 or any subcommittee, shall adopt any rule of procedure, including

1 but not limited to an automatic subcommittee rule, which will have  
2 the effect of thwarting the will of the majority of the committee or  
3 subcommittee or denying the committee or subcommittee the right to  
4 ultimately dispose of any pending matter by action of a majority of  
5 the committee or subcommittee. A bill or resolution may not be laid  
6 on the table subject to call in committee without a majority vote of  
7 the committee.

8 (c) Each committee of the house shall have authority to  
9 determine whether or not to permit television, radio, or Internet  
10 broadcasts, other than official house broadcasts, of any of its  
11 proceedings.

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

18 Sec. 15. PREVIOUS QUESTION. Before the previous question  
19 can be ordered in a committee, the motion therefor must be seconded  
20 by not less than 4 members of a committee consisting of 21 or more  
21 members, 3 members of a committee consisting of less than 21 members  
22 and more than 10 members, or 2 members of a committee consisting of  
23 10 members or less. If the motion is properly seconded and ordered  
24 by a majority vote of the committee, further debate on the  
25 proposition under consideration shall be terminated, and the  
26 proposition shall be immediately put to a vote of the committee for  
27 its action.

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

17           Sec. 17. MOVING A CALL OF A COMMITTEE. (a) It shall be in  
18 order to move a call of a committee at any time to secure and  
19 maintain a quorum for any one or more of the following purposes:

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

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

23                   (3) for the consideration of any designated class of  
24 bills or other matters.

25           (b) When a call of a committee is moved for one or more of  
26 the foregoing purposes and seconded by two members, one of whom may  
27 be the chair, and is ordered by a majority of the members present,

1 no member shall thereafter be permitted to leave the committee  
2 meeting without written permission from the chair. After the call  
3 is ordered, and in the absence of a quorum, the chair shall have the  
4 authority to authorize the sergeant-at-arms to locate absent  
5 members of the committee and to compel their attendance for the  
6 duration of the call.

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

11               (1) the time and place of each meeting of the  
12 committee;

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

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

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

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

20       (b) The minutes for each public hearing of a committee shall  
21 also include an attachment listing the names of the persons, other  
22 than members of the legislature, and the persons or entities  
23 represented by those persons, who were recognized by the chair to  
24 address the committee. The attachment shall also list the name of  
25 each person, other than a member of the legislature, who submitted  
26 to the committee a sworn statement indicating that the person was  
27 present in favor of, in opposition to, or without taking a position

1 on the measure or other matter, but who because of the person's  
2 departure or other reason was not recognized by the chair to address  
3 the committee; provided that the omission of the name of such a  
4 person is not subject to a point of order.

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

25 (d) The committee coordinator shall maintain the minutes  
26 and records safe from loss, destruction, and alteration at all  
27 times, and may, at any time, turn them, or any portion, over to the

1 Committee on House Administration.

2           Sec. 18A. INTERNET ACCESS TO COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS. (a) The  
3 committee coordinator shall establish procedures for making  
4 available to the public on the Internet documents relating to the  
5 proceedings of substantive committees.

6           (b) A substantive committee shall make available to the  
7 public on the Internet:

8                 (1) any committee substitute or amendment laid before  
9 the committee; and

10                (2) any nonconfidential written testimony submitted  
11 by a state agency for consideration by the committee that relates to  
12 a measure referred to the committee.

13           (c) A committee's failure to comply with this section is not  
14 subject to a point of order.

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

20           Sec. 19A. RECORDING OF APPROPRIATIONS MEETINGS. (a) The  
21 Committee on House Administration shall ensure that an audio and  
22 video recording of any public hearing, formal meeting, or work  
23 session of the Committee on Appropriations or a subcommittee of the  
24 Committee on Appropriations is made available to the public on the  
25 Internet in a timely manner.

26           (b) To the extent that current technological capabilities  
27 prohibit immediate implementation of this section, the Committee on



1 House Administration shall use the committee's best efforts to  
2 conform to the requirements of this section as soon as practicable.

3       Sec. 20. SWORN STATEMENT OF WITNESSES. (a) The committee  
4 coordinator, under the direction of the Committee on House  
5 Administration, shall prescribe the form of a sworn statement,  
6 which may be in electronic or paper format, to be executed by all  
7 persons, other than members, who wish to be recognized by the chair  
8 to address the committee. The statement shall provide for showing  
9 at least:

10               (1) the committee or subcommittee;

11               (2) the name, address, and telephone number of the  
12 person appearing;

13               (3) the person, firm, corporation, class, or group  
14 represented;

15               (4) the type of business, profession, or occupation in  
16 which the person is engaged, if the person is representing himself  
17 or herself; and

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

21       (b) No person shall be recognized by the chair to address  
22 the committee in favor of, in opposition to, or without taking a  
23 position on a matter until the sworn statement has been filed with  
24 the chair of the committee. The chair of the committee shall  
25 indicate whether the person completing the statement was recognized  
26 to address the committee.

27       (c) Sworn statements submitted in paper format for those

1 persons recognized by the chair to address the committee shall  
2 accompany the copy of the minutes of the meeting filed with the  
3 committee coordinator.

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

8 (e) The committee shall ensure that an individual who is  
9 blind receives any necessary assistance in executing the sworn  
10 statement.

11 (f) The committee shall inform a witness who is blind which  
12 members of the committee are present when the witness begins to  
13 testify and shall inform the witness during the testimony of the  
14 departure and arrival of committee members.

15 (g) The chair may recognize a witness who has been invited  
16 by the committee to attend the meeting but is not present in the  
17 same physical location as the committee to testify before the  
18 committee through an Internet or other videoconferencing system if:

19 (1) the witness has executed a sworn statement, in  
20 electronic or paper format, under this section;

21 (2) the witness has filed the statement or a copy of  
22 the statement with the chair before testifying; and

23 (3) two-way communication has been enabled to allow  
24 the witness to be clearly visible and audible to the committee  
25 members and the committee members to be clearly visible and audible  
26 to the witness.

27 (h) A person who serves as a translator, including an

1 interpreter, for a witness before a committee must execute a form  
2 prescribed by the committee coordinator, under the direction of the  
3 Committee on House Administration. The form must at least include  
4 the name of the translator and the name of the witness whom the  
5 translator is serving.

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

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

1 section.

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

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

19           Sec. 23A. ASSISTANCE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE. At a  
20 meeting of a committee, the chair may recognize a member of the  
21 house who is not a member of the committee to provide information to  
22 the committee, and may recognize a member of the senate for that  
23 purpose. Recognition is solely within the discretion of the chair  
24 and is not subject to appeal by that member.

25                           CHAPTER C. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

26           Sec. 24. INTERIM STUDIES AND HEARINGS. (a) Standing  
27 committees, en banc or by subcommittees, are hereby authorized to

1 conduct studies that are authorized by the speaker pursuant to Rule  
2 1, Section 17. Studies may not be authorized by resolution. The  
3 speaker may appoint public citizens and officials of state and  
4 local governments to standing committees to augment the membership  
5 for the purpose of interim studies and shall provide a list of such  
6 appointments to the chief clerk. The chair of the standing  
7 committee shall have authority to name the subcommittees necessary  
8 and desirable for the conduct of the interim studies and shall also  
9 prepare a budget for interim studies for approval by the Committee  
10 on House Administration.

11 (b) The Committee on Appropriations shall hold one or more  
12 public hearings to examine the requests for legislative  
13 appropriations submitted by each major state agency and institution  
14 of higher education under Section 322.007, Government Code, and any  
15 other law, to the Legislative Budget Board following sine die  
16 adjournment of the regular session. The committee may require the  
17 head or any employee of an agency or institution submitting a  
18 request to appear at a public hearing and present information about  
19 the request. A subcommittee may perform the committee's duties  
20 under this subsection as determined by the chair of the committee.  
21 As used in this subsection, "major state agency" means an agency for  
22 which the most recent general appropriations act made an  
23 appropriation in the amount of \$40 million or more.

24 Sec. 25. MOTION PREVENTING REPORTING OR PLACEMENT ON A  
25 CALENDAR. No motion is in order in a committee considering a bill,  
26 resolution, or other matter that would prevent the committee from  
27 reporting it back to the house or placing it on a calendar in

1 accordance with the Rules of the House.

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

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

15             (1) leave the bill in the committee for further  
16 consideration;

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

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

21       Sec. 28. MINORITY REPORTS. The report of a minority of a  
22 committee shall be made in the same general form as a majority  
23 report. No minority report shall be recognized by the house unless  
24 it has been signed by not less than 4 members of a committee  
25 consisting of 21 or more members, 3 members of a committee  
26 consisting of less than 21 members and more than 10 members, or 2  
27 members of a committee consisting of 10 or less members. Only

1 members who were present when the vote was taken on the bill,  
2 resolution, or other matter being reported, and who voted on the  
3 losing side, may sign a minority report. Notice of intention to  
4 file a minority report shall be given to the assembled committee  
5 after the vote on the bill, resolution, or other matter, and before  
6 the recess or adjournment of the committee, provided ample  
7 opportunity is afforded for the giving of notice; otherwise, notice  
8 may be given in writing to the chief clerk within 24 hours after the  
9 recess or adjournment of the committee.

10       Sec. 29. ACTION ON BILLS REPORTED UNFAVORABLY. If the  
11 majority report on a bill is unfavorable, and a favorable minority  
12 report is not signed in accordance with Section 28 of this rule and  
13 filed with the chief clerk within two calendar days, exclusive of  
14 Sunday and the date of committee action, the chief clerk shall file  
15 the bill away as dead; except during the last 15 calendar days of a  
16 regular session, or the last 7 calendar days of a special session,  
17 when the chief clerk shall hold a bill only one calendar day,  
18 exclusive of Sunday and the date of committee action, awaiting the  
19 filing of a minority report before the bill is filed away as dead.  
20 If the favorable minority report is properly signed and filed, the  
21 chief clerk shall hold the bill for five legislative days,  
22 exclusive of the legislative day in which the minority report was  
23 filed, awaiting adoption by the house of a motion to print the bill  
24 on minority report. If the motion to print is carried, the bill  
25 shall be printed as if it had been reported favorably, and shall  
26 then be immediately forwarded to the Committee on Calendars for  
27 placement on a calendar and for proposal of an appropriate rule for

1 house consideration. If a motion to print a bill on minority report  
2 is not made within the five legislative days authorized above, the  
3 chief clerk shall file the bill away as dead. It shall not be in  
4 order to move to recommit a bill adversely reported with no minority  
5 report, except as provided in Section 30 of this rule. A two-thirds  
6 vote of the house shall be required to print on minority report a  
7 joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
8 Texas.

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

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

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

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

27             (1) be signed by the chair, or the member acting as



- 1 chair, or a majority of the membership of the committee;
- 2 (2) be addressed to the speaker;
- 3 (3) contain a statement of the recommendations of the  
4 committee with reference to the matter which is the subject of the  
5 report;
- 6 (4) contain the date the committee made its  
7 recommendation;
- 8 (5) indicate whether a copy of a bill or resolution was  
9 forwarded to the Legislative Budget Board for preparation of a  
10 fiscal note or other impact statement, if applicable;
- 11 (6) contain the record vote by which the report was  
12 adopted, including the vote of each member of the committee;
- 13 (7) contain the recommendation that the bill or  
14 resolution be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars  
15 for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar if  
16 applicable;
- 17 (8) state the name of the primary house sponsor of all  
18 senate bills and resolutions and indicate the names of all joint  
19 sponsors or cosponsors;
- 20 (9) include a summary of the committee hearing on the  
21 bill or resolution;
- 22 (10) include a list of the names of the persons, other  
23 than members of the legislature, and persons or entities  
24 represented by those persons, who submitted to the committee sworn  
25 statements indicating that the persons were present in favor of, in  
26 opposition to, or without taking a position on the bill or  
27 resolution. The omission from the list of the name of a person who

1 submitted a sworn statement regarding a bill or resolution but who  
2 was not recognized by the chair to address the committee is not  
3 subject to a point of order;

4 (11) for a joint resolution proposing a constitutional  
5 amendment, include the bill number of any enabling legislation for  
6 the constitutional amendment designated as such by the author or  
7 sponsor of the joint resolution;

8 (12) for a bill that is designated by the author or  
9 sponsor of the bill as enabling legislation for a constitutional  
10 amendment proposed by a joint resolution, include the number of the  
11 joint resolution; and

12 (13) contain a copy of each form executed by a  
13 translator for a witness as required by Section 20(h) of this rule.

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

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

23 (2) an analysis of the content of the bill or  
24 resolution, including a separate statement that lists each statute  
25 or constitutional provision that is expressly repealed by the bill  
26 or resolution;

27 (3) a statement indicating whether or not any

1 rulemaking authority is expressly delegated to a state officer,  
2 department, agency, or institution, and, if so, identifying the  
3 sections of the measure in which that rulemaking authority is  
4 delegated;

5 (4) a statement indicating whether or not the bill or  
6 resolution expressly creates a criminal offense, expressly  
7 increases the punishment for an existing criminal offense or  
8 category of offenses, or expressly changes the eligibility of a  
9 person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory  
10 supervision;

11 (5) a statement of substantial differences between a  
12 complete committee substitute and the original bill; and

13 (6) a brief explanation of each amendment adopted by  
14 the committee.

15 (d) The committee to which the bill or resolution is  
16 referred may request the Texas Legislative Council to prepare the  
17 analysis required by Subsection (c) of this section.

18 (e) A committee chair shall provide to the author of a house  
19 measure a copy of the analysis required by Subsection (c) of this  
20 section as soon as the analysis is complete.

21 (f) The author of a bill or resolution may request that an  
22 analysis prepared for purposes of this section include a statement  
23 written by the author that includes any additional information that  
24 the author considers appropriate.

25 (g) It shall be the duty of the committee chair, on all  
26 matters reported by the committee, to see that all provisions of  
27 Rule 12 are satisfied. The chair shall strictly construe this

1 provision to achieve the desired purposes.

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

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

17           (c) In preparing a fiscal note, the director of the  
18 Legislative Budget Board may utilize information or data supplied  
19 by any person, agency, organization, or governmental unit that the  
20 director deems reliable. If the director determines that the fiscal  
21 implications of the measure cannot be ascertained, the director  
22 shall so state in the fiscal note, shall when reasonably  
23 ascertainable provide an estimated range of the fiscal  
24 implications, and shall include in the note a statement of the  
25 reasons the director is unable to ascertain the fiscal implications  
26 of the measure, in which case the fiscal note shall be in full  
27 compliance with the rules. If the director of the Legislative

1 Budget Board is unable to acquire or develop sufficient information  
2 to prepare the fiscal note within 15 days of receiving the measure  
3 from the chair of a committee, the director shall so state in the  
4 fiscal note, shall when reasonably ascertainable provide an  
5 estimated range of the fiscal implications, and shall include in  
6 the note a statement of the reasons the director is unable to  
7 acquire or develop sufficient information, in which case the note  
8 shall be in full compliance with the rules.

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

17 (e) All fiscal notes shall remain with the measure  
18 throughout the entire legislative process, including submission to  
19 the governor.

20 (f) All fiscal notes must include in the summary box on the  
21 first page of the fiscal note a statement that indicates whether the  
22 bill or joint resolution will have fiscal implications or probable  
23 costs in any year.

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

1           (a-1) The chair of the appropriations committee shall send a  
2 copy of the general appropriations bill to the Legislative Budget  
3 Board for the preparation of a dynamic economic impact statement,  
4 specifically including the number of state employees to be affected  
5 and the estimated impact on employment by the private sector and  
6 local governments in Texas as a result of any change in state  
7 expenditures made by the bill as compared to the biennium preceding  
8 the biennium to which the bill applies.

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

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

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

19                 (3) proposes to change benefits or participation in  
20 benefits of a public retirement system or change the financial  
21 obligations of a public retirement system, the chair shall send a  
22 copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget Board for the  
23 preparation of an actuarial impact statement in cooperation with  
24 the State Pension Review Board;

25                 (4) proposes to create a water district under the  
26 authority of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution,  
27 the chair shall send a copy of the measure to the Legislative Budget

1 Board for the preparation of a water development policy impact  
2 statement; or

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

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

15           (d) An impact statement is not required to be present before  
16 a measure is laid out in a committee meeting. If timely received,  
17 the impact statement shall be attached to the measure on first  
18 printing. If the measure is amended by the committee so as to alter  
19 its particular implications, the chair shall obtain an updated  
20 impact statement. If timely received, the updated impact statement  
21 shall also be attached to the measure on first printing.

22           (e) An impact statement that is received after the first  
23 printing of a measure has been distributed to the members shall be  
24 forwarded by the chair of the committee to the committee  
25 coordinator. The committee coordinator shall have the impact  
26 statement printed and distributed to the members.

27           (f) All impact statements received shall remain with the

1 measure throughout the entire legislative process, including  
2 submission to the governor.

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

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

16       Sec. 37. REFERRAL OF REPORTS TO COMMITTEE COORDINATOR. All  
17 committee reports on bills or resolutions shall be immediately  
18 referred to the committee coordinator. The chair of the committee  
19 shall be responsible for delivery of the report to the committee  
20 coordinator.

21       Sec. 38. DELIVERY OF REPORTS TO CALENDARS  
22 COMMITTEES. After printing, the chief clerk shall be responsible  
23 for delivery of a certified copy of the committee report to the  
24 appropriate calendars committee, which committee shall immediately  
25 accept the bill or resolution for placement on a calendar and for  
26 the proposal of an appropriate rule for house consideration.

27       Sec. 38A. NOTIFICATION OF SUNSET BILLS. The chief clerk



1 shall provide notice to each member at the member's designated  
2 Capitol e-mail address when a committee report under Section 38 of  
3 this rule on a bill extending an agency, commission, or advisory  
4 committee under the Texas Sunset Act has been printed or posted and  
5 is available to be distributed to the appropriate calendars  
6 committee.

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

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

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

27       Sec. 42. AUTHOR'S RIGHT TO OFFER AMENDMENTS TO

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

9 CHAPTER D. SUBCOMMITTEES

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

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

24 Sec. 45. RULES GOVERNING OPERATIONS. The Rules of  
25 Procedure of the House of Representatives, to the extent  
26 applicable, shall govern the hearings and operations of each  
27 subcommittee. Subject to the foregoing, and to the extent

1 necessary for orderly transaction of business, each subcommittee  
2 may promulgate and adopt additional rules and procedures by which  
3 it will function.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   CHAPTER E. COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27          Sec. 54. HANDLING OF A BILL. A bill committed to a

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

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

16           CHAPTER F. SELECT AND INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

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

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

1 when the next legislature convenes, whichever is earlier. An  
2 interim study committee may not be created by resolution.

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

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

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

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

1           (b) An interim study committee shall submit the committee's  
2 final report to the committee coordinator in the manner prescribed  
3 by the committee coordinator. The committee coordinator shall:

4                 (1) distribute copies of the final report to the  
5 speaker, the Legislative Reference Library, and other appropriate  
6 agencies; and

7                 (2) make a copy of the final report available on the  
8 house's Internet website.

9           (c) This section shall also apply to interim study reports  
10 of standing committees.

11           Sec. 62. JOINT           HOUSE           AND           SENATE           INTERIM  
12 STUDIES. Procedures may be established by a concurrent resolution  
13 adopted by both houses, by which the speaker may authorize and  
14 appoint, jointly with the senate, committees to conduct interim  
15 studies. A copy of the authorization for and the appointments to a  
16 joint interim study committee shall be filed with the chief clerk.  
17 Individual joint interim study committees may not be authorized or  
18 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.

(d) If a member is absent without leave for the purpose of impeding the action of the house, the member is subject to one or more of the following:

(1) fines as provided by this section;

(2) payment of costs incurred by the sergeant-at-arms;

(3) reprimand;

(4) censure; or

(5) expulsion in the manner prescribed by Section 11, Article III, Texas Constitution.

(e) Unless the house excuses the payment by a majority vote,

1 each member who is absent without leave is liable to the house for:

2 (1) a fine in the amount of \$500 for each calendar day  
3 of absence; and

4 (2) the member's pro rata share of the costs incurred  
5 by the sergeant-at-arms to secure the attendance of absentees.

6 (f) The Committee on House Administration shall notify a  
7 member of the total amount of fines and costs for which payment is  
8 not excused. A member must pay the amount stated in the committee's  
9 notice by making payment of that amount to the House Business  
10 Office not later than the third business day of the first calendar  
11 month after the date of the committee's notice. A member may not  
12 make any payment from funds in the member's operating account or  
13 from funds accepted as political contributions under Title 15,  
14 Election Code. If a member does not make full payment as required  
15 by this subsection, the committee shall direct the House Business  
16 Office to reduce the amount of the monthly credit to the member's  
17 operating account established under the housekeeping resolution by  
18 30 percent in each month that any amount of a fine remains past due  
19 and owing. When a member has made full payment as required by this  
20 subsection, the committee shall direct the House Business Office  
21 to restore the impounded funds to the member's operating account  
22 subject to any limitations on the carrying forward of unexpended  
23 funds established by the housekeeping resolution.

24 (g) Before a member is expelled under this section, the  
25 matter shall be referred to the Committee on House Administration  
26 for investigation and report. A report issued under this  
27 subsection shall not be considered by the house until a printed copy

1 of the report has been provided to each member of the house at least  
2 24 hours before consideration.

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

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

12       (b) If the last roll call was taken more than two hours  
13 before the point of order is raised, it shall be in order for the  
14 member who raised the point of order to request a roll call. Such a  
15 request must be seconded by 25 members. If the request for a roll  
16 call is properly seconded, the chair shall order a roll call.

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

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

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

27             (1) for the consideration of a specific bill,

1 resolution, motion, or other measure;

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

4 (3) for a definite period of time.

5 Motions for, and incidental to, a call of the house are not  
6 debatable.

7 Sec. 8. SECURING A QUORUM. When a call of the house is moved  
8 for one of the above purposes and seconded by 15 members (of whom  
9 the speaker may be one) and ordered by a majority vote, the main  
10 entrance to the hall and all other doors leading out of the hall  
11 shall be locked and no member permitted to leave the house without  
12 the written permission of the speaker. The names of members present  
13 shall be recorded. All absentees for whom no sufficient excuse is  
14 made may, by order of a majority of those present, be sent for and  
15 arrested, wherever they may be found, by the sergeant-at-arms or an  
16 officer appointed by the sergeant-at-arms for that purpose, and  
17 their attendance shall be secured and retained. The house shall  
18 determine on what conditions they shall be discharged. Members who  
19 voluntarily appear shall, unless the house otherwise directs, be  
20 immediately admitted to the hall of the house and shall report their  
21 names to the clerk to be entered in the journal as present.

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

26 Sec. 9. FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT OF A QUORUM. When a quorum is  
27 shown to be present, the house may proceed with the matters on which

1 the call was ordered, or may enforce the call and await the  
2 attendance of as many of the absentees as it desires. When the  
3 house proceeds to the business on which the call was ordered, it  
4 may, by a majority vote, direct the sergeant-at-arms to cease  
5 bringing in absent members.

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

10                   CHAPTER B. ADMITTANCE TO HOUSE CHAMBER

11       Sec. 11. PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE FLOOR. Only the following  
12 persons shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor of the  
13 house when the house is in session: members of the house; employees  
14 of the house when performing their official duties as determined by  
15 the Committee on House Administration; members of the senate;  
16 employees of the senate when performing their official duties; the  
17 Governor of Texas and the governor's chief of staff and director of  
18 legislative affairs; the lieutenant governor; the secretary of  
19 state; duly accredited media representatives as permitted by  
20 Section 20 of this rule; contestants in election cases pending  
21 before the house; and immediate families of the members of the  
22 legislature on such special occasions as may be determined by the  
23 Committee on House Administration.

24       Sec. 12. ADMITTANCE WITHIN THE RAILING. Only the following  
25 persons shall be admitted to the area on the floor of the house  
26 enclosed by the railing when the house is in session: members of the  
27 house; members of the senate; the governor; the lieutenant

1 governor; officers and employees of the senate and house when those  
2 officers and employees are actually engaged in performing their  
3 official duties as determined by the Committee on House  
4 Administration; spouses of members of the house on such occasions  
5 as may be determined by the Committee on House Administration; and,  
6 within the area specifically designated for media representatives,  
7 duly accredited media representatives as permitted by Section 20 of  
8 this rule.

9       Sec. 13. SOLICITORS AND COLLECTORS PROHIBITED. Solicitors  
10 and collectors shall not be admitted to the floor of the house while  
11 the house is in session.

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

17       Sec. 15. LOBBYING ON FLOOR. No one, except the governor or  
18 a member of the legislature, who is lobbying or working for or  
19 against any pending or prospective legislative measure shall be  
20 permitted on the floor of the house or in the adjacent rooms while  
21 the house is in session.

22       Sec. 16. SUSPENSION OF FLOOR PRIVILEGES. If any person  
23 admitted to the floor of the house under the rules, except the  
24 governor or a member of the legislature, lobbies or works for or  
25 against any pending or prospective legislation or violates any of  
26 the other rules of the house, the privileges extended to that person  
27 under the rules shall be suspended by a majority vote of the

1 Committee on House Administration. The action of the committee  
2 shall be reviewable by the house only if two members of the  
3 committee request an appeal from the decision of the committee. The  
4 request shall be in the form of a minority report and shall be  
5 subject to the same rules that are applicable to minority reports on  
6 bills. Suspension shall remain in force until the accused person  
7 purges himself or herself and comes within the rules, or until the  
8 house, by majority vote, reverses the action of the committee.

9       Sec. 17. MEMBERS' LOUNGE PRIVILEGES. Only the following  
10 persons shall be admitted to the members' lounge at any  
11 time: members of the house; members of the senate; and former  
12 members of the house and senate who are not engaged in any form of  
13 employment requiring them to lobby or work for or against any  
14 pending or prospective legislative measures.

15       Sec. 18. FLOOR DUTIES OF HOUSE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. It  
16 shall be the duty of the Committee on House Administration to  
17 determine what duties are to be discharged by officers and  
18 employees of the house on the floor of the house, specifically in  
19 the area enclosed by the railing, when the house is in session. It  
20 shall be the duty of the speaker to see that the officers and  
21 employees do not violate the regulations promulgated by the  
22 Committee on House Administration.

23       Sec. 19. PROPER DECORUM. No person shall be admitted to,  
24 or allowed to remain in, the house chamber while the house is in  
25 session unless properly attired, and all gentlemen shall wear a  
26 coat and tie. Food or beverage shall not be permitted in the house  
27 chamber at any time, and no person carrying food or beverage shall

1 be admitted to the chamber, whether the house is in session or in  
2 recess. Reading newspapers shall not be permitted in the house  
3 chamber while the house is in session. Smoking is not permitted in  
4 the members' lounge or bathrooms. The Committee on House  
5 Administration shall designate an area for smoking that is easily  
6 accessible to the house chamber.

7       Sec. 20. MEDIA ACCESS TO HOUSE CHAMBER. (a) When the house  
8 is in session, no media representative shall be admitted to the  
9 floor of the house or allowed its privileges unless the person is:

10               (1) employed by a print, broadcast, or Internet news  
11 organization, or by a wire service serving those organizations:

12                       (A) whose principal business is the periodic  
13 dissemination of original news and opinion of interest to a broad  
14 segment of the public;

15                       (B) which has published or operated continuously  
16 for 18 months:

17                               (i) as a for-profit organization that is  
18 supported chiefly by advertising or subscription revenue; or

19                               (ii) as a nonprofit organization that has  
20 qualified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3), Internal  
21 Revenue Code of 1986; and

22                       (C) whose publications or operations are  
23 editorially independent of any institution, foundation, or  
24 interest group that lobbies the government or that is not  
25 principally a general news organization; and

26               (2) not engaged in any lobbying or paid advocacy,  
27 advertising, publicity, or promotion work for any individual,



1 political party, corporation, organization, or government agency.

2 (b) Any media representative seeking admission to the floor  
3 of the house under the provisions of this section must submit to the  
4 Committee on House Administration:

5 (1) a notarized application in a form determined by  
6 the committee; and

7 (2) a letter from the media representative's employer  
8 certifying that:

9 (A) the media representative is engaged  
10 primarily in reporting the sessions of the legislature; and

11 (B) no part of the media representative's salary  
12 for legislative coverage is paid from a source other than the news  
13 organization or wire service that employs the media representative.

14 (c) Regularly accredited media representatives who have  
15 duly qualified under the provisions of this section may, when  
16 requested to do so, make recommendations through their professional  
17 committees to the Committee on House Administration as to the  
18 sufficiency or insufficiency of the credentials of any person  
19 seeking admission to the floor of the house under this section.

20 (d) If the Committee on House Administration determines  
21 that a person's media credentials meet the requirements of this  
22 section, the committee shall issue a pass card to the person. The  
23 committee may impose a fee to cover the costs of issuing a pass  
24 card. This pass card must be presented to the doorkeeper each time  
25 the person seeks admission to the floor of the house while the house  
26 is in session. Pass cards issued under this section shall not be  
27 transferable. The failure of a media representative to maintain the

1 requirements of this section may result in the revocation of the  
2 pass card. Persons admitted to the floor of the house pursuant to  
3 the provisions of this section shall work in appropriate convenient  
4 seats or work stations in the house, which shall be designated for  
5 that purpose by the Committee on House Administration.

6 (e) Members of the house shall not engage in interviews and  
7 press conferences on the house floor while the house is in session.  
8 The Committee on House Administration is authorized to enforce this  
9 provision and to prescribe such other regulations as may be  
10 necessary and desirable to achieve these purposes.

11 (f) Permission to make recordings in or from the house  
12 chamber while the house is in session may be granted only by the  
13 Committee on House Administration. The committee shall promulgate  
14 rules governing recordings. When recordings from the house chamber  
15 are permitted by the Committee on House Administration, the  
16 permission shall, if necessary, identify those persons in the  
17 technical crews to whom pass cards to the floor of the house and  
18 galleries are to be issued. Passes granted under this authority  
19 shall be subject to revocation by the Committee on House  
20 Administration. As used in this subsection, "recording" means an  
21 audio, video, or photographic recording for immediate or delayed  
22 transmission by television or radio or through the Internet.

23 (g) The following individuals may submit a written  
24 complaint regarding a decision by the Committee on House  
25 Administration under this section:

26 (1) an individual who is aggrieved by the committee's  
27 failure or refusal to grant privileges under this section; or

1           (2) a member of the house who believes a media  
2 representative granted privileges under this section either does  
3 not meet the requirements of this section or has abused the  
4 privileges granted under this section.

5           (h) The Committee on House Administration shall investigate  
6 the complaint and may, if necessary, temporarily suspend the media  
7 representative's privileges pending the investigation. The  
8 committee shall notify the aggrieved individual or subject of the  
9 complaint of the time and place of a hearing on the complaint.  
10 Following the hearing, which must be conducted as provided by  
11 committee rule, the committee shall determine whether the aggrieved  
12 individual meets the requirements of this section and, as  
13 applicable:

14           (1) issue a pass card if the committee determines that  
15 the individual's media credentials meet the requirements of this  
16 section; or

17           (2) revoke the media representative's privileges  
18 granted under this section if the committee determines that the  
19 allegations contained in the complaint are valid.

20           (i) The final determination by the Committee on House  
21 Administration on a complaint:

22           (1) must be entered in the committee minutes and, if  
23 the house is convened in a regular or special session, delivered to  
24 the journal clerk and printed in the journal; and

25           (2) is not subject to further review except as  
26 provided by this section.

27           Sec. 21. PUBLIC ADMISSION TO AND NONLEGISLATIVE USE OF THE

1 HOUSE CHAMBER. When the house is not in session, the floor of the  
2 house shall remain open on days and hours determined by the  
3 Committee on House Administration. By resolution, the house may  
4 open the floor of the house during its sessions for the inauguration  
5 of the governor and lieutenant governor and for such other public  
6 ceremonies as may be deemed warranted.

7 CHAPTER C. SPEAKING AND DEBATE

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

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

18 Sec. 24. RECOGNITION. (a) Except as otherwise provided  
19 by this section, there shall be no appeal from the speaker's  
20 recognition, but the speaker shall be governed by rules and usage in  
21 priority of entertaining motions from the floor. When a member  
22 seeks recognition, the speaker may ask, "For what purpose does the  
23 member rise?" or "For what purpose does the member seek  
24 recognition?" and may then decide if recognition is to be granted,  
25 except that the speaker shall recognize a member who seeks  
26 recognition on a question of privilege.

27 (b) If the speaker denies recognition of a member who seeks

1 recognition on a question of privilege, other than a question of  
2 privilege relating to the right of the house to remove the speaker  
3 and elect a new speaker, the decision of recognition may be appealed  
4 using the procedures provided in Rule 1, Section 9.

5 (c) If the speaker denies recognition of a member who seeks  
6 recognition on a question of privilege relating to the right of the  
7 house to remove the speaker and elect a new speaker, the member may  
8 appeal the speaker's denial of recognition if the member submits to  
9 the speaker a written request, signed by at least 76 members of the  
10 house, to appeal the decision of recognition. Upon receiving a  
11 request for appeal in accordance with this subsection, the speaker  
12 shall announce the request to the house. The names of the members  
13 who signed the request and the time that the announcement was made  
14 shall be entered in the journal. The appeal of a decision of  
15 recognition under this subsection is eligible for consideration 24  
16 hours after the request for appeal has been announced in accordance  
17 with this subsection. The appeal and consideration of the question  
18 of privilege, if the appeal is successful, takes precedence over  
19 all other questions except motions to adjourn.

20 Sec. 25. INTERRUPTION OF A MEMBER WHO HAS THE FLOOR. A  
21 member who has the floor shall not be interrupted by another member  
22 for any purpose, unless he or she consents to yield to the other  
23 member. A member desiring to interrupt another in debate should  
24 first address the speaker for the permission of the member  
25 speaking. The speaker shall then ask the member who has the floor  
26 if he or she wishes to yield, and then announce the decision of that  
27 member. The member who has the floor may exercise personal

1 discretion as to whether or not to yield, and it is entirely within  
2 the member's discretion to determine who shall interrupt and when.

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

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

13       Sec. 28. TIME LIMITS ON SPEECHES. All speeches shall be  
14 limited to 10 minutes in duration, except as provided in Section 27  
15 of this rule, and the speaker shall call the members to order at the  
16 expiration of their time. If the house by a majority vote extends  
17 the time of any member, the extension shall be for 10 minutes only.  
18 A second extension of time shall be granted only by unanimous  
19 consent. During the last 10 calendar days of the regular session,  
20 and the last 5 calendar days of a special session, Sundays excepted,  
21 all speeches shall be limited to 10 minutes and shall not be  
22 extended. The time limits established by this rule shall include  
23 time consumed in yielding to questions from the floor.

24       Sec. 29. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF TIMES TO SPEAK. No member shall  
25 speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the  
26 house, nor more than once until every member choosing to speak has  
27 spoken, nor shall any member be permitted to consume the time of

1 another member without leave of the house being given by a majority  
2 vote.

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

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

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

13       Sec. 33. TRANSGRESSION OF RULES WHILE SPEAKING. If any  
14 member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the  
15 house, the speaker shall, or any member may, call the member to  
16 order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately  
17 be seated; however, that member may move for an appeal to the house,  
18 and if appeal is duly seconded by 10 members, the matter shall be  
19 submitted to the house for decision by majority vote. In such  
20 cases, the speaker shall not be required to relinquish the chair, as  
21 is required in cases of appeals from the speaker's decisions. The  
22 house shall, if appealed to, decide the matter without debate. If  
23 the decision is in favor of the member called to order, the member  
24 shall be at liberty to proceed; but if the decision is against the  
25 member, he or she shall not be allowed to proceed, and, if the case  
26 requires it, shall be liable to the censure of the house, or such  
27 other punishment as the house may consider proper.

1           Sec. 34. ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF ALL HOUSE PROCEEDINGS. (a)  
2 All proceedings of the house of representatives shall be  
3 electronically recorded under the direction of the Committee on  
4 House Administration. Copies of the proceedings may be released  
5 under guidelines promulgated by the Committee on House  
6 Administration.

7           (b) Archived video broadcasts of proceedings in the house  
8 chamber that are available through the house's Internet or intranet  
9 website may, under the direction of the Committee on House  
10 Administration, include a link to the point in time in the video  
11 where each measure under consideration by the house is laid out.  
12 Such a link shall be provided as soon as the committee determines is  
13 practical.

14                           CHAPTER D. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

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

17                   (1) those affecting the rights of the house  
18 collectively, its safety and dignity, and the integrity of its  
19 proceedings, including the right of the house to remove the speaker  
20 and elect a new speaker; 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. (a) 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           (b) If a question of privilege relating to removal of the  
14 speaker and election of a new speaker fails, a subsequent attempt to  
15 remove the same speaker can be made only by reconsidering the vote  
16 by which the original question of privilege failed. Such  
17 reconsideration shall be subject to the rules of the house  
18 governing reconsideration.

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

24           (b) When a member is speaking on privilege, the member shall  
25 not be interrupted by another member for any purpose. While the  
26 member is speaking, another member may submit a question of order to  
27 the speaker in writing or by approaching the podium in person. The

1 member submitting the question of order shall not interrupt the  
2 member who is speaking. The speaker may interrupt the member who is  
3 speaking if the speaker determines it is appropriate to address the  
4 question of order at that time.

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

8                                   CHAPTER E. VOTING

9       Sec. 40. RECORDING ALL VOTES ON VOTING MACHINE. On all  
10 votes, except viva voce votes, members shall record their votes on  
11 the voting machine and shall not be recognized by the chair to cast  
12 their votes from the floor. If a member attempts to vote from the  
13 floor, the speaker shall sustain a point of order directed against  
14 the member's so doing. This rule shall not be applicable to the  
15 mover or the principal opponent of the proposition being voted on  
16 nor to a member whose voting machine is out of order. If a member  
17 demands strict enforcement of this section, Section 47 shall not  
18 apply to the taking of a vote, and the house may discipline a member  
19 in violation of this rule pursuant to its inherent authority.

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

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

1           Sec. 43. DIVIDING THE QUESTION. By a majority vote of the  
2 house, a quorum being present, the question shall be divided, if it  
3 includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being  
4 taken away, a substantive proposition remains. A motion for a  
5 division vote cannot be made after the previous question has been  
6 ordered, after a motion to table has been offered, after the  
7 question has been put, nor after the yeas and nays have been  
8 ordered. Under this subsection, the speaker may divide the  
9 question into groups of propositions that are closely related.

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

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

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

1 disciplinary action by the speaker, or by the house, as may be  
2 warranted under the circumstances.

3       Sec. 47. VOTING FOR ANOTHER MEMBER. Any member found  
4 guilty by the house of knowingly voting for another member on the  
5 voting machine without that other member's permission shall be  
6 subject to discipline deemed appropriate by the house.

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

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

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

27       (c) A member absent when a vote was taken may file with the

1 journal clerk while the house is in session a statement of how the  
2 member would have voted if present. If timely received, the  
3 statement shall be printed immediately following the results of the  
4 vote in the journal. Otherwise, statements shall be printed in a  
5 separate section at the end of the journal for the day on which the  
6 statements were recorded with the journal clerk.

7       Sec. 50. PAIRS. (a) All pairs must be announced before the  
8 vote is declared by the speaker, and a written statement sent to the  
9 journal clerk. The statement must be signed by the absent member to  
10 the pair, or the member's signature must have been authorized in  
11 writing or by telephone, and satisfactory evidence presented to the  
12 speaker if deemed necessary. If authorized in writing, the writing  
13 shall be delivered to the chief clerk by personal delivery or by  
14 commercially acceptable means of delivery, including electronic  
15 transmission by PDF or similar secure format that is capable of  
16 transmitting an accurate image of the member's signature. If  
17 authorized by telephone, the call must be to and confirmed by the  
18 chief clerk in advance of the vote to which it applies. Pairs shall  
19 be entered in the journal, and the member present shall be counted  
20 to make a quorum.

21       (b) The speaker may not refuse to recognize a pair that  
22 complies with the requirements of Subsection (a), if both members  
23 consent to the pair.

24       Sec. 51. ENTRY OF YEA AND NAY VOTE IN JOURNAL. (a) At the  
25 desire of any member present, the yeas and nays of the members of  
26 the house on any question shall be taken and entered in the journal.  
27 No member or members shall be allowed to call for a yea and nay vote

1 after a vote has been declared by the speaker.

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

4 (c) The yeas and nays of the members of the house on final  
5 passage of any bill, any joint resolution proposing or ratifying a  
6 constitutional amendment, and any other resolution, other than a  
7 resolution of a purely ceremonial or honorary nature, shall be  
8 taken and entered in the journal. For purposes of this subsection, a  
9 vote on final passage includes a vote on:

10 (1) third reading;

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

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

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

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

17 (1) the recorded yeas and nays are available to the  
18 public on the Internet and on any televised broadcast of the house  
19 proceedings produced by or under the direction of the house; and

20 (2) members of the public may view the yeas and nays in  
21 real time to the extent possible on the Internet and on any  
22 televised broadcast of the house proceedings produced by or under  
23 the direction of the house.

24 Sec. 52. JOURNAL RECORDING OF VOTES ON ANY QUESTION. On  
25 any question where a record of the yeas and nays has not been  
26 ordered, members may have their votes recorded in the journal as  
27 "yea" or "nay" by filing such information with the journal clerk

1 before adjournment or recess to another calendar day.

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

7                   (1) the result of the record vote is not changed  
8 thereby;

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

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

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

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

1 verification after the house has proceeded to the next question, or  
2 after a recess or an adjournment. A vote to recess or adjourn, like  
3 any other proposition, may be verified. Only one vote verification  
4 can be pending at a time. A verification may be dispensed with by a  
5 two-thirds vote.

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

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

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



1                   RULE 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS

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

5                   (1) Call to order by speaker.

6                   (2) Registration of members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 additional time because of subsidiary motions.

2 (9) Unfinished business.

3 (10) Third reading calendars of the house in their  
4 order of priority in accordance with Section 7 of this rule, unless  
5 a different order is determined under other provisions of these  
6 rules.

7 (11) Postponed matters to be laid before the house in  
8 accordance with Rule 7, Section 15.

9 (12) Second reading calendars of the house in their  
10 order of priority in accordance with Section 7 of this rule, unless  
11 a different order is determined under other provisions of these  
12 rules.

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

16 (1) Call to order by the speaker.

17 (2) Registration of members.

18 (3) Prayer by the chaplain.

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

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

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

22 (7) Pending business.

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

26 Sec. 2. SPECIAL ORDERS. (a) Any bill, resolution, or  
27 other measure may on any day be made a special order for the same day

1 or for a future day of the session by an affirmative vote of  
2 two-thirds of the members present. A motion to set a special order  
3 shall be subject to the three-minute pro and con debate rule. When  
4 once established as a special order, a bill, resolution, or other  
5 measure shall be considered from day to day until disposed of; and  
6 until it has been disposed of, no further special orders shall be  
7 made.

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

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

15 (c) After the 115th day of a regular session, if a joint  
16 resolution has appeared on a daily house calendar and is adopted,  
17 and a bill that is enabling legislation for the joint resolution is  
18 either on or eligible to be placed on a calendar, the author or  
19 sponsor of the bill or another member may immediately be recognized  
20 for a motion to set the bill that is the enabling legislation as a  
21 special order pursuant to this section. For purposes of this  
22 subsection, the bill must have been designated as the enabling  
23 legislation for the joint resolution in writing filed with the  
24 chief clerk not later than the date the committee report for the  
25 enabling legislation is printed and distributed.

26 Sec. 3. POSTPONEMENT OF A SPECIAL ORDER. A special order  
27 may be postponed to a day certain by a two-thirds vote of those

1 present, and when so postponed, shall be considered as disposed of  
2 so far as its place as a special order is concerned.

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

6       Sec. 5. SUBSTITUTION IN MOTION FOR A SPECIAL ORDER. When a  
7 motion is pending to set a particular bill or resolution as a  
8 special order, it shall not be in order to move as a substitute to  
9 set another bill or resolution as a special order. It shall be in  
10 order, however, to substitute, by majority vote, a different time  
11 for the special order consideration than that given in the original  
12 motion.

13       Sec. 6. MEMBER'S SUSPENSION AND SPECIAL ORDER PRIVILEGES.  
14 If a member moves to set a bill or joint resolution as a special  
15 order, or moves to suspend the rules to take up a bill or joint  
16 resolution out of its regular order, and the motion prevails, the  
17 member shall not have the right to make either of these motions  
18 again until every other member has had an opportunity, via either of  
19 these motions, to have some bill or joint resolution considered out  
20 of its regular order during that session of the legislature. A  
21 member shall not lose the suspension privilege if the motion to  
22 suspend or set for special order does not prevail.

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

26               (1) EMERGENCY CALENDAR, on which shall appear bills  
27 considered to be of such pressing and imperative import as to demand

1 immediate action, bills to raise revenue and levy taxes, and the  
2 general appropriations bill. A bill submitted as an emergency  
3 matter by the governor may also be placed on this calendar.

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

9 (3) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CALENDAR, on which  
10 shall appear joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Texas  
11 Constitution, joint resolutions proposing the ratification of  
12 amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and joint  
13 resolutions applying to Congress for a convention to amend the  
14 Constitution of the United States.

15 (4) GENERAL STATE CALENDAR, on which shall appear  
16 bills of statewide effect, not emergency in nature, which establish  
17 or change state law and which have application to all areas but are  
18 limited in legal effect by classification or other factors which  
19 minimize the impact to something less than major state policy, and  
20 bills, not emergency in nature, which are not on the local, consent,  
21 and resolutions calendar.

22 (5) LOCAL, CONSENT, AND RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR, on which  
23 shall appear bills, house resolutions, and concurrent resolutions,  
24 not emergency in nature, regardless of extent and scope, on which  
25 there is such general agreement as to render improbable any  
26 opposition to the consideration and passage thereof, and which have  
27 been recommended by the appropriate standing committee for

1 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar by the  
2 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars.

3 (6) RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR, on which shall appear house  
4 resolutions and concurrent resolutions, not emergency in nature and  
5 not privileged.

6 (7) CONGRATULATORY AND MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR,  
7 on which shall appear congratulatory and memorial resolutions whose  
8 sole intent is to congratulate, memorialize, or otherwise express  
9 concern or commendation. The Committee on Resolutions Calendars  
10 may provide separate categories for congratulatory and memorial  
11 resolutions.

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

14 Sec. 8. SENATE BILL CALENDARS. (a) Senate bills and  
15 resolutions pending in the house shall follow the same procedure  
16 with regard to calendars as house bills and resolutions, but  
17 separate calendars shall be maintained for senate bills and  
18 resolutions, and consideration of them on senate bill days shall  
19 have priority in the manner and order specified in this rule.

20 (b) No other business shall be considered on days devoted to  
21 the consideration of senate bills when there remain any bills on any  
22 of the senate calendars, except with the consent of the senate. When  
23 all senate calendars are clear, the house may proceed to  
24 consideration of house calendars on senate bill days.

25 Sec. 9. SENATE BILL DAYS. (a) On calendar Wednesday and  
26 on calendar Thursday of each week, only senate bills and senate  
27 resolutions shall be taken up and considered, until disposed of.

1 Senate bills and senate resolutions shall be considered in the  
2 order prescribed in Section 7 of this rule on separate senate  
3 calendars prepared by the Committee on Calendars. In case a senate  
4 bill or senate resolution is pending at adjournment on calendar  
5 Thursday, it shall go over to the succeeding calendar Wednesday as  
6 unfinished business.

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

10 Sec. 10. CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL ON SAME  
11 SUBJECT. When any house bill is reached on the calendar or is  
12 before the house for consideration, it shall be the duty of the  
13 speaker to give the place on the calendar of the house bill to any  
14 senate bill containing the same subject that has been referred to  
15 and reported from a committee of the house and to lay the senate  
16 bill before the house, to be considered in lieu of the house bill.

17 Sec. 11. PERIODS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONGRATULATORY AND  
18 MEMORIAL CALENDARS. As the volume of legislation shall warrant,  
19 the chair of the Committee on Resolutions Calendars shall move to  
20 designate periods for the consideration of congratulatory and  
21 memorial calendars. Each such motion shall require a two-thirds  
22 vote for its adoption. In each instance, the Committee on  
23 Resolutions Calendars shall prepare and post on the electronic  
24 legislative information system a calendar at least 24 hours in  
25 advance of the hour set for consideration. No memorial or  
26 congratulatory resolution will be heard by the full house without  
27 having first been approved, at least 24 hours in advance, by a

1 majority of the membership of the Committee on Resolutions  
2 Calendars, in accordance with Rule 4, Section 16. It shall not be  
3 necessary for the Committee on Resolutions Calendars to report a  
4 memorial or congratulatory resolution from committee in order to  
5 place the resolution on a congratulatory and memorial calendar. If  
6 the Committee on Resolutions Calendars determines that a resolution  
7 is not eligible for placement on the congratulatory and memorial  
8 calendar the measure shall be sent to the Committee on Calendars for  
9 further action. A congratulatory and memorial calendar will  
10 contain the resolution number, the author's name, and a brief  
11 description of the intent of the resolution. On the congratulatory  
12 and memorial calendar, congratulatory resolutions may be listed  
13 separately from memorial resolutions. Once a calendar is posted,  
14 no additional resolutions will be added to it, and the requirements  
15 of this section shall not be subject to suspension.

16       Sec. 12. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONGRATULATORY AND  
17 MEMORIAL CALENDARS. During the consideration of a congratulatory  
18 and memorial calendar, resolutions shall not be read in full unless  
19 they pertain to members or former members of the legislature, or  
20 unless the intended recipient of the resolution is present on the  
21 house floor or in the gallery. All other such resolutions shall be  
22 read only by number, type of resolution, and name of the person or  
23 persons designated in the resolutions. Members shall notify the  
24 chair, in advance of consideration of the calendar, of any  
25 resolutions that will be required to be read in full. In addition,  
26 the following procedures shall be observed:

27             (1) The chair shall recognize the reading clerk to



1 read the resolutions within each category on the calendar only by  
2 number, type of resolution, author or sponsor, and name of the  
3 person or persons designated in the resolutions, except for those  
4 resolutions that have been withdrawn or that are required to be read  
5 in full. The resolutions read by the clerk shall then be adopted in  
6 one motion for each category.

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

11           (3) If it develops that any resolution on the  
12 congratulatory and memorial calendar does not belong on that  
13 calendar, the chair shall withdraw the resolution from further  
14 consideration, remove it from the calendar, and refer it to the  
15 appropriate calendars committee for placement on the proper  
16 calendar.

17           Sec. 13. PERIODS FOR CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL, CONSENT, AND  
18 RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS. (a) As the volume of legislation shall  
19 warrant, the chair of the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars  
20 shall move to designate periods for the consideration of local,  
21 consent, and resolutions calendars. Each such motion shall require  
22 a two-thirds vote for its adoption. In each instance, the Committee  
23 on Local and Consent Calendars shall prepare and post on the  
24 electronic legislative information system a calendar at least 48  
25 hours in advance of the hour set for consideration. Once a calendar  
26 is posted, no additional bills or resolutions will be added to it.  
27 This requirement can be suspended only by unanimous consent. No

1 local, consent, and resolutions calendar may be considered by the  
2 house if it is determined that the rules of the house were not  
3 complied with by the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars in  
4 preparing that calendar.

5 (b) The period designated for the consideration of a local,  
6 consent, and resolutions calendar under this section or under a  
7 special order under Section 2 of this rule may not exceed one  
8 calendar day.

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

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

18 (2) If it develops that any bill or resolution on a  
19 local, consent, and resolutions calendar is to be contested on the  
20 floor of the house under Subdivision (3) or (4) of this section, the  
21 chair shall withdraw the bill or resolution from further  
22 consideration and remove it from the calendar.

23 (3) Any bill or resolution on a local, consent, and  
24 resolutions calendar shall be considered contested if notice is  
25 given by five or more members present in the house under Rule 5,  
26 Section 45, that they intend to oppose the bill or resolution,  
27 either by a raising of hands or the delivery of written notice to

1 the chair.

2 (4) Any bill or resolution on a local, consent, and  
3 resolutions calendar shall be considered contested if debate  
4 exceeds 10 minutes, after the chair lays out the bill or resolution  
5 following the sponsor's explanation under Subdivision (1) of this  
6 section. The chair shall strictly enforce this time limit and  
7 automatically withdraw the bill from further consideration if the  
8 time limit herein imposed is exceeded.

9 (5) Any bill or resolution on a local, consent, and  
10 resolutions calendar that is not reached for floor consideration  
11 because of the expiration of the calendar day period for  
12 consideration established by Section 13 of this rule shall carry  
13 over onto the next local, consent, and resolutions calendar. Bills  
14 or resolutions that carry over must appear in the same relative  
15 order as on the calendar on which the bills or resolutions initially  
16 appeared, and bills or resolutions originally from older calendars  
17 must appear before those originally from more recent calendars.

18 (6) A motion to postpone a bill or resolution on a  
19 local, consent, and resolutions calendar to a subsequent  
20 legislative or calendar day requires an affirmative vote of  
21 two-thirds of the members present.

22 Sec. 15. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF CALENDARS. Except for  
23 local, consent, and resolutions calendars and congratulatory and  
24 memorial calendars, consideration of calendars shall be in the  
25 order named in Section 7 of this rule, subject to any exceptions  
26 ordered by the Committee on Calendars. Bills and resolutions on  
27 third reading shall have precedence over bills and resolutions on

1 second reading.

2           Sec. 16. DAILY CALENDARS, SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDARS, AND LISTS  
3 OF ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION. (a) Calendars shall be  
4 prepared daily when the house is in session. A calendar must be  
5 posted on the electronic legislative information system at least 36  
6 hours if convened in regular session and 24 hours if convened in  
7 special session before the calendar may be considered by the house,  
8 except as otherwise provided by these rules for the calendar on  
9 which the general appropriations bill is first eligible for  
10 consideration on second reading when convened in regular session.  
11 A calendar that contains a bill extending an agency, commission, or  
12 advisory committee under the Texas Sunset Act must be posted at  
13 least 48 hours if convened in regular or special session before the  
14 calendar may be considered by the house. Deviations from the  
15 calendars as posted shall not be permitted except that the  
16 Committee on Calendars shall be authorized to prepare and post, not  
17 later than two hours before the house convenes, a supplemental  
18 daily house calendar, on which shall appear:

19           (1) bills or resolutions which were passed to third  
20 reading on the previous legislative day, except as provided by  
21 Section 24(b) of this rule;

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

25           (3) postponed business from a previous calendar day;  
26 and

27           (4) notice to take from the table a bill or resolution

1 which was laid on the table subject to call on a previous  
2 legislative day.

3 In addition to the items listed above, the bills and  
4 resolutions from a daily house calendar that will be eligible for  
5 consideration may be incorporated, in their proper order as  
6 determined by these rules, into the supplemental daily house  
7 calendar.

8 (a-1) If the house is convened in regular session, the  
9 calendar on which the general appropriations bill is first eligible  
10 for consideration on second reading must be posted on the  
11 electronic legislative information system at least 144 hours before  
12 the calendar may be considered by the house. The posted calendar  
13 must indicate the date and time at which the calendar is scheduled  
14 for consideration by the house, which date and time must be in  
15 accordance with Rule 8, Section 14.

16 (b) In addition, when the volume of legislation shall  
17 warrant, and upon request of the speaker, the chief clerk shall have  
18 prepared a list of Items Eligible for Consideration, on which shall  
19 appear only:

20 (1) house bills with senate amendments that are  
21 eligible for consideration under Rule 13, Section 5, including the  
22 number of senate amendments and the total number of pages of senate  
23 amendments;

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) The list of Items Eligible for Consideration must be  
2 posted on the electronic legislative information system at least  
3 six hours before the list may be considered by the house.

4           (d) The time at which a calendar or list is posted on the  
5 electronic legislative information system shall be time-stamped on  
6 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 also  
16 be posted with the calendar on which the bill or resolution appears.  
17 The speaker shall lay a proposed rule before the house prior to the  
18 consideration of the bill or resolution to which the rule will  
19 apply. The rule shall be laid before the house not earlier than six  
20 hours after a copy of the rule has been distributed to each member  
21 in accordance with this subsection. The rule shall not be subject  
22 to amendment, but to be effective, the rule must be approved by the  
23 house by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those members present  
24 and voting, except that the rule must be approved by an affirmative  
25 vote of a majority of those members present and voting if the rule  
26 applies to a tax bill, an appropriations bill, or a redistricting  
27 bill. If approved by the house in accordance with this subsection,

1 the rule will be effective for the consideration of the bill or  
2 resolution on both second and third readings.

3       Sec. 17. POSITION ON A CALENDAR. (a) Unless removed from  
4 the calendar under Subsection (b) of this section, once a bill or  
5 resolution is placed on its appropriate calendar under these rules,  
6 and has appeared on a house calendar, as posted on the electronic  
7 legislative information system, the bill shall retain its relative  
8 position on the calendar until reached for floor consideration, and  
9 the calendars committee with jurisdiction over the bill or  
10 resolution shall have no authority to place other bills on the  
11 calendar ahead of that bill, but all additions to the calendar shall  
12 appear subsequent to the bill.

13       (b) If a bill or resolution that has been placed on a house  
14 calendar, as posted on the electronic legislative information  
15 system, is recommitted or withdrawn from further consideration, the  
16 bill or resolution relinquishes its position on the calendar, and  
17 the bill or resolution shall be removed from the calendar.

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

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

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

27       Sec. 19. REFERRAL TO CALENDARS COMMITTEES. All bills and

1 resolutions, on being reported from committee, shall be referred  
2 immediately to the committee coordinator for printing and then to  
3 the appropriate calendars committee for placement on the  
4 appropriate calendar.

5       Sec. 20. TIME LIMIT FOR VOTE TO PLACE ON A CALENDAR. Within  
6 30 calendar days after a bill or resolution has been referred to the  
7 appropriate calendars committee, the committee must vote on whether  
8 to place the bill or resolution on one of the calendars of the daily  
9 house calendar or the local, consent, and resolutions calendar, as  
10 applicable. A vote against placement of the bill or resolution on a  
11 calendar does not preclude a calendars committee from later voting  
12 in favor of placement of the bill or resolution on a calendar.

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

23       (b) A motion to place a bill or resolution on a specific  
24 calendar of the daily house calendar or on the local, consent, and  
25 resolutions calendar is not a privileged motion and must be made  
26 during the routine motion period unless made under a suspension of  
27 the rules.



1           Sec. 22. REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT ON LOCAL, CONSENT, AND  
2 RESOLUTIONS CALENDAR. No bill or resolution shall be considered  
3 for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar by  
4 the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars unless a request for  
5 that placement has been made to the chair of the standing committee  
6 from which the bill or resolution was reported and unless the  
7 committee report of the standing committee recommends that the bill  
8 or resolution be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent  
9 Calendars for placement on the local, consent, and resolutions  
10 calendar. The recommendation of the standing committee shall be  
11 advisory only, and the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars  
12 shall have final authority to determine whether or not a bill or  
13 resolution shall be placed on the local, consent, and resolutions  
14 calendar. If the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars  
15 determines that the bill or resolution is not eligible for  
16 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar, the  
17 measure shall be sent to the Committee on Calendars for further  
18 action.

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

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

26                   (2) it has been recommended unanimously by the present  
27 and voting members of the committee from which it was reported that

1 the bill be sent to the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars for  
2 placement on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar.

3 (b) No other bill or resolution shall be placed on the  
4 local, consent, and resolutions calendar unless it has been  
5 recommended unanimously by the present and voting members of the  
6 committee from which it was reported that the bill be sent to the  
7 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars for placement on the  
8 local, consent, and resolutions calendar.

9 (c) No bill or resolution shall be placed on the local,  
10 consent, and resolutions calendar that:

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

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

19 Sec. 24. REPLACEMENT OF CONTESTED BILLS AND  
20 RESOLUTIONS. (a) A bill on second reading or a resolution once  
21 removed from the local, consent, and resolutions calendar by being  
22 contested on the floor of the house under Section 14(3) or (4) of  
23 this rule shall be returned to the Committee on Local and Consent  
24 Calendars for further action. The Committee on Local and Consent  
25 Calendars, if it feels such action is warranted, may again place the  
26 bill or resolution on the local, consent, and resolutions calendar,  
27 provided, however, that if the bill or resolution is not placed on

1 the next local, consent, and resolutions calendar set by the  
2 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars, the bill or resolution  
3 shall immediately be referred to the Committee on Calendars for  
4 further action. If a bill on second reading or a resolution is then  
5 removed from the calendar a second time by being contested on the  
6 floor of the house under Section 14(3) or (4) of this rule, the bill  
7 or resolution shall not again be placed on the local, consent, and  
8 resolutions calendar by the Committee on Local and Consent  
9 Calendars during that session of the legislature but shall be  
10 returned to the Committee on Calendars for further action.

11 (b) A bill on third reading removed from the local, consent,  
12 and resolutions calendar under Section 14(3) or (4) of this rule  
13 shall appear on the supplemental daily house calendar for the next  
14 legislative day for which a supplemental daily house calendar has  
15 not already been distributed, pursuant to Section 16(a)(1) of this  
16 rule.

17 (c) This section does not apply to a bill or resolution on  
18 the local, consent, and resolutions calendar that is withdrawn from  
19 the calendar at the request of the author or sponsor without being  
20 contested under Section 14(3) or (4) of this rule. A bill or  
21 resolution withdrawn under this subsection shall be returned to the  
22 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars for further action. The  
23 Committee on Local and Consent Calendars, if it feels such action is  
24 warranted, may again place the bill or resolution on the local,  
25 consent, and resolutions calendar or refer the bill or resolution  
26 to the Committee on 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 shall have  
5 precedence over bills on second reading. It is the intent of the  
6 calendar system to give the Committee on Calendars wide discretion  
7 to insure adequate consideration by the house of important  
8 legislation.

1 RULE 7. MOTIONS

2 CHAPTER A. GENERAL MOTIONS

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

7 (1) to adjourn;

8 (2) to lay on the table;

9 (3) to lay on the table subject to call;

10 (4) to suspend the rule as to the time for introduction  
11 of bills;

12 (5) to order a call of the house, and all motions  
13 incidental thereto;

14 (6) an appeal by a member called to order;

15 (7) on questions relating to priority of business;

16 (8) to amend the caption of a bill or resolution;

17 (9) to extend the time of a member speaking under the  
18 previous question or to allow a member who has the right to speak  
19 after the previous question is ordered to yield the time, or a part  
20 of it, to another;

21 (10) to reconsider and table.

22 Sec. 2. MOTIONS SUBJECT TO DEBATE. The speaker shall permit  
23 the mover and one opponent of the motion three minutes each during  
24 which to debate the following motions without debating the merits  
25 of the bill, resolution, or other matter, and the mover of the  
26 motion may elect to either open the debate or close the debate, but  
27 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 (1) to adjourn;
- 2 (2) to take recess;
- 3 (3) to lay on the table;
- 4 (4) to lay on the table subject to call;
- 5 (5) for the previous question;
- 6 (6) to postpone to a day certain;
- 7 (7) to commit, recommit, refer, or rerefer;
- 8 (8) to amend by striking out the enacting or resolving  
9 clause, which, if carried, shall have the effect of defeating the  
10 bill or resolution;
- 11 (9) to amend;
- 12 (10) to postpone indefinitely.

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

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

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

27 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 provided on the Supplemental House Calendar, must be given  
21 before the proposition can be taken from the table, unless it is on  
22 the same legislative day, in which case it can be taken from the  
23 table at any time except when there is another matter pending before  
24 the house. A bill, resolution, or other matter can be taken from  
25 the table only by a majority vote of the house. When a special order  
26 is 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) A motion to postpone to a  
2 day certain may be amended and is debatable within narrow limits,  
3 but 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           (b) A motion to postpone a bill or resolution on a local,  
7 consent, and resolutions calendar to a subsequent legislative or  
8 calendar day requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the  
9 members present.

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

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 10th 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 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a  
23 motion to reconsider the vote by which a bill, joint resolution, or  
24 concurrent resolution was defeated is not in order unless a member  
25 has previously provided at least one hour's notice of intent to make  
26 the motion by addressing the house when the house is in session and  
27 stating that a member intends to make a motion to reconsider the



1 vote by which the bill or resolution was defeated. It is not  
2 necessary for the member providing the notice to be eligible to make  
3 or to be the member who subsequently makes the motion to reconsider.  
4 If notice of intent to make a motion to reconsider is given within  
5 the period that the motion to reconsider may be made under  
6 Subsection (a) of this section and that period expires during the  
7 one-hour period required by this subsection, then the period within  
8 which the motion may be made under Subsection (a) is extended by the  
9 amount of time, not to exceed one hour during which the house is in  
10 session, necessary to satisfy the one-hour notice required by this  
11 subsection. This subsection does not apply to a motion to  
12 reconsider and table or to a motion to reconsider and spread on the  
13 journal, if no business has been transacted after the defeat of the  
14 measure.

15       Sec. 38. DEBATE ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to  
16 reconsider shall be debatable only when the question to be  
17 reconsidered is debatable. Even though the previous question was  
18 in force before the vote on a debatable question was taken, debate  
19 is permissible on the reconsideration of such debatable question.

20       Sec. 39. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED. Every motion to  
21 reconsider shall be decided by a majority vote, even though the vote  
22 on the original question requires a two-thirds vote for affirmative  
23 action. If the motion to reconsider prevails, the question then  
24 immediately recurs on the question reconsidered.

25       Sec. 40. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to  
26 reconsider cannot be withdrawn unless permission is given by a  
27 majority vote of the house, and the motion may be called up by any

1 member.

2           Sec. 41. TABLING MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to  
3 reconsider shall be subject to a motion to table, which, if carried,  
4 shall be a final disposition of the motion to reconsider.

5           Sec. 42. DOUBLE MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND TABLE. The double  
6 motion to reconsider and table shall be in order. It shall be  
7 undebatable. When carried, the motion to reconsider shall be  
8 tabled. When it fails, the question shall then be on the motion to  
9 reconsider, and the motion to reconsider shall, without further  
10 action, be spread on the journal, but it may be called up by any  
11 member, in accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of this  
12 rule.

13           Sec. 43. DELAYED DISPOSITION OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER. (a)  
14 If a motion to reconsider is not disposed of when made, it shall be  
15 entered in the journal, and cannot, after that legislative day, be  
16 called up and disposed of unless one legislative day's notice has  
17 been given.

18           (b) Unless called up and disposed of prior to 72 hours  
19 before final adjournment of the session, all motions to reconsider  
20 shall be regarded as determined and lost.

21           (c) All motions to reconsider made during the last 72 hours  
22 of the session shall be disposed of when made; otherwise, the motion  
23 shall be considered as lost.

24           Sec. 44. MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND SPREAD ON JOURNAL. (a) A  
25 member voting on the prevailing side may make a motion to reconsider  
26 and spread on the journal, which does not require a vote, and on the  
27 motion being made, it shall be entered on the journal. Any member,

1 regardless of whether he or she voted on the prevailing side or not,  
2 who desires immediate action on a motion to reconsider which has  
3 been spread on the journal, can call it up as soon as it is made, and  
4 demand a vote on it, or can call it up and move to table it.

5 (b) If the motion to table the motion to reconsider is  
6 defeated, the motion to reconsider remains spread on the journal  
7 for future action; however, any member, regardless of whether he or  
8 she voted on the prevailing side or not, can call the motion from  
9 the journal for action by the house, and, once disposed of, no other  
10 motion to reconsider can be made.

11 Sec. 45. MOTION TO REQUIRE COMMITTEE TO REPORT. (a) During  
12 the first 76 calendar days of a regular session, when any bill,  
13 resolution, or other paper has been in committee for 6 calendar  
14 days, exclusive of the calendar day on which it was referred, it  
15 shall be in order for a member to move that the committee be  
16 required to report the same within 7 calendar days. This motion  
17 shall require a two-thirds vote for passage.

18 (b) After the first 76 calendar days of a regular session,  
19 when any bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for  
20 6 calendar days, exclusive of the calendar day on which it was  
21 referred, it shall be in order for a member to move that the  
22 committee be required to report the same within 7 calendar days.  
23 This motion shall require a majority vote for passage.

24 (c) A motion to instruct a committee to report is not a  
25 privileged motion and must be made during the routine motion period  
26 unless made under a suspension of the rules.

27 (d) The house shall have no authority to instruct a

1 subcommittee directly; however, instructions recognized under the  
2 rules may be given to a committee and shall be binding on all  
3 subcommittees.

4       Sec. 46. MOTION TO REREFER TO ANOTHER COMMITTEE. (a)  
5 During the first 76 calendar days of a regular session, when any  
6 bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for 7  
7 calendar days after the committee was instructed by the house to  
8 report that measure by a motion made under Section 45 of this rule,  
9 it shall be in order for a member to move to rerefer the bill,  
10 resolution, or other paper to a different committee. This motion  
11 shall require a two-thirds vote for passage.

12       (b) After the first 76 calendar days of a regular session,  
13 when any bill, resolution, or other paper has been in committee for  
14 7 calendar days after the committee has been instructed to report  
15 that measure by a motion made under Section 45 of this rule, it  
16 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 majority vote for passage.

19       (c) A motion to rerefer a bill, resolution, or other paper  
20 from one committee to another committee is not a privileged motion  
21 and must be made during the routine motion period unless made under  
22 a suspension of the rules.

RULE 8. BILLS

1  
2           Sec. 1. CONTENTS OF BILLS. (a) Proposed laws or changes in  
3 laws must be incorporated in bills, which shall consist of:

4           (1) a title or caption, beginning with the words "A  
5 Bill to be Entitled An Act" and a brief statement that gives the  
6 legislature and the public reasonable notice of the subject of the  
7 proposed measure;

8           (2) an enacting clause, "Be It Enacted by the  
9 Legislature of the State of Texas"; and

10           (3) the bill proper.

11           (b) A house bill that would impose, authorize, increase, or  
12 change the rate or amount of a tax, assessment, surcharge, or fee  
13 must include a short statement at the end of its title or caption  
14 indicating the general effect of the bill on the tax, assessment,  
15 surcharge, or fee, such as "imposing a tax (or assessment),"  
16 "authorizing a surcharge (or fee)," or "increasing the rate (or  
17 amount) of a tax."

18           (c) A house bill that would create a criminal offense,  
19 increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or  
20 category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for  
21 community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision must  
22 include a short statement at the end of its title or caption  
23 indicating the general effect of the bill on the offense,  
24 punishment, or eligibility, such as "creating a criminal offense,"  
25 "increasing a criminal penalty," or "changing the eligibility for  
26 community supervision (or parole or mandatory supervision)."

27           (d) A house bill that would create a requirement that an

1 individual or entity obtain a license, certificate, registration,  
2 permit, or other authorization before engaging in a particular  
3 occupation or profession or that would expand an existing  
4 requirement to additional individuals or entities must include a  
5 short statement at the end of its title or caption indicating the  
6 general effect of the bill on the occupation or profession, such as  
7 "requiring an occupational license" or "expanding the  
8 applicability of an occupational license (or permit or  
9 certificate)."

10       Sec. 2. PUBLISHING ACTS IN THEIR ENTIRETY. No law shall be  
11 revived or amended by reference to its title. The act revived, or  
12 the section or sections amended, shall be reenacted and published  
13 at length. This rule does not apply to revisions adopted under  
14 Article III, Section 43, of the Texas Constitution.

15       Sec. 3. LIMITING A BILL TO A SINGLE SUBJECT. Each bill  
16 (except a general appropriations bill, which may embrace the  
17 various subjects and accounts for which money is appropriated or a  
18 revision adopted under Article III, Section 43, of the Texas  
19 Constitution) shall contain only one subject.

20       Sec. 4. CHANGING GENERAL LAW THROUGH AN APPROPRIATIONS  
21 BILL. A general law may not be changed by the provisions in an  
22 appropriations bill.

23       Sec. 5. COAUTHORSHIP, JOINT AUTHORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP,  
24 COSPONSORSHIP, AND JOINT SPONSORSHIP. (a) A house bill or  
25 resolution may have only one primary author. The signature of the  
26 primary author shall be the only signature that appears on the  
27 measure filed with the chief clerk. The signatures of all coauthors

1 or joint authors shall appear on the appropriate forms in the chief  
2 clerk's office.

3 (b) Any member may become the coauthor of a bill or  
4 resolution by securing permission from the author. If permission  
5 is secured from the author prior to the time the measure is filed  
6 with the chief clerk, the primary author and the coauthor shall sign  
7 the appropriate form, which shall be included with the measure when  
8 it is filed with the chief clerk. If a member wishes to become the  
9 coauthor of a measure after it has been filed, no action shall be  
10 required by the house, but it shall be the duty of the member  
11 seeking to be a coauthor to obtain written authorization on the  
12 appropriate form from the author. This authorization shall be  
13 filed with the chief clerk before the coauthor signs the form for  
14 the bill or resolution. The chief clerk shall report daily to the  
15 journal clerk the names of members filed as coauthors of bills or  
16 resolutions. If a coauthor of a bill or resolution desires to  
17 withdraw from such status, the member shall notify the chief clerk,  
18 who in turn shall notify the journal clerk.

19 (c) The primary author of a measure may designate up to four  
20 joint authors by providing written authorization on the appropriate  
21 form to the chief clerk. If a member designated as a joint author  
22 has not already signed on the measure as a coauthor, that member  
23 must also sign the form before the records will reflect the joint  
24 author status of that member. The names of all joint authors shall  
25 be shown immediately following the primary author's name on all  
26 official printings of the measure, on all house calendars, in the  
27 house journal, and in the electronic legislative information

1 system.

2 (d) The determination of the house sponsor of a senate  
3 measure is made at the time the measure is reported from committee.  
4 In the case of multiple requests for house sponsorship, the house  
5 sponsor of a senate measure shall be determined by the chair of the  
6 committee, in consultation with the senate author of the measure.  
7 The chair of the committee must designate a primary sponsor and may  
8 designate up to four joint sponsors or an unlimited number of  
9 cosponsors. The names of all joint sponsors shall be shown  
10 immediately following the primary sponsor's name on all official  
11 printings of the measure, on all house calendars, in the house  
12 journal, and in the electronic legislative information system.

13 Sec. 6. FILING, FIRST READING, AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.  
14 Each bill shall be filed with the chief clerk when introduced and  
15 shall be numbered in its regular order. Each bill shall be read  
16 first time by caption and referred by the speaker to the appropriate  
17 committee with jurisdiction.

18 Sec. 7. PREFILING. Beginning the first Monday after the  
19 general election preceding the next regular legislative session, or  
20 within 30 days prior to any special session, it shall be in order to  
21 file with the chief clerk bills and resolutions for introduction in  
22 that session. On receipt of the bills or resolutions, the chief  
23 clerk shall number them and make them a matter of public record,  
24 available for distribution. Once a bill or resolution has been so  
25 filed, it may not be recalled. This shall apply only to  
26 members-elect of the succeeding legislative session.

27 Sec. 8. DEADLINE FOR INTRODUCTION. (a) Bills and joint



1 resolutions introduced during the first 60 calendar days of the  
2 regular session may be considered by the committees and in the house  
3 and disposed of at any time during the session, in accordance with  
4 the rules of the house. After the first 60 calendar days of a  
5 regular session, any bill or joint resolution, except local bills,  
6 emergency appropriations, and all emergency matters submitted by  
7 the governor in special messages to the legislature, shall require  
8 an affirmative vote of four-fifths of those members present and  
9 voting to be introduced.

10 (b) In addition to a bill defined as a "local bill" under  
11 Section 10(c) of this rule, a bill is considered local for purposes  
12 of this section if it relates to a specified district created under  
13 Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution (water  
14 districts, etc.), a specified hospital district, or another  
15 specified special purpose district, even if neither these rules nor  
16 the Texas Constitution require publication of notice for that bill.

17 Sec. 9. FILING. (a) A bill must be filed with the chief  
18 clerk in the manner and in an electronic or other format specified  
19 by the chief clerk at the time that the bill is introduced.

20 (b) A bill relating to conservation and reclamation  
21 districts and governed by the provisions of Article XVI, Section  
22 59, of the Texas Constitution must be filed with copies of the  
23 notice to introduce the bill attached if the bill is intended to:

24 (1) create a particular conservation and reclamation  
25 district; or

26 (2) amend the act of a particular conservation and  
27 reclamation district to:

- 1 (A) add additional land to the district;
- 2 (B) alter the taxing authority of the district;
- 3 (C) alter the authority of the district with
- 4 respect to issuing bonds; or
- 5 (D) alter the qualifications or terms of office
- 6 of the members of the governing body of the district.

7 Sec. 10. LOCAL BILLS. (a) The house may not consider a  
8 local bill unless notice of intention to apply for the passage of  
9 the bill was published as provided by law and evidence of the  
10 publication is attached to the bill. If not attached to the bill on  
11 filing with the chief clerk or receipt of the bill from the senate,  
12 copies of the evidence of timely publication shall be filed with the  
13 chief clerk and must be distributed to the members of the committee  
14 not later than the first time the bill is laid out in a committee  
15 meeting. The evidence shall be attached to the bill on first  
16 printing and shall remain with the measure throughout the entire  
17 legislative process, including submission to the governor.

18 (b) Neither the house nor a committee of the house may  
19 consider a bill whose application is limited to one or more  
20 political subdivisions by means of population brackets or other  
21 artificial devices in lieu of identifying the political subdivision  
22 or subdivisions by name. However, this subsection does not prevent  
23 consideration of a bill that classifies political subdivisions  
24 according to a minimum or maximum population or other criterion  
25 that bears a reasonable relation to the purpose of the proposed  
26 legislation or a bill that updates laws based on population  
27 classifications to conform to a federal decennial census.

1           (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this section,  
2 "local bill" for purposes of this section means:

3           (1) a bill for which publication of notice is required  
4 under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution (water  
5 districts, etc.);

6           (2) a bill for which publication of notice is required  
7 under Article IX, Section 9, of the Texas Constitution (hospital  
8 districts);

9           (3) a bill relating to hunting, fishing, or  
10 conservation of wildlife resources of a specified locality;

11           (4) a bill creating or affecting a county court or  
12 statutory court or courts of one or more specified counties or  
13 municipalities;

14           (5) a bill creating or affecting the juvenile board or  
15 boards of a specified county or counties; or

16           (6) a bill creating or affecting a road utility  
17 district under the authority of Article III, Section 52, of the  
18 Texas Constitution.

19           (d) A bill is not considered to be a local bill under  
20 Subsection (c)(3), (4), or (5) if it affects a sufficient number of  
21 localities, counties, or municipalities so as to be of general  
22 application or of statewide importance.

23           Sec. 11. CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE. (a) No bill shall be  
24 considered unless it first has been referred to a committee and  
25 reported from it.

26           (b) After a bill has been recommitted, it shall be  
27 considered by the committee as a new subject.

1           Sec. 12. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION. All bills and resolutions  
2 before the house shall be taken up and acted on in the order in which  
3 they appear on their respective calendars, and each calendar shall  
4 have the priority accorded to it by the provisions of Rule 6,  
5 Sections 7 and 8.

6           Sec. 13. DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION. (a) No house bill  
7 that is local as defined by Section 10(c) of this rule and that  
8 appears on a local, consent, and resolutions calendar shall be  
9 considered for any purpose after the 130th day of a regular session,  
10 except to:

- 11                   (1) act on senate amendments;
- 12                   (2) adopt a conference committee report;
- 13                   (3) reconsider the bill to make corrections; or
- 14                   (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of  
15 the governor.

16           (b) No other house bill or joint resolution shall be  
17 considered on its second reading after the 122nd day of a regular  
18 session if it appears on a daily or supplemental daily house  
19 calendar, or for any purpose after the 123rd day of a regular  
20 session, except to:

- 21                   (1) act on senate amendments;
- 22                   (2) adopt a conference committee report;
- 23                   (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to make  
24 corrections; or
- 25                   (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of  
26 the governor.

27           (c) No senate bill or joint resolution shall be considered

1 on its second reading after the 134th day of a regular session if it  
2 appears on a daily or supplemental daily house calendar, or for any  
3 purpose after the 135th day of a regular session, except to:

4 (1) adopt a conference committee report;

5 (2) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house  
6 amendments;

7 (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to make  
8 corrections; or

9 (4) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of  
10 the governor.

11 (d) The speaker shall not lay any bill or joint resolution  
12 before the house or permit a vote to be taken on its passage on the  
13 136th and 137th days of a regular session, except to:

14 (1) act on senate amendments;

15 (2) adopt a conference committee report;

16 (3) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house  
17 amendments;

18 (4) reconsider the bill or resolution to make  
19 corrections; or

20 (5) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of  
21 the governor.

22 (e) The speaker shall not lay any bill or joint resolution  
23 before the house or permit a vote to be taken on its passage on the  
24 138th and 139th days of a regular session, except to:

25 (1) adopt a conference committee report;

26 (2) reconsider the bill or resolution to remove house  
27 amendments;

1           (3) discharge house conferees and concur in senate  
2 amendments;

3           (4) reconsider the bill or resolution to make  
4 corrections; or

5           (5) pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of  
6 the governor.

7           (f) No vote shall be taken upon the passage of any bill or  
8 resolution within 24 hours of the final adjournment of a regular  
9 session unless it be to reconsider the bill or resolution to make  
10 corrections, or to adopt a corrective resolution.

11           (g) The clock of record for the house, as determined under  
12 Rule 2, Section 2, shall be used to determine compliance with  
13 deadlines and other time requirements of the Texas Constitution and  
14 these rules. A motion to suspend this rule must be decided by a  
15 record vote.

16           Sec. 14. DELIVERY PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION. (a) Each bill or  
17 resolution, except the general appropriations bill, shall be  
18 delivered to each member by making a copy of the bill or resolution  
19 available in an electronic format for viewing by the member and,  
20 when the electronic format copy of the appropriate printing becomes  
21 available, by sending notice of that fact to a Capitol e-mail  
22 address designated by the member, at least 36 hours if convened in  
23 regular session and 24 hours if convened in special session before  
24 the bill can be considered by the house on second reading. If a  
25 member informs the chief clerk in writing that the member desires to  
26 receive paper copies of bills and resolutions under this section in  
27 addition to delivery in an electronic format, the chief clerk shall

1 place a paper copy of the bill or resolution in the newspaper box of  
2 the member as soon as practicable after the electronic copies of the  
3 bill or resolution are made available for viewing.

4 (a-1) A printed copy of the general appropriations bill  
5 shall be placed in the newspaper mailbox of each member at least 168  
6 hours during a regular session and at least 72 hours during a  
7 special session before the bill can be considered by the house on  
8 second reading.

9 (b) By majority vote, the house may order both the original  
10 bill or resolution and the complete committee substitute to be  
11 printed. It shall not be necessary for the house to order complete  
12 committee substitutes printed in lieu of original bills.

13 (c) A two-thirds vote of the house is necessary to order  
14 that bills, other than local bills, be not printed. It shall not be  
15 necessary for the house to order that local bills be not printed.

16 Sec. 15. REQUIREMENT FOR THREE READINGS. A bill shall not  
17 have the force of law until it has been read on three several  
18 legislative days in each house and free discussion allowed, unless  
19 this provision is suspended by a vote of four-fifths of the members  
20 present and voting, a quorum being present. The yeas and nays shall  
21 be taken on the question of suspension and entered in the journal.

22 Sec. 16. CONSIDERATION SECTION BY SECTION. (a) During the  
23 consideration of any bill or resolution, the house may, by a  
24 majority vote, order the bill or resolution to be considered  
25 section by section, or department by department, until each section  
26 or department has been given separate consideration. If such a  
27 procedure is ordered, only amendments to the section or department

1 under consideration at that time shall be in order. However, after  
2 each section or department has been considered separately, the  
3 entire bill or resolution shall be open for amendment, subject to  
4 the provisions of Rule 11, Section 8(b). Once the consideration of  
5 a bill section by section or department by department has been  
6 ordered, it shall not be in order to move the previous question on  
7 the entire bill, to recommit it, to lay it on the table, or to  
8 postpone it, until each section or department has been given  
9 separate consideration or until the vote by which section by  
10 section consideration was ordered is reconsidered.

11 (b) A motion to consider a bill section by section is  
12 debatable within narrow limits; that is, the pros and cons of the  
13 proposed consideration can be debated but not the merits of the  
14 bill.

15 Sec. 17. PASSAGE TO ENGROSSMENT OR THIRD READING. After a  
16 bill or complete committee substitute for a bill has been taken up  
17 and read, amendments shall be in order. If no amendment is made, or  
18 if those proposed are disposed of, then the final question on its  
19 second reading shall be, in the case of a house bill, whether it  
20 shall be passed to engrossment, or, in the case of a senate bill,  
21 whether it shall pass to its third reading. All bills ordered  
22 passed to engrossment or passed to a third reading shall remain on  
23 the calendar on which placed, but with future priority over bills  
24 that have not passed second reading.

25 Sec. 18. CERTIFICATION OF FINAL PASSAGE. The chief clerk  
26 shall certify the final passage of each bill, noting on the bill the  
27 date of its passage, and the vote by which it passed, if by a yea and



1 nay vote.

2           Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATE.       Every law passed by the  
3 legislature, except the General Appropriations Act, shall take  
4 effect or go into force on the 91st day after the adjournment of the  
5 session at which it was enacted, unless the legislature provides  
6 for an earlier effective date by a vote of two-thirds of all the  
7 members elected to each house. The vote shall be taken by yeas and  
8 nays and entered in the journals.

9           Sec. 20. BILLS CONTAINING SAME SUBSTANCE AS DEFEATED BILL.  
10 After a bill or resolution has been considered and defeated by  
11 either house of the legislature, no bill or resolution containing  
12 the same substance shall be passed into law during the same session.

13           Sec. 21. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS INVOLVING STATE FUNDS. (a)  
14 In order to assure the continuation of financial support of  
15 existing state services through the passage of the general  
16 appropriations bill, it shall not be in order during the first 118  
17 days of the regular session for the speaker to lay before the house,  
18 prior to the consideration, passage, and certification by the  
19 comptroller of the general appropriations bill, any bill that  
20 directly or indirectly prevents from being available for purposes  
21 of funding state government generally any money that under existing  
22 law would otherwise be available for that purpose, including a bill  
23 that transfers or diverts money in the state treasury from the  
24 general revenue fund to another fund.

25           (b) In order to assure compliance with the limitation on  
26 appropriations of state tax revenue not dedicated by the  
27 constitution as provided by Article VIII, Section 22, of the Texas

1 Constitution, it is not in order for the speaker to lay before the  
2 house, prior to the time that the general appropriations bill has  
3 been finally passed and sent to the comptroller, any bill that  
4 appropriates funds from the state treasury that are not dedicated  
5 by the constitution.

6 (c) When bills subject to the provisions of Subsection (a)  
7 of this section become eligible for consideration, they shall be  
8 considered for passage under the rules of the house and the joint  
9 rules as any other bill but shall not be signed by the speaker as  
10 required by the Constitution of Texas and the rules of the house  
11 until the general appropriations bill has been signed by the  
12 presiding officers of both houses of the legislature and  
13 transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for certification  
14 as required by Article III, Section 49a, of the Constitution of  
15 Texas.

16 (d) All bills subject to the provisions of Subsection (a) of  
17 this section that have finally passed both houses shall be enrolled  
18 as required by the rules and transmitted to the speaker. The  
19 speaker shall note on each bill the date and hour of final  
20 legislative action and shall withhold his or her signature and any  
21 further action on all such bills until the general appropriations  
22 bill has been signed by the presiding officers of both houses and  
23 transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for  
24 certification. Immediately thereafter, the speaker shall sign in  
25 the presence of the house all bills on which further action was  
26 being withheld because the bills were subject to the provisions of  
27 this section. After being signed by the speaker, the bills shall

1 then be transmitted to the comptroller of public accounts for  
2 certification or to the governor, as the case may be, in the order  
3 in which final legislative action was taken. "Final legislative  
4 action," as that term is used in this subsection, shall mean the  
5 last act of either house meeting in general session necessary to  
6 place the bill in its final form preparatory to enrollment.

7 (e) Subsections (a)-(d) of this section shall not apply to  
8 any bills providing for:

- 9 (1) the payment of expenses of the legislature;
- 10 (2) the payment of judgments against the state;
- 11 (3) any emergency matter when requested by the  
12 governor in a formal message to the legislature; or
- 13 (4) the reduction of taxes.

14 (e-1) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a  
15 bill that prevents the deposit into the general revenue fund of  
16 money received from the federal government or earnings on that  
17 money if the bill does not prevent that money from being available  
18 for the purpose of funding state government generally to the same  
19 extent as under existing law.

20 (f) Unless within the authority of a resolution or  
21 resolutions adopted pursuant to Article VIII, Section 22(b), of the  
22 Texas Constitution, it is not in order for the house to consider for  
23 final passage on third reading, on motion to concur in senate  
24 amendments, or on motion to adopt a conference committee report, a  
25 bill appropriating funds from the state treasury in an amount that,  
26 when added to amounts previously appropriated by bills finally  
27 passed and sent or due to be sent to the comptroller, would exceed

1 the limit on appropriations established under Chapter 316,  
2 Government Code.

3 (g) The general appropriations bill shall be reported to the  
4 house by the Committee on Appropriations not later than the 90th  
5 calendar day of the regular session. Should the Committee on  
6 Appropriations fail to report by the deadline, Subsections (a)-(d)  
7 of this section shall be suspended for the balance of that regular  
8 session.



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 filing a  
3 resolution with the chief clerk in the manner and in an electronic  
4 or other format specified by the chief clerk, who shall number and  
5 record house resolutions in one series and concurrent resolutions  
6 in a separate series.

7           Sec. 2. REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE. (a) After numbering and  
8 recording, all resolutions shall be sent to the speaker for  
9 referral to the proper committee.

10           (b) Resolutions proposing the expenditure of money out of  
11 the contingent expense fund of the legislature shall be referred to  
12 the Committee on House Administration.

13           (c) All other resolutions shall be referred to the  
14 appropriate committee with jurisdiction.

15           Sec. 3. REFERRAL TO CALENDARS COMMITTEES. All resolutions  
16 on committee report, other than privileged resolutions, shall be  
17 referred immediately to the appropriate calendars committee for  
18 placement on the appropriate calendar.

19           Sec. 4. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION. Unless privileged,  
20 resolutions shall be considered by the house only at the time  
21 assigned for their consideration on the calendar, in accordance  
22 with the provisions of Rule 6, Section 7.

23           Sec. 4A. RECORD VOTE REQUIRED BY TEXAS CONSTITUTION. A vote  
24 on final passage of a resolution other than a resolution of a purely  
25 ceremonial or honorary nature must be by record vote with the vote  
26 of each member entered in the journal as required by Section 12(b),  
27 Article III, Texas Constitution.

1           Sec. 5. SIGNING BY GOVERNOR. Concurrent resolutions shall  
2 take the same course as house resolutions, except that they shall be  
3 sent to the governor for signing when finally passed by both houses.

4           Sec. 6. MASCOT RESOLUTIONS. (a) All candidates for the  
5 office of mascot shall be named in and elected by a single house  
6 resolution.

7           (b) Only children of house members who are under the age of  
8 12 years shall be eligible for election to the honorary office of  
9 mascot. A child once named a mascot shall not be eligible for the  
10 honor a second time.

11           (c) No separate classification or special title shall be  
12 given to any mascot, but all shall receive the same title of  
13 honorary mascot of the house of representatives.

14           (d) The speaker shall issue a certificate showing the  
15 election of each mascot and deliver it to the parent member of the  
16 child.

17           Pictures of mascots shall appear on the panel picture of the  
18 house.

19           Sec. 7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS DURING CALLED  
20 SESSIONS. The subject matter of house resolutions and concurrent  
21 resolutions does not have to be submitted by the governor in a  
22 called session before they can be considered.

23           Sec. 8. RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.  
24 Resolutions authorizing the enrolling clerk of the house or senate  
25 to make technical corrections to a measure that has been finally  
26 acted upon by both houses of the legislature shall be privileged in  
27 nature and need not be referred to committee. Such resolutions



1 shall be eligible for consideration by the house upon introduction  
2 in the house or receipt from the senate.

3       Sec. 9. AUTHOR'S SIGNATURE ON CONGRATULATORY OR MEMORIAL  
4 RESOLUTION. The enrolled printing of a house congratulatory or  
5 memorial resolution shall include a place for the signature of the  
6 primary author of the resolution. The chief clerk shall provide the  
7 primary author with the opportunity to sign the resolution after  
8 the resolution is enrolled. The absence of the primary author's  
9 signature does not affect the validity of the resolution as adopted  
10 by the house.

RULE 11. AMENDMENTS

1  
2           Sec. 1. ACCEPTABLE MOTIONS TO AMEND.       When a bill,  
3 resolution, motion, or proposition is under consideration, a motion  
4 to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order. It  
5 shall also be in order to offer a further amendment by way of a  
6 substitute.   Such a substitute may not be amended.   If the  
7 substitute is adopted, the question shall then be on the amendment  
8 as substituted, and under this condition an amendment is not in  
9 order.

10           Sec. 2. MOTIONS ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT OFFERED AS  
11 AMENDMENTS.   No motion or proposition on a subject different from  
12 the subject under consideration shall be admitted as an amendment  
13 or as a substitute for the motion or proposition under debate.  
14 "Proposition" as used in this section shall include a bill,  
15 resolution, joint resolution, or any other motion which is  
16 amendable.

17           Amendments pertaining to the organization, powers,  
18 regulation, and management of the agency, commission, or advisory  
19 committee under consideration are germane to bills extending state  
20 agencies, commissions, or advisory committees under the provisions  
21 of the Texas Sunset Act (Chapter 325, Government Code).

22           An amendment to a committee substitute laid before the house  
23 in lieu of an original bill is germane if each subject of the  
24 amendment is a subject that is included in the committee substitute  
25 or was included in the original bill.

26           Sec. 3. AMENDING A BILL TO CHANGE ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE.   No  
27 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. FILING AN AMENDMENT. (a) The chief clerk shall  
18 ensure that for an amendment other than a committee amendment,  
19 copies of each amendment are filed with the speaker as follows:

20                   (1) six copies of each amendment; and

21                   (2) four additional copies of each amendment that  
22 exceeds one page in length.

23           (b) The chief clerk may require the member offering the  
24 amendment to provide the number of copies required under Subsection  
25 (a) of this section. The chief clerk shall ensure that, as soon as  
26 practicable after being filed by the offering member, each  
27 amendment is made available on the floor amendment system, or the

1 system's successor in function, through which members of the house  
2 may view an electronic image of submitted amendments. When the  
3 amendment is read, two copies shall go to the chief clerk, one copy  
4 to the journal clerk, one copy to the reading clerk, and one copy to  
5 the speaker.

6 (c) The chief clerk shall retain one copy of each amendment  
7 filed with the speaker under this section whether or not the  
8 amendment was laid out by the speaker for consideration.

9 (d) If an amendment is required to be prefiled with the  
10 chief clerk pursuant to a rule for floor consideration proposed by  
11 the Committee on Calendars and adopted under Rule 6, Section 16(f),  
12 the amendment must be provided to the chief clerk, in a manner  
13 determined by the chief clerk under the direction of the Committee  
14 on House Administration, and available in the chief clerk's office  
15 in accordance with the Calendar Committee rule for floor  
16 consideration.

17 (e) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an  
18 original amendment that exceeds one page in length and that is in  
19 the form of a complete substitute for the bill or resolution laid  
20 before the house, or in the opinion of the speaker is a substantial  
21 substitute, unless the amendment has been provided to the chief  
22 clerk, in a manner determined by the chief clerk under the direction  
23 of the Committee on House Administration, and was available in the  
24 chief clerk's office at least 12 hours prior to the time the  
25 calendar on which the bill or resolution to be amended is eligible  
26 for consideration.

27 (f) An amendment may be typed, hand-printed, or

1 handwritten, but must be legible in order to be offered.

2 (g) The speaker shall not recognize a member to offer an  
3 original amendment to a bill on second reading if the bill extends  
4 an agency, commission, or advisory committee under the Texas Sunset  
5 Act unless the amendment has been provided to the chief clerk, in a  
6 manner determined by the chief clerk under the direction of the  
7 Committee on House Administration, and was available in the chief  
8 clerk's office at least 24 hours prior to the time the calendar on  
9 which the bill appears for second reading is first eligible for  
10 consideration.

11 (h) If the house is convened in regular session, the speaker  
12 shall not recognize a member to offer an original amendment to the  
13 general appropriations bill on second reading unless the amendment  
14 has been provided to the chief clerk, in a manner determined by the  
15 chief clerk under the direction of the Committee on House  
16 Administration, and was available in the chief clerk's office at  
17 least 72 hours prior to the time the calendar on which the general  
18 appropriations bill appears for second reading is first eligible  
19 for consideration.

20 (i) The Committee on House Administration shall ensure  
21 that:

22 (1) the floor amendment system through which members  
23 of the house may view an electronic image of current or past  
24 amendments, or the system's successor in function, is available to  
25 the public on the Internet;

26 (2) members of the public using the system available  
27 on the Internet may view the same information that members may view

1 at the same time that members may view the information; and

2 (3) members of the public using the system available  
3 on the Internet may view any amendment required to be provided to  
4 the chief clerk under Subsections (e), (g), and (h) of this section  
5 at least 10 hours prior to the time the calendar on which the bill or  
6 resolution to be amended is eligible for consideration.

7 (j) To the extent practicable, an amendment must include the  
8 page and line numbers of the text of the bill, resolution, or  
9 amendment being amended. Failure to comply with the requirements of  
10 this subsection is not subject to a point of order.

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

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

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

19 (A) original amendment;

20 (B) amendment to the amendment;

21 (C) substitute for the amendment to the  
22 amendment.

23 Recognition for the offering of original amendments shall be  
24 as follows: first, the main author; second, the member or members  
25 offering the committee amendment; and third, members offering other  
26 amendments from the floor;

27 (3) motions to amend an original bill by striking out

1 all after the enacting clause (substitute bills), which substitute  
2 bills shall be subject to amendment as follows:

- 3 (A) amendment to the substitute bill;
- 4 (B) substitute for the amendment to the  
5 substitute bill.

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

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

21 (4) motions to amend the caption of a bill or joint  
22 resolution, which may also be offered in accordance with Section  
23 9(a) of this rule.

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

27 (b) Matter inserted or stricken out of an original bill by

1 way of amendment may not be taken out or reinserted at a later time  
2 on the same reading except under the following conditions:

3 (1) reconsideration of the inserting or deleting  
4 amendment;

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

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

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

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

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

22 (1) to limit amendments to those pending before the  
23 house; or

24 (2) to limit amendments to those pending on the  
25 speaker's desk.

26 (b) The motion shall be put by the chair in this manner: "The  
27 motion has been seconded. Three minutes pro and con debate will be



1 allowed on the motion to limit amendments." As soon as the debate  
2 has ended, the chair shall continue: "As many as are in favor of  
3 limiting amendments on (here state on which question or questions)  
4 will say 'Aye,'" and then "As many as are opposed say 'Nay.'" As in  
5 all other propositions, a motion to limit amendments shall be  
6 decided by a record vote if demanded by any member. If ordered by a  
7 majority of the members voting, a quorum being present, the motion  
8 shall have the effect of confining further debate and consideration  
9 to those amendments included within the motion, and thereafter the  
10 chair will accept no more amendments to the proposition to which the  
11 motion is applied.

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

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

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

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

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

5           Sec. 13. CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS. When an  
6 amendment is adopted, such action shall be certified by the chief  
7 clerk on the amendment, and the official copy of the amendment shall  
8 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           (d) The requirement to provide a copy of a printing to each  
25 member may be accomplished by making a copy of the printing  
26 available in an electronic format for viewing by the member and,  
27 when the electronic format copy of the appropriate printing becomes

1 available, sending notice of that fact to a Capitol e-mail address  
2 designated by the member. If a member informs the chief clerk that  
3 the member also desires to receive a paper copy of printings at  
4 first, second, or third printing, the chief clerk shall place paper  
5 copies of those printings designated by the member in the newspaper  
6 box of the member as soon as practicable after the electronic copies  
7 of the printings are made available for viewing.

8 (e) The provisions of Subsection (d) of this section  
9 authorizing delivery of a printing by electronic means also apply  
10 to any fiscal note, impact statement, analysis, or other item  
11 required by these rules to be delivered or made available to each  
12 member as an attachment to or in connection with the applicable  
13 printing.

14 Sec. 2. LOCAL BILLS. Local bills shall not be reprinted  
15 after the first printing except when ordered printed by a majority  
16 vote of the house.

17 Sec. 3. CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS. A concurrent resolution  
18 shall be printed only if the resolution:

- 19 (1) grants permission to sue the state;
- 20 (2) memorializes Congress to take or to refrain from  
21 taking certain action;
- 22 (3) sets legislative policy or declares legislative  
23 intent;
- 24 (4) makes corrective changes in any bill, joint  
25 resolution, or conference committee report;
- 26 (5) establishes or interprets policy for a state  
27 agency, department, or political subdivision;

1           (6) establishes, modifies, or changes internal  
2 procedures or administration of the legislature or any component  
3 part thereof;

4           (7) proposes an amendment to the Joint Rules of the  
5 Senate and the House of Representatives; or

6           (8) is ordered printed by a majority vote of the house.

7           Sec. 4. HOUSE RESOLUTIONS. A house resolution shall be  
8 printed only if the resolution:

9           (1) proposes an amendment to the rules of the house;

10           (2) establishes, modifies, or changes the internal  
11 procedures and administration of the house;

12           (3) establishes legislative policy or interprets  
13 legislative intent; or

14           (4) is ordered printed by a majority of the house.

15           Sec. 5. ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF COMPLIANCE WITH PRINTING  
16 REQUIREMENTS. Except for matter to be printed in the journal, all  
17 requirements contained in the rules with respect to the printing of  
18 bills, resolutions, reports, and other matters shall be considered  
19 complied with if the material is adequately and properly reproduced  
20 by any acceptable means of reproduction.

1           RULE 13. INTERACTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SENATE

2                           CHAPTER A. MESSAGES

3           Sec. 1. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR.       Messages and  
4 communications from the governor shall be received when announced,  
5 and shall be read on the calendar day received.

6           Sec. 2. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE. (a) All messages from  
7 the senate shall be received when announced. Senate bills  
8 announced as passed shall be read for the first time and referred to  
9 the appropriate committee as soon as practicable.

10          (b) Messages from the senate announcing amendments to house  
11 bills and resolutions, nonconcurrence in house amendments to senate  
12 bills and resolutions, requests for conference committees, reports  
13 of conference committees, and all other matters of disagreement,  
14 amendments, and requests between the two houses, shall go to the  
15 speaker's desk in their regular order, but may be called up for  
16 action by the house at any time as a privileged matter, yielding  
17 only to a motion to adjourn.

18                           CHAPTER B. SENATE AMENDMENTS

19          Sec. 3. HOUSE ACTION ON SENATE AMENDMENTS. When a bill,  
20 resolution, or other matter is returned to the house with senate  
21 amendments, the house may:

- 22                   (1) agree to the amendments; or  
23                   (2) disagree to all of the amendments and ask for a  
24 conference committee; or  
25                   (3) agree to one or more of the amendments and disagree  
26 as to the remainder and request a conference committee to consider  
27 those in disagreement; or

1           (4) agree to one or more and disagree as to the  
2 remainder; or

3           (5) disagree to all amendments.

4           Sec. 4. ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS FOR BILLS WITH  
5 IMMEDIATE EFFECT. If a bill is to go into immediate effect, senate  
6 amendments thereto must be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the  
7 elected membership of the house.

8           Sec. 5. PRINTING SENATE AMENDMENTS. (a) Senate amendments  
9 to house bills and resolutions must be printed and copies provided  
10 to the members at least 24 hours before any action can be taken  
11 thereon by the house during a regular or special session.

12           (b) When a house bill or joint resolution, other than the  
13 general appropriations bill, with senate amendments is returned to  
14 the house, the chief clerk shall request the Legislative Budget  
15 Board to prepare a fiscal note outlining the fiscal implications  
16 and probable cost of the measure as impacted by the senate  
17 amendments. A copy of the fiscal note shall be distributed with the  
18 senate amendments on their printing before any action can be taken  
19 on the senate amendments by the house.

20           (c) When a house bill or joint resolution, other than the  
21 general appropriations bill, with senate amendments is returned to  
22 the house, the chief clerk shall request the Texas Legislative  
23 Council to prepare an analysis that describes the substantive  
24 changes made to the house version of the bill by the senate  
25 amendments. A copy of the council's analysis of senate amendments  
26 shall be provided to the members electronically or as a printed copy  
27 at least 12 hours before action is taken on the senate amendments by



1 the house. The Texas Legislative Council shall make all reasonable  
2 efforts to timely provide the analysis in as accurate a form as time  
3 allows. However, an unavoidable inability to provide the analysis  
4 or an inadvertent error in the analysis is not subject to a point of  
5 order.

6 (d) When a house bill or joint resolution for which a tax  
7 equity note was required under Rule 4, Section 34(b)(5), is  
8 returned to the house with senate amendments, the chief clerk shall  
9 request the Legislative Budget Board to prepare a tax equity note  
10 estimating the general effects of the senate amendments on the  
11 distribution of tax and fee burdens among individuals and  
12 businesses. A copy of the updated tax equity note shall be made  
13 available to each member, in some format, before any vote on the  
14 floor can be taken on the senate amendments by the house.

15 CHAPTER C. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

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

23 (b) A copy of the report signed by a majority of each  
24 committee of the conference must be furnished to each member of the  
25 committee in person or if unable to deliver in person by placing a  
26 copy in the member's newspaper mailbox at least one hour before the  
27 report is furnished to each member of the house under Section 10(a)

1 of this rule. The paper copies of the report submitted to the chief  
2 clerk under Section 10(b) of this rule must contain a certificate  
3 that the requirement of this subsection has been satisfied, and  
4 that certificate must be attached to the copy of the report  
5 furnished to each member under Section 10(d) of this rule. Failure  
6 to comply with this subsection is not subject to a point of order.

7       Sec. 7. MEETINGS. (a) House conferees when meeting with  
8 senate conferees to adjust differences shall meet in public and  
9 shall give a reasonable amount of notice of the meeting in the place  
10 designated for giving notice of meetings of house standing  
11 committees. Any such meeting shall be open to the news media. Any  
12 conference committee report adopted in private shall not be  
13 considered by the house.

14       (b) At a meeting of the conferees to adjust differences on  
15 the general appropriations bill, the chair of the house conferees  
16 may request the assistance of any house member who serves on the  
17 appropriations committee.

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

21       Sec. 9. LIMITATIONS ON JURISDICTION. (a) Conference  
22 committees shall limit their discussions and their actions solely  
23 to the matters in disagreement between the two houses. A conference  
24 committee shall have no authority with respect to any bill or  
25 resolution:

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

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

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

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

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

8           (b) Conference committees on appropriations bills, like  
9 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and  
10 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two  
11 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the  
12 rules, a conference committee on appropriations bills shall be  
13 strictly limited in its authority as follows:

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

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

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

25           (4) If an item of appropriation appears in one version  
26 of the bill and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted  
27 at the discretion of the conference committee. If the item is

1 included, the amount shall not exceed the sum specified in the  
2 version containing the item.

3 (5) If an item of appropriation appears in neither the  
4 house nor the senate version of the bill, the item must not be  
5 included in the conference committee report. However, the  
6 conference committee report may include appropriations for  
7 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed and  
8 sent to the governor and may include contingent appropriations for  
9 purposes or programs authorized by bills that have been passed by at  
10 least one house.

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

13 (c) Conference committees on tax bills, like other  
14 conference committees, shall limit their discussions and their  
15 actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two  
16 houses. In addition to the limitations contained elsewhere in the  
17 rules, a conference committee on a tax bill shall be strictly  
18 limited in its authority as follows:

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

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

25 (3) If a tax item appears in both house and senate  
26 versions of the bill but at differing rates, no change can be made  
27 in the item, but the rate shall be at the discretion of the

1 conference committee, provided that the rate shall not exceed the  
2 higher version and shall not be less than the lower version.

3 (4) If a tax item appears in one version of the bill  
4 and not in the other, the item can be included or omitted at the  
5 discretion of the conference committee. If the item is included,  
6 the rate shall not exceed the rate specified in the version  
7 containing the item.

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

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

13 (d) Conference committees on reapportionment bills, to the  
14 extent possible, shall limit their discussions and their actions to  
15 the matters in disagreement between the two houses. Since the  
16 adjustment of one district in a reapportionment bill will  
17 inevitably affect other districts, the strict rule of construction  
18 imposed on other conference committees must be relaxed somewhat  
19 when reapportionment bills are involved. Accordingly, the  
20 following authority and limitations shall apply only to conference  
21 committees on reapportionment bills:

22 (1) If the matters in disagreement affect only certain  
23 districts, and other districts are identical in both house and  
24 senate versions of the bill, the conference committee shall make  
25 adjustments only in those districts whose rearrangement is  
26 essential to the effective resolving of the matters in  
27 disagreement. All other districts shall remain unchanged.

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

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

10          (e) Conference committees on recodification bills, like  
11 other conference committees, shall limit their discussions and  
12 their actions solely to the matters in disagreement between the two  
13 houses. The comprehensive and complicated nature of recodification  
14 bills makes necessary the relaxing of the strict rule of  
15 construction imposed on other conference committees only to the  
16 following extent:

17           (1) If it develops in conference committee that  
18 material has been inadvertently included in both house and senate  
19 versions which properly has no place in the recodification, that  
20 material may be omitted from the conference committee report, if by  
21 that omission the existing statute is not repealed, altered, or  
22 amended.

23           (2) If it develops in conference committee that  
24 material has been inadvertently omitted from both the house and  
25 senate versions which properly should be included if the  
26 recodification is to achieve its purpose of being all-inclusive of  
27 the statutes being recodified, that material may be added to the

1 conference committee report, if by the addition the existing  
2 statute is merely restated without substantive change in existing  
3 law.

4 (f) Limitations imposed on certain conference committees by  
5 the provisions of this section may be suspended in part by  
6 permission of the house to allow consideration of and action on a  
7 specific matter or matters which otherwise would be prohibited.  
8 Permission shall be granted only by resolution passed by majority  
9 vote of the house. All such resolutions shall be privileged in  
10 nature and need not be referred to a committee. The introduction of  
11 such a resolution shall be announced from the house floor and the  
12 resolution shall be eligible for consideration by the house:

13 (1) three hours after a copy of the resolution has been  
14 distributed to each member; or

15 (2) for a resolution suspending limitations on a  
16 conference committee considering the general appropriations bill,  
17 48 hours in a regular session and 24 hours in a special session  
18 after a copy of the resolution has been distributed to each member.

19 (g) The time at which the copies of such a resolution are  
20 distributed to the members shall be time-stamped on the originals  
21 of the resolution. The resolution shall specify in detail:

22 (1) the exact language of the matter or matters  
23 proposed to be considered;

24 (2) the specific limitation or limitations to be  
25 suspended;

26 (3) the specific action contemplated by the conference  
27 committee;

1           (4) except for a resolution suspending the limitations  
2 on the conferees for the general appropriations bill, the reasons  
3 that suspension of the limitations is being requested; and

4           (5) a fiscal note distributed with the resolution  
5 outlining the fiscal implications and probable cost of the items to  
6 be included in the conference committee report that would otherwise  
7 be prohibited but for the passage of the resolution.

8           (h) In the application of Subsection (g) of this section to  
9 appropriations bills, the resolution:

10           (1) need not include changes in amounts resulting from  
11 a proposed salary plan or changes in format that do not affect the  
12 amount of an appropriation or the method of finance of an  
13 appropriation, but shall include a general statement describing the  
14 salary plan or format change;

15           (2) need not include differences in language which do  
16 not affect the substance of the bill;

17           (3) if suspending a limitation imposed by Subsection  
18 (b)(2), (3), (4), or (5) of this section, must specify the amount by  
19 which the appropriation in the conference committee report is less  
20 than or greater than the amount permitted for that item of  
21 appropriation under Subsection (b) of this section; and

22           (4) shall be available in its entirety on the  
23 electronic legislative information system that is accessible by the  
24 general public.

25           (i) Permission granted by a resolution under Subsection (f)  
26 of this section shall suspend the limitations only for the matter or  
27 matters clearly specified in the resolution, and the action of the



1 conference committee shall be in conformity with the resolution.

2           Sec. 10. PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. (a) A  
3 conference committee report on the general appropriations bill must  
4 be printed and a copy furnished to each member as provided by Rule  
5 12, Section 1, at least 48 hours before action can be taken on the  
6 report by the house during a regular session or at least 24 hours  
7 before action can be taken by the house during a special session.  
8 All other conference committee reports must be printed and a copy  
9 furnished to each member as provided by Rule 12, Section 1, at least  
10 24 hours before action can be taken on the report by the house  
11 during a regular or special session.

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

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

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

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

21           (c) Before action can be taken by the house on a conference  
22 committee report on a bill or joint resolution, other than the  
23 general appropriations bill, a fiscal note outlining the fiscal  
24 implications and probable cost of the conference committee report  
25 shall be submitted to the chief clerk, and a copy of the fiscal note  
26 shall be distributed with the conference committee report on its  
27 printing.

1           (d) Before a vote on the floor can be taken by the house on a  
2 conference committee report on a bill or joint resolution for which  
3 a tax equity note was required under Rule 4, Section 34(b)(5), a tax  
4 equity note estimating the general effects of the conference  
5 committee report on the distribution of tax and fee burdens among  
6 individuals and businesses shall be submitted to the chief clerk,  
7 and a copy of the tax equity note shall be made available to each  
8 member.

9           Sec. 11. ANALYSIS OF REPORTS. (a) All reports of conference  
10 committees shall include an analysis showing wherein the report  
11 differs from the house and senate versions of the bill, resolution,  
12 or other matter in disagreement. The analysis of appropriations  
13 bills shall show in dollar amounts the differences between the  
14 conference committee report and the house and senate versions. No  
15 conference committee report shall be considered by the house unless  
16 such an analysis has been prepared and distributed to each member.

17           (b) The analysis shall to the extent practical indicate any  
18 instance wherein the conference committee in its report appears to  
19 have exceeded the limitations imposed on its jurisdiction by  
20 Section 9 of this rule. An analysis and the conference committee  
21 report in which the analysis is included are not subject to a point  
22 of order due to a failure to comply with this subsection or due to a  
23 mistake made in complying with this subsection.

24           Sec. 12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS. A conference committee  
25 report is not subject to amendment, but must be accepted or rejected  
26 in its entirety. While a conference committee report is pending, a  
27 motion to deal with individual amendments in disagreement is not in

1 order.

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

1                   RULE 14. GENERAL PROVISIONS

2           Sec. 1. WHEN RULES ARE SILENT. If the rules are silent or  
3 inexplicit on any question of order or parliamentary practice, the  
4 Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States  
5 Congress, and its practice as reflected in published precedents,  
6 and Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall be considered as  
7 authority.

8           Sec. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES. (a) Amendments to the  
9 rules of the house shall be proposed by house resolutions which  
10 shall be referred at once, without debate, to the Committee on House  
11 Administration for study and recommendation.

12           (b) A resolution proposing an amendment to the rules shall  
13 not be considered by the house until a printed copy of the  
14 resolution has been provided to each member of the house at least 48  
15 hours before consideration.

16           (c) Amendments to the rules shall require a majority vote of  
17 the house for adoption.

18           Sec. 3. MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES. A motion to suspend  
19 the rules shall be in order at any time, except when motions to  
20 adjourn or recess are pending, even when the house is operating  
21 under the previous question. A motion to "suspend all rules" shall  
22 be sufficient to suspend every rule under which the house is  
23 operating for a particular purpose except the provisions of the  
24 constitution and the joint rules of the two houses. If the rules  
25 have been suspended on a main motion for a given purpose, no other  
26 motion to suspend the rules on a main motion shall be in order until  
27 the original purpose has been accomplished.

1           Sec. 4. NOTICE OF PENDING MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES. It  
2 shall not be in order to move to suspend the rules or the regular  
3 order of business to take up a measure out of its regular order, and  
4 the speaker shall not recognize anyone for either purpose, unless  
5 the speaker has announced to the house in session that the speaker  
6 would recognize a member for that purpose at least one hour before  
7 the member is so recognized to make the motion. In making the  
8 announcement to the house, the speaker shall advise the house of the  
9 member's name and the bill number, and this information, together  
10 with the time that the announcement was made, shall be entered in  
11 the journal. This rule may be suspended only by unanimous consent.

12           Sec. 5. VOTE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUSPENSION. A standing rule  
13 of the house may be suspended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds  
14 of the members present. However, if a rule contains a specific  
15 provision showing the vote by which that rule may be suspended, that  
16 vote shall be required for the suspension of the rule. The specific  
17 provision may not be suspended under the provisions of this  
18 section.

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

1                   RULE 15. APPROPRIATE WORKPLACE CONDUCT

2           Sec. 1. STATEMENT OF POLICY. (a) The house finds that:

3                   (1) a safe and professional environment in which each  
4 individual is treated with respect is essential for conducting the  
5 legislative business of Texas;

6                   (2) harassment based on an individual's  
7 characteristics and activity protected by law is inconsistent with  
8 the necessary safe and professional environment; and

9                   (3) there is a need for policies designed to prevent  
10 harassment and to appropriately address it if it occurs.

11           (b) The house declares that all forms of harassment  
12 prohibited by law (including harassment by the making of a  
13 complaint of harassment or discrimination or by participating in  
14 the investigation of a complaint) are against the policy of the  
15 house.

16           (c) Members, officers, and employees of the house are  
17 expected to promote public confidence in the integrity of the house  
18 by:

19                   (1) conducting themselves in a manner that is free of  
20 harassment in each setting related to the service of the member,  
21 officer, or employee; and

22                   (2) reporting any harassment in the workplace of which  
23 they have direct, personal knowledge.

24           (d) This rule is the policy on which the house relies for  
25 guidance in promoting appropriate workplace conduct. This rule is  
26 not intended to, and does not, create an independent cause of  
27 action, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity,

1 by any party against:

2 (1) the house or its officers, employees, or agents;

3 (2) the State of Texas or its departments, agencies,  
4 entities, officers, employees, or agents; or

5 (3) any other person.

RULE 16. SPECIAL RULE

CHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 1. PURPOSE; SCOPE; APPLICATION. (a) This rule is adopted to ensure that the house is able to carry out its legislative responsibilities under the Texas Constitution in the event of disruptions caused by actual or imminent threat of an emergency, including an epidemic or a pandemic.

(b) A section of this rule governs the procedure of the house and its committees only when the section is activated as provided by this rule.

(c) During the time a section of this rule is activated, the provisions of that section prevail over a provision of Rules 1 through 15 to the extent of any conflict between the provisions.

(d) This chapter is not subject to deactivation under Section 4 of this rule.

Sec. 2. [~~INITIAL~~] ACTIVATION AND [~~This rule is initially activated in its entirety upon adoption of the permanent rules of procedure of the House of Representatives for the 87th Legislature.~~]

[~~Sec. 3.~~] REACTIVATION. (a) A section of this rule may be activated only as provided by this section. A section of this rule that has been deactivated under this chapter may be reactivated only as provided by this section.

(b) Activation or reactivation [~~Reactivation~~] of a section of this rule may occur only if:

(1) a disaster has been declared and is currently in effect in this state as the result of a declaration by:

(A) the president of the United States under the



1 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
2 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.), as amended, or other law;

3 (B) the governor under Chapter 418, Government  
4 Code, or other law, including the Texas Constitution; or

5 (C) the governing body of a political subdivision  
6 under Chapter 418, Government Code, or other law, including the  
7 Texas Constitution; or

8 (2) a determination of a public health disaster has  
9 been made and is currently in effect under Chapter 81, Health and  
10 Safety Code, or other law by:

11 (A) the commissioner of state health services; or

12 (B) a local health authority.

13 (c) If the house is convened in regular or special session  
14 and at least one condition listed in Subsection (b) of this section  
15 has been met, the house may activate or reactivate one or more  
16 sections of this rule by resolution. A resolution proposed under  
17 this subsection is subject to the provisions of Rule 14, Section 2,  
18 and must:

19 (1) identify the section or sections proposed to be  
20 activated or reactivated; and

21 (2) cite the authorities relied on to determine that  
22 at least one condition listed in Subsection (b) of this section has  
23 been met.

24 (d) If the house is not convened in a regular or special  
25 session and at least one condition listed in Subsection (b) of this  
26 section has been met, the Committee on House Administration may  
27 activate or reactivate one or more sections of this rule only by a

1 vote of a majority of the membership of the committee in a meeting  
2 of the committee conducted in accordance with the rules. The notice  
3 of the committee meeting must identify the section or sections of  
4 this rule that are proposed to be activated or reactivated and cite  
5 the authorities relied on to determine that at least one condition  
6 listed in Subsection (b) of this section has been met. The minutes  
7 of the committee meeting must identify the section or sections of  
8 this rule that were activated or reactivated by the committee and  
9 cite the authorities relied on to determine that at least one  
10 condition listed in Subsection (b) of this section has been met.

11       Sec. 3 [4]. DEACTIVATION. (a) If the house is convened in a  
12 regular or special session, a section of this rule may be  
13 deactivated only by resolution. A resolution proposed under this  
14 subsection is subject to the provisions of Rule 14, Section 2, and  
15 must identify the section or sections of this rule to be  
16 deactivated.

17       (b) If the house is not convened in a regular or special  
18 session, the Committee on House Administration may deactivate one  
19 or more sections of this rule. A section of this rule may be  
20 deactivated only by a vote of a majority of the membership of the  
21 committee in a meeting of the committee conducted in accordance  
22 with the rules. The notice of the committee meeting must identify  
23 the section or sections of this rule that are proposed to be  
24 deactivated. The minutes of the committee meeting must identify  
25 the section or sections of this rule that were deactivated by the  
26 committee.

1           CHAPTER B. DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER

2           Sec. 4 [~~5~~]. A new Rule 1, Section 10A, relating to the  
3 designation of a temporary chair, shall read as follows:

4           Rule 1, Sec. 10A. DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE  
5 TEMPORARY CHAIR. (a) If the speaker and permanent  
6 speaker pro tempore are both unavailable for any  
7 reason, the chair of the Committee on State Affairs is  
8 authorized to convene the house and preside over its  
9 deliberations.

10           (b) At any time, the speaker may provide a  
11 written order to the chief clerk, with a copy to the  
12 journal clerk, naming those members, in priority  
13 order, authorized to call the house to order and  
14 preside if the speaker, permanent speaker pro tempore,  
15 and chair of the Committee on State Affairs are all  
16 absent or unable to preside. If the speaker, permanent  
17 speaker pro tempore, and chair of the Committee on  
18 State Affairs are all unavailable for any reason, and  
19 it becomes necessary for the house to convene pursuant  
20 to an adjournment, recess, or other provision of the  
21 constitution or other law, the chief clerk shall  
22 contact the members, in the order listed on the  
23 speaker's written order, until the chief clerk locates  
24 a member who is available to convene and preside over  
25 the deliberations of the house.

26           Sec. 5 [~~6~~]. Rule 1, Section 11, relating to emergency  
27 adjournment, shall read as follows:

1           Rule 1, Sec. 11. EMERGENCY ADJOURNMENT. In the  
2 event of an emergency of such compelling nature that  
3 the speaker must adjourn the house without fixing a  
4 date and hour of reconvening, the speaker shall have  
5 authority, subject to the provisions of Section 17,  
6 Article III, Texas Constitution, to determine the date  
7 and hour of reconvening and to notify the members of  
8 the house by any means the speaker considers adequate.  
9 Should the speaker be disabled or otherwise unable to  
10 exercise these emergency powers, the permanent speaker  
11 pro tempore, if one has been named, shall have  
12 authority to act. If there is no permanent speaker pro  
13 tempore, or if that officer is unable to act, authority  
14 shall be exercised by one of the following members, in  
15 the order listed below, who shall preside until the  
16 house can proceed to the selection of a temporary  
17 presiding officer to function until the speaker or the  
18 speaker pro tempore is again able to exercise the  
19 duties and responsibilities of the office:

20                   (1) the chair of the Committee on State  
21 Affairs; or

22                   (2) the first available member on the  
23 speaker's written order filed with the chief clerk  
24 under Section 10A of this rule.

25           Sec. 6 [7]. Rule 1, Section 12, relating to postponement of  
26 reconvening, shall read as follows:

27           Rule 1, Sec. 12. POSTPONEMENT OF RECONVENING.

1       When the house is not in session, if the speaker  
2       determines that it would be a hazard to the safety of  
3       the members, officers, employees, and others attending  
4       the legislature to reconvene at the time determined by  
5       the house at its last sitting, the speaker may clear  
6       the area of the capitol under the control of the house  
7       and, subject to the provisions of Section 17, Article  
8       III, Texas Constitution, postpone the reconvening of  
9       the house for a period of not more than three calendar  
10      days, not including Sundays. On making that  
11      determination, the speaker shall order the  
12      sergeant-at-arms to post an assistant at each first  
13      floor entrance to the capitol and other places and  
14      advise all persons entering of the determination and  
15      the time set for the house to reconvene. The speaker  
16      shall also notify the journal clerk and the news media  
17      of the action, and the action shall be entered in the  
18      house journal. If the speaker is unavailable or unable  
19      to act, the authority to postpone reconvening under  
20      this section may be exercised by one of the following  
21      members, in the order listed below:

22                   (1) the permanent speaker pro tempore;

23                   (2) the chair of the Committee on State  
24      Affairs; or

25                   (3) the first available member on the  
26      speaker's written order filed with the chief clerk  
27      under Section 10A of this rule.

1 CHAPTER C. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

2 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

3 CHAPTER D. ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

4 Sec. 7 [~~8~~]. A new Rule 4, Section 8A, relating to required  
5 face masks during committee meetings, shall read as follows:

6 Rule 4, Sec. 8A. FACE MASKS REQUIRED FOR  
7 COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Each person admitted to a meeting  
8 room for the purpose of participating in or attending a  
9 committee or subcommittee meeting is required to wear  
10 at all times a face mask that complies with the  
11 recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention. A member of the house or a witness may  
13 temporarily remove the person's face mask only while  
14 speaking from a microphone on the dais or the witness  
15 podium. An officer or employee of the house may  
16 temporarily remove the person's face mask only while  
17 speaking from a microphone or as directed by the chair.  
18 If the Committee on House Administration has installed  
19 clear barriers that comply with epidemiological best  
20 practices on the dais in a meeting room, a member,  
21 officer, or employee may remove the person's face mask  
22 when the person is protected by the barriers if other  
23 persons who are not protected by the barriers are at  
24 least six feet away from the member, officer, or  
25 employee.

26 Sec. 8 [~~9~~]. Rule 4, Section 11, and new Rule 4, Section 11A,  
27 relating to posting notice of committee meetings, shall read as

1 follows:

2           Rule 4, Sec. 11. POSTING NOTICE. (a) No  
3 committee or subcommittee, including a calendars  
4 committee, shall assemble for the purpose of a public  
5 hearing during a regular session unless notice of the  
6 hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules at  
7 least five calendar days in advance of the hearing. No  
8 committee or subcommittee, including a calendars  
9 committee, shall assemble for the purpose of a public  
10 hearing during a special session unless notice of the  
11 hearing has been posted in accordance with the rules at  
12 least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. The committee  
13 minutes shall reflect the date of each posting of  
14 notice. Notice shall not be required for a public  
15 hearing or a formal meeting on a senate bill which is  
16 substantially the same as a house bill that has  
17 previously been the subject of a duly posted public  
18 hearing by the committee.

19           (b) No committee or subcommittee, including a  
20 calendars committee, shall assemble for the purpose of  
21 a formal meeting or work session during a regular or  
22 special session unless written notice has been posted  
23 and transmitted to each member of the committee two  
24 hours in advance of the meeting or an announcement has  
25 been filed with the journal clerk and read by the  
26 reading clerk while the house is in session at least 30  
27 minutes in advance of the meeting.

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

6           Rule 4, Sec. 11A. CONTENTS OF NOTICE. In  
7 addition to other information required by the rules,  
8 the notice of a committee meeting must include:

9                   (1) instructions, or a link to  
10 instructions on the house's Internet website, related  
11 to public access to the meeting location and health and  
12 safety protocols for attending the meeting;

13                   (2) for a meeting that will be video  
14 broadcast under Section 12A of this rule, the link to  
15 that broadcast on the house's Internet website; and

16                   (3) for a public hearing, instructions, or  
17 a link to instructions on the house's Internet website,  
18 for individuals who wish to:

19                           (A) testify in person at the hearing;

20 or

21                           (B) electronically submit public  
22 comments without testifying.

23           Sec. 9 [~~10~~]. A new Rule 4, Section 12A, relating to public  
24 access to committee meetings, shall read as follows:

25           Rule 4, Sec. 12A. PUBLIC ACCESS TO COMMITTEE  
26 MEETINGS. The requirement for all meetings of a  
27 committee or subcommittee to be open to other members,



1 the press, and the public may be satisfied by video  
2 broadcasting the meeting in real time through the  
3 Internet. The video broadcast must be accessible from  
4 a link on the house's Internet website.

5 Sec. 10 [~~11~~]. A new Rule 4, Section 16A, relating to quorum  
6 requirements for taking testimony, shall read as follows:

7 Rule 4, Sec. 16A. QUORUM REQUIREMENTS FOR  
8 TAKING TESTIMONY. Two members of a committee shall  
9 constitute a quorum for the sole purpose of taking  
10 testimony during a public hearing. Any other  
11 committee member may participate in the public hearing  
12 through an Internet or other videoconferencing system  
13 if two-way communication has been enabled to allow all  
14 committee members to be clearly visible and audible to  
15 each other and clearly audible to the testifying  
16 witness.

17 Sec. 11 [~~12~~]. A new Rule 4, Section 20A, relating to invited  
18 testimony, and a new Rule 4, Section 20B, relating to public  
19 comments, shall read as follows:

20 Rule 4, Sec. 20A. INVITED TESTIMONY. When  
21 inviting witnesses to testify at a public hearing in  
22 the manner described by Section 20(g) of this rule, the  
23 chair of a committee or subcommittee shall make a  
24 reasonable effort to invite witnesses representing  
25 different viewpoints on the measures and other matters  
26 scheduled for a public hearing.

27 Rule 4, Sec. 20B. PUBLIC COMMENTS. For each

1 public hearing scheduled, the chair of the committee  
2 must allow persons domiciled in this state to  
3 electronically submit comments to the committee that  
4 relate to the measures or matters included on the  
5 notice for the public hearing. The Committee on House  
6 Administration shall establish a standard process for  
7 the electronic submission and posting of public  
8 comments submitted to house committees.

9 CHAPTER E. FLOOR PROCEDURE

10 Sec. 12 [~~13~~]. Rule 5, Sections 11 and 12, and new Rule 5,  
11 Section 20A, relating to admission privileges of accredited media,  
12 shall read as follows:

13 Rule 5, Sec. 11. PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE FLOOR.  
14 Only the following persons shall be entitled to the  
15 privileges of the floor of the house when the house is  
16 in session: members of the house; employees of the  
17 house when performing their official duties as  
18 determined by the Committee on House Administration;  
19 members of the senate; employees of the senate when  
20 performing their official duties; the Governor of  
21 Texas and the governor's chief of staff and director of  
22 legislative affairs; the lieutenant governor; the  
23 secretary of state; duly accredited media  
24 representatives only as permitted by Section 20(f) of  
25 this rule; contestants in election cases pending  
26 before the house; and immediate families of the  
27 members of the legislature on such special occasions

1 as may be determined by the Committee on House  
2 Administration.

3 Rule 5, Sec. 12. ADMITTANCE WITHIN THE RAILING.  
4 Only the following persons shall be admitted to the  
5 area on the floor of the house enclosed by the railing  
6 when the house is in session: members of the house;  
7 members of the senate; the governor; the lieutenant  
8 governor; officers and employees of the senate and  
9 house when those officers and employees are actually  
10 engaged in performing their official duties as  
11 determined by the Committee on House Administration;  
12 and spouses of members of the house on such occasions  
13 as may be determined by the Committee on House  
14 Administration.

15 Rule 5, Sec. 20A. MEDIA ACCESS TO HOUSE CHAMBER  
16 UNDER RULE 16. (a) When the house is in session, an  
17 accredited media representative:

18 (1) is entitled to admission to that  
19 portion of the gallery specifically designated for  
20 media representatives, subject to available seating;  
21 and

22 (2) is not entitled to admission to the  
23 floor of the house or allowed its privileges, except as  
24 permitted by Section 20(f) of this rule.

25 (b) A pass card issued under Section 20 of this  
26 rule must be presented to the sergeant-at-arms each  
27 time the media representative seeks admission to that

1 portion of the gallery specifically designated for  
2 media representatives. Media representatives  
3 admitted to that portion of the gallery specifically  
4 designated for media representatives pursuant to the  
5 provisions of this section shall work in seats  
6 designated by the Committee on House Administration  
7 for use by accredited media representatives.

8 Sec. 13 [~~14~~]. A new Rule 5, Section 19A, relating to face  
9 masks during floor sessions, shall read as follows:

10 Rule 5, Sec. 19A. FACE MASKS REQUIRED DURING  
11 FLOOR SESSIONS. Each person admitted to the house  
12 floor or gallery for the purpose of participating in,  
13 attending, providing support for, or observing house  
14 proceedings is required to wear at all times a face  
15 mask that complies with the recommendations of the  
16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A member  
17 of the house may temporarily remove the member's face  
18 mask only while speaking from the front or back  
19 microphone. An officer or employee of the house or  
20 senate may temporarily remove the person's face mask  
21 only while speaking from the front or back microphone  
22 or as directed by the presiding officer. The speaker,  
23 or a member presiding under Rule 1, may temporarily  
24 remove the person's face mask only while speaking from  
25 the microphone at the speaker's desk.

26 Sec. 14 [~~15~~]. Rule 5, Section 40, relating to recording  
27 votes on the voting machine, shall read as follows:

1           Rule 5, Sec. 40. RECORDING ALL VOTES ON VOTING  
2 MACHINE. On all votes, except viva voce votes,  
3 members shall record their votes on the voting machine  
4 and shall not be recognized by the chair to cast their  
5 votes from the floor or gallery. If a member attempts  
6 to vote from the floor or gallery, the speaker shall  
7 sustain a point of order directed against the member's  
8 so doing. This rule shall not be applicable to the  
9 mover or the principal opponent of the proposition  
10 being voted on nor to a member whose voting machine is  
11 out of order. If a member demands strict enforcement of  
12 this section, Section 47 of this rule shall not apply  
13 to the taking of a vote, and the house may discipline a  
14 member in violation of this rule pursuant to its  
15 inherent authority. As used in these rules, the term  
16 "voting machine" includes a device issued to a member  
17 by the Texas Legislative Council and configured to  
18 provide access to a secure website through which the  
19 member, when present in the house under Section 45 of  
20 this rule, may:

21                   (1) register        presence        during        a  
22 registration; or

23                   (2) cast a vote during a division or record  
24 vote.

25       Sec. 15 [~~16~~]. Rule 5, Section 45, relating to areas from  
26 which voting is allowed, shall read as follows:

27           Rule 5, Sec. 45. PRESENCE IN HOUSE REQUIRED IN

1 ORDER TO VOTE. A member must be on the floor of the  
2 house, in the house gallery, or in an adjacent room or  
3 hallway on the same level as the house floor or  
4 gallery, in order to vote.

5 CHAPTER F. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS

6 Sec. 16 [~~17~~]. Rule 6, Section 1, relating to the daily order  
7 of business, shall read as follows:

8 Rule 6, Sec. 1. DAILY ORDER OF BUSINESS. (a)  
9 When the house convenes on a new legislative day, the  
10 daily order of business shall be as follows:

11 (1) Call to order by speaker.

12 (2) Registration of members.

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

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

17 (5) Pledge of allegiance to the Texas  
18 flag.

19 (6) Excuses for absence of members and  
20 officers.

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

25 (8) Requests to print bills and other  
26 papers; requests of committees for further time to  
27 consider papers referred to them; and all other

1 routine motions and business not otherwise provided  
2 for, all of which shall be undebatable except that the  
3 mover and one opponent of the motion shall be allowed  
4 three minutes each.

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

16 (9) Unfinished business.

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

21 (11) Postponed matters to be laid before  
22 the house in accordance with Rule 7, Section 15.

23 (12) Second reading calendars of the  
24 house in their order of priority in accordance with  
25 Section 7 of this rule, unless a different order is  
26 determined under other provisions of these rules.

27 (13) First reading and reference to

1 committee of bills filed with the chief clerk; and  
2 motions to introduce bills, when such motions are  
3 required.

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

7 (1) Call to order by the speaker.

8 (2) Prayer.

9 (3) Pledge of allegiance to the United  
10 States flag.

11 (4) Pledge of allegiance to the Texas  
12 flag.

13 (5) Excuses for absence of members and  
14 officers.

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

22 The mover of a routine motion shall be allowed his  
23 or her choice of making the opening or the closing  
24 speech under this rule. If the house, under a  
25 suspension of the rules, extends the time of a member  
26 under this rule, such extensions shall be for three  
27 minutes. Subsidiary motions that are applicable to



1 routine motions shall be in order, but the makers of  
2 such subsidiary motions shall not be entitled to speak  
3 thereon in the routine motion period, nor shall the  
4 authors of the original routine motions be allowed any  
5 additional time because of subsidiary motions.

6 (7) Pending business.

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

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

15 CHAPTER G. MOTIONS

16 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

17 CHAPTER H. BILLS

18 Sec. 17 [~~18~~]. Rule 8, Section 14, relating to distribution  
19 of committee reports, shall read as follows:

20 Rule 8, Sec. 14. DELIVERY PRIOR TO  
21 CONSIDERATION. (a) Each bill or resolution, except  
22 the general appropriations bill, shall be delivered to  
23 each member by making a copy of the bill or resolution  
24 available in an electronic format for viewing by the  
25 member and, when the electronic format copy of the  
26 appropriate printing becomes available, by sending  
27 notice of that fact to a Capitol e-mail address

1 designated by the member, at least 36 hours if convened  
2 in regular session and 24 hours if convened in special  
3 session before the bill can be considered by the house  
4 on second reading. If a member informs the chief clerk  
5 in writing that the member desires to receive paper  
6 copies of bills and resolutions under this section in  
7 addition to delivery in an electronic format, the  
8 chief clerk shall place a paper copy of the bill or  
9 resolution in the newspaper box of the member as soon  
10 as practicable after the electronic copies of the bill  
11 or resolution are made available for viewing.

12 (a-1) At least 168 hours during a regular  
13 session and at least 72 hours during a special session  
14 before the general appropriations bill can be  
15 considered by the house on second reading:

16 (1) a copy of the bill must be made  
17 available to each member in an electronic format; and

18 (2) notice of availability of the  
19 electronic format of the bill must be sent to the  
20 Capitol e-mail address designated by each member under  
21 Subsection (a) of this section.

22 (a-2) A printed copy of the general  
23 appropriations bill shall be placed in the newspaper  
24 mailbox of each member as soon as practicable after the  
25 requirements of Subsection (a-1) of this section have  
26 been met.

27 (b) By majority vote, the house may order both

1 the original bill or resolution and the complete  
2 committee substitute to be printed. It shall not be  
3 necessary for the house to order complete committee  
4 substitutes printed in lieu of original bills.

5 (c) A two-thirds vote of the house is necessary  
6 to order that bills, other than local bills, be not  
7 printed. It shall not be necessary for the house to  
8 order that local bills be not printed.

9 CHAPTER I. JOINT RESOLUTIONS

10 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

11 CHAPTER J. HOUSE RESOLUTIONS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

12 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

13 CHAPTER K. AMENDMENTS

14 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

15 CHAPTER L. PRINTING

16 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

17 CHAPTER M. INTERACTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SENATE

18 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

19 CHAPTER N. GENERAL PROVISIONS

20 [RESERVED FOR EXPANSION]

Hunter  
Klick  
Landgraf

H.R. No. 4

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 4 was adopted by the House on January 11, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 123, Nays 19, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House