

**PERMANENT RULES OF THE SENATE**  
**88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE 2013-2014**

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1.1 **PERMANENT RULES OF THE SENATE**

1.2 **88TH LEGISLATURE (2013 - 2014)**

1.3 **1. PARLIAMENTARY REFERENCE**

1.4 The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure  
1.5 (1989 edition) govern the Senate in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are  
1.6 not inconsistent with these rules and orders of the Senate and the joint rules and orders of the  
1.7 Senate and House of Representatives.

1.8 **2. REPORTING OF BILLS**

1.9 Every bill, memorial, order, resolution or vote requiring the approval of the Governor must  
1.10 be reported to the Senate on three different days before its passage.

1.11 (a) The first report, called the first reading, is made when it has been received for introduction.

1.12 (b) The second report, called the second reading, is made when it has been considered by  
1.13 all the necessary standing committees and is ready for debate.

1.14 (c) The third report, called the third reading, is made when it is ready for final passage.

1.15 **3. BILL INTRODUCTION**

1.16 3.1 Bills, memorials, and concurrent or joint resolutions may be introduced by a member  
1.17 or by a standing committee.

1.18 3.2 The name of the author, authors, or committee must be written on the bill, memorial or  
1.19 resolution. The number of authors may not exceed five.

1.20 3.3 An original and two copies are required for introduction.

1.21 3.4 A member or a committee desiring to introduce a bill, memorial or concurrent or joint  
1.22 resolution shall deliver it to the office of the Secretary, and the Secretary shall promptly deliver  
1.23 all the bills, memorials or concurrent or joint resolutions to the President who shall present  
1.24 them to the Senate.

1.25 3.5 During the period between the last day of the session in any odd-numbered year and  
1.26 the first day of the session in the following year, a bill filed with the Secretary for introduction  
1.27 must be given a file number and may be unofficially referred by the President, with the approval  
1.28 of the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, to an appropriate standing committee  
1.29 of the Senate. All bills filed for introduction during this period must be presented to the Senate  
1.30 when it reconvenes and must be referred to the standing committees previously indicated by the  
1.31 President, subject to objection to the referral under Rule 4.10.

2.1 **4. BILL REFERRAL**

2.2 4.1 The President shall refer each bill without motion to the proper standing committee  
2.3 unless otherwise referred by the Senate.

2.4 4.2 A bill or resolution may not be referred to committee or amended until it has been  
2.5 given its first reading.

2.6 4.3 A member may not object to a bill or resolution on its introduction.

2.7 4.4 All bills appropriating money, or obligating the state to pay or expend money, or  
2.8 establishing a policy which to be effective will require expenditure of money, when referred to  
2.9 and reported by any other than the Committee on Finance, must be referred before passage to  
2.10 the Committee on Finance.

2.11 4.5 All bills delegating rulemaking to a department or agency of state government and all  
2.12 bills exempting a department or agency of state government from rulemaking, when referred to  
2.13 and reported by any other than the Committee on State and Local Government, must be referred  
2.14 before passage to the Committee on State and Local Government.

2.15 4.6 All bills creating a new commission, council, task force, board, or other body to  
2.16 which a member of the legislature will be appointed must be referred before passage both to the  
2.17 Committee on State and Local Government and to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.18 4.7 All bills authorizing or increasing a sentence of imprisonment to a state correctional  
2.19 institution must be referred before passage to the Committee on Judiciary.

2.20 4.8 All resolutions required to follow the same procedure as bills must be referred before  
2.21 passage to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.22 4.9 A bill introduced by a committee need not be referred to a standing committee unless a  
2.23 question arises. It must lie over one day before being given its second reading.

2.24 4.10 A member may question the reference of a bill during the order of business of first  
2.25 reading on the day of introduction. When a member questions the reference of a bill, the bill must  
2.26 be referred without debate to the Committee on Rules and Administration to report the proper  
2.27 reference. Upon adoption of the report of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the bill  
2.28 must be referred accordingly.

2.29 **5. RECALL FROM COMMITTEE**

2.30 5.1 With the concurrence of the chief author of the bill, before the deadline for committee  
2.31 action on a bill, a majority of the whole Senate may recall the bill from a committee and re-refer it  
2.32 to any other committee or place it on General Orders. After the committee deadline for action

3.1 on a bill, 41 affirmative votes of the whole Senate may recall the bill from any committee and  
3.2 re-refer it to any other committee or place it on General Orders.

3.3 5.2 By a report of the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted by the Senate, the  
3.4 Committee on Rules and Administration, on request of the chief author, may remove a bill from  
3.5 committee and re-refer it to any other committee or place it on General Orders.

## 3.6 **6. RESOLUTIONS**

3.7 6.1 Memorial resolutions addressed to the President or the Congress of the United States,  
3.8 or a house or member of Congress, or a department or officer of the United States, or a state or  
3.9 foreign government, joint resolutions, and resolutions requiring the signature of the Governor  
3.10 must follow the same procedure as bills before being adopted.

3.11 6.2 A resolution may not be changed to a bill, and a bill may not be changed to a resolution.

3.12 6.3 Upon the request of a member, a resolution not required to follow the same procedure  
3.13 as bills and not offered by the Committee on Rules and Administration must be referred to the  
3.14 Committee on Rules and Administration. If the resolution is not referred to the Committee  
3.15 on Rules and Administration, the resolution must lie over one calendar day without debate or  
3.16 other action, upon the request of a member.

## 3.17 **7. BUDGET TARGETS**

3.18 7.1 The Committees on Taxes and on Finance must hold hearings as necessary to determine  
3.19 state revenues and appropriations for the fiscal biennium.

3.20 7.2 Within 30 days after the last state general fund revenue and expenditure forecast for  
3.21 the next fiscal biennium becomes available during the regular session in the odd-numbered year,  
3.22 targets for the general fund budget must be publicly announced by the Chair of the Committee on  
3.23 Finance or the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration. Subsequent adjustments  
3.24 to the targets required under this rule shall be made by public announcement of the chair of  
3.25 the Committee on Rules and Administration.

3.26 7.3 The omnibus tax and appropriation bills are:

3.27 (1) the omnibus tax bill;

3.28 (2) the E-12 education appropriations bill;

3.29 (3) the higher education and workforce development appropriations bill;

3.30 (4) the health and human services appropriations bill;

3.31 (5) the environment, economic development and agriculture appropriations bill;

- 4.1 (6) the judiciary appropriations bill;
- 4.2 (7) the state departments and veterans appropriations bill;
- 4.3 (8) the transportation and public safety appropriations bill; and
- 4.4 (9) the omnibus capital investment bill.

4.5 An omnibus appropriation or tax bill may not be divided.

4.6 7.4 An amendment to an omnibus appropriation or tax bill that is a Senate file or an  
4.7 unofficial engrossment of a House file is out of order if it will:

4.8 (1) increase net appropriations from a fund for a fiscal biennium, without a corresponding  
4.9 increase in net revenue, compared to the bill as it was reported to the floor of the Senate;

4.10 (2) reduce net revenue to a fund for a fiscal biennium, without a corresponding reduction in  
4.11 net appropriations, compared to the bill as it was reported to the floor of the Senate;

4.12 (3) change appropriations, transfers, or revenues to an agency that was not in the bill as  
4.13 it was reported to the floor of the Senate; or

4.14 (4) create or increase the amount of a tax expenditure by reducing appropriations, transfers,  
4.15 or revenues to an agency that was not in the bill as it was reported to the floor of the Senate.

4.16 **8. CONFIRMATIONS**

4.17 8.1 Every gubernatorial appointment requiring the advice and consent of the Senate must  
4.18 be referred by the President to the appropriate committee. If a question arises as to the proper  
4.19 committee, the appointment must be referred without debate to the Committee on Rules and  
4.20 Administration for a report making the proper reference.

4.21 8.2 An appointment referred to committee and not reported to the Senate within 60  
4.22 legislative days after it was referred is withdrawn from committee and placed on the confirmation  
4.23 calendar for consideration by the Senate before adjournment of the regular session, unless the  
4.24 appointee's term has expired or the appointee is no longer serving.

4.25 8.3 The final question on the appointment is, "Will the Senate, having given its advice,  
4.26 now consent to this appointment?" The question must not be put the same day the appointment is  
4.27 received or on the day it is reported by committee except by unanimous consent. Confirmation of  
4.28 the appointment requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Senate.

4.29 **9. STANDING COMMITTEES**

4.30 The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

4.31 Capital Investment

- 5.1 Commerce
- 5.2 Education
- 5.3 Environment and Energy
- 5.4 Finance
- 5.5 Health, Human Services and Housing
- 5.6 Higher Education and Workforce Development
- 5.7 Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development
- 5.8 Judiciary
- 5.9 Rules and Administration
- 5.10 State and Local Government
- 5.11 Taxes
- 5.12 Transportation and Public Safety

5.13 **10. APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES**

5.14 10.1 The majority and minority groups must each be represented on all standing committees  
5.15 of the Senate substantially in proportion to their numbers in the Senate. The majority group shall  
5.16 assign the number of positions the minority group will hold on each committee and budget division.  
5.17 The minority group must be given adequate notice of its positions before the session begins.

5.18 10.2 Both the majority and minority groups shall appoint their own members to fill the  
5.19 number of positions each group will hold on each committee and budget division. The minority  
5.20 group shall transmit notice of its assignments to the majority group within 14 calendar days after  
5.21 receipt of the notice of positions available. The minority group may designate a ranking member  
5.22 for each committee. Nothing prohibits a member of the minority group from serving as chair or  
5.23 vice chair of a committee, subcommittee, division, or commission. If the minority group for any  
5.24 reason fails to make its appointments pursuant to this rule, the majority group may make all the  
5.25 committee and budget division assignments.

5.26 10.3 The majority and minority committee assignments are subject to the uniform criteria  
5.27 governing committee assignments applicable to both the majority and minority groups. The  
5.28 uniform criteria must be adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

5.29 10.4 The Senate resolution establishing representation on all Senate standing committees  
5.30 must set forth committee assignments as made by the majority and minority groups.

5.31 10.5 A member may not serve as the chair of the same standing committee or the same  
5.32 division of a standing committee, or a committee with substantially the same jurisdiction, for  
5.33 more than three consecutive Senate terms. This limit does not apply to the Committee on Rules  
5.34 and Administration.

6.1 10.6 After the organization of the Senate and after consultation with and the approval of  
6.2 the minority leader, the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration may add members  
6.3 to or delete members from a standing committee or division.

## 6.4 **11. APPOINTMENTS BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

6.5 11.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration may constitute a standing Subcommittee  
6.6 on Committees, the report of which within its jurisdiction has the effect of a report of the  
6.7 Committee on Rules and Administration. The subcommittee consists of at least five members,  
6.8 including members of the minority group substantially in proportion to their number in the Senate.

6.9 11.2 Unless otherwise provided, the Subcommittee on Committees shall appoint all  
6.10 members of commissions or other bodies authorized to be appointed by the Senate and report the  
6.11 appointments to the Senate.

## 6.12 **12. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

6.13 12.1 All meetings of the Senate, its committees, committee divisions, and subcommittees  
6.14 are open to the public. A meeting of a caucus of the members of any of those bodies from the same  
6.15 political party need not be open to the public. A caucus of the Hennepin county, Ramsey county,  
6.16 or St. Louis county delegation is open to the public. For purposes of this rule, a meeting occurs  
6.17 when a quorum is present and action is taken regarding a matter within the jurisdiction of the body.

6.18 12.2 Any person may submit to the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration  
6.19 a complaint that members have violated the open meeting requirements of Minnesota Statutes,  
6.20 section 3.055. The complaint must be in writing. The Chair of the Committee on Rules and  
6.21 Administration shall immediately forward the complaint in writing to the Subcommittee on  
6.22 Ethical Conduct without disclosing the identity of the complainant. The complaint must not be  
6.23 further disclosed without the consent of the complainant, except to the members against whom  
6.24 the complaint was made, unless the complaint was made by a member of the Senate in writing  
6.25 under oath, in which case the investigatory procedures of Rule 55 apply.

6.26 12.3 To the extent practical, a committee, subcommittee, or division shall announce each  
6.27 meeting to the public at least three calendar days before convening. The notice must state the  
6.28 name of the committee, subcommittee, or division, the bill or bills to be considered, and the place  
6.29 and time of meeting. A bill may not be considered on the day it was introduced. The notice must  
6.30 be posted on the Senate's Web site and on all Senate bulletin boards in the Capitol and the State  
6.31 Office Building. A notice must be sent to the House of Representatives for posting as it deems  
6.32 necessary. If the three-day notice requirement cannot be met, the committee, subcommittee, or  
6.33 division shall give simultaneous notice to all of the known proponents and opponents of the  
6.34 bill as soon as practicable.



7.1 12.4 A Senate committee, subcommittee, or division shall adjourn no later than midnight  
7.2 each day, unless two-thirds of the members present vote to suspend this requirement.

7.3 12.5 Committees, subcommittees, and divisions may not meet while the Senate is in  
7.4 session without permission of the Senate. The names of the members excused shall be printed  
7.5 in the Journal.

7.6 12.6 A majority of its members constitutes a quorum of a committee, subcommittee,  
7.7 or division.

7.8 12.7 Each standing committee of the Senate, including a subcommittee or division of the  
7.9 committee, may at any time sit and act, investigate and take testimony on any matter within its  
7.10 jurisdiction, report hearings held by it, and make expenditures as authorized by the Committee on  
7.11 Rules and Administration.

7.12 12.8 A standing committee, but not a subcommittee or division, may require by subpoena  
7.13 or otherwise the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of correspondence,  
7.14 books, papers, and documents, in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.153.

7.15 12.9 Upon the request of a member of a committee, subcommittee, or division to which a  
7.16 bill has been referred, or upon the request of the chief author of the bill, a record must be made of  
7.17 the vote on the bill or any amendment in the committee, subcommittee, or division.

7.18 12.10 Upon request of three members of the committee before the vote is taken, the record  
7.19 of a roll call vote in a standing committee must accompany the committee report and be printed  
7.20 in the Journal.

7.21 12.11 A committee report may only be based on action taken at a regular or special meeting  
7.22 of the committee. A report in violation of this rule is out of order.

7.23 12.12 No Senate committee, division, or subcommittee shall permit any appointed officer  
7.24 or employee of the executive branch, registered lobbyist, or lobbyist principal to be seated at  
7.25 the committee table with members of the Senate during an official meeting of a committee of  
7.26 the Senate.

7.27 **13. HOUR OF CONVENING**

7.28 If the Senate adjourns without setting a time to reconvene, the Senate shall convene on the  
7.29 next legislative day at 11:00 a.m.

7.30 **14. PRESIDENT**

7.31 14.1 The President shall take the chair at the time to which the Senate adjourned. The  
7.32 President shall immediately call the members to order and, on the appearance of a quorum, shall  
7.33 proceed with the regular order of business.

8.1 14.2 The President may call a member to preside. In the absence of the President, the  
8.2 President Pro Tem, the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, or the Chair's  
8.3 designee, shall preside over the Senate. In the absence of the President and the Chair, the Senate  
8.4 may select a member to perform the duties of the President. Substitutions do not extend beyond  
8.5 adjournment.

8.6 14.3 The President shall preserve order and decorum, may speak on points of order in  
8.7 preference to members, and shall also decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the  
8.8 Senate by a member.

8.9 14.4 An appeal is decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. Upon an appeal  
8.10 from the decision of the President, the question is, "Shall the decision of the President be the  
8.11 judgment of the Senate?"

8.12 14.5 The President shall sign all acts, memorials, addresses and resolutions. All writs,  
8.13 warrants, and subpoenas issued by the Senate must be signed by the President and attested by the  
8.14 Secretary.

8.15 14.6 Upon a finding by the Committee on Rules and Administration that the President  
8.16 refuses or is unable to sign any of the documents described in this rule, the Chair of the Committee  
8.17 on Rules and Administration, or some other member selected by the committee, shall assume the  
8.18 duties of the President under this rule until the President is able to sign the documents described  
8.19 or until the Senate elects a new President, whichever occurs first.

## 8.20 **15. ADMISSION TO SENATE CHAMBER**

8.21 15.1 The Senate Chamber is reserved for Senate use.

8.22 15.2 A person may not be admitted to the Senate Chamber except as provided in these rules.  
8.23 A member, an officer, the constitutional officers, ex-Governors of the State of Minnesota, members  
8.24 of the House, judges of the trial and appellate courts and members of Congress may be admitted.

8.25 15.3 Past members of Congress or of the state legislature who are not interested in any  
8.26 claim or directly in a bill pending before the legislature may be personally admitted by a member  
8.27 of the Senate.

8.28 15.4 An employee of either house may be admitted at the request of a member or an  
8.29 officer of the Senate.

8.30 15.5 A member of another state, provincial, or national legislative body may be admitted  
8.31 to the floor by any member of the Senate. A member of another legislative body who is admitted  
8.32 to the floor may be introduced to the Senate by the President.

9.1 15.6 The President may designate and personally admit the person who will provide the  
9.2 prayer and the person who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

9.3 15.7 When the Senate is not meeting, a person who is not a member may be admitted to the  
9.4 floor at the request of a member or an officer.

9.5 15.8 Public hearings may not be held in the Senate Chamber. The Senate Chamber may  
9.6 not be used for any commercial purpose.

9.7 15.9 The Retiring Room of the Senate is reserved for the exclusive use of the members of  
9.8 the Senate at all times. The Sergeant at Arms shall strictly enforce this rule.

9.9 15.10 When a member-elect is sworn in, the member-elect may request that one guest be  
9.10 admitted until the member-elect has been sworn in.

9.11 **16. CREDENTIALS FOR NEWS COVERAGE**

9.12 16.1 (a) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide a reasonable number of spaces on  
9.13 the Senate floor and in the Senate gallery for individuals and organizations with credentials  
9.14 and passes issued under this rule.

9.15 The Sergeant at Arms may not issue credentials or day passes under this rule to political  
9.16 organizations. For the purposes of this rule, "political organization" means an organization owned  
9.17 or controlled by a registered lobbyist, a political party, or any party organization.

9.18 (b) Due to the limited space available for organizations or individuals providing news  
9.19 coverage of the Senate, the Senate finds that there is a compelling public interest in limiting  
9.20 credentials issued under this rule to organizations or individuals who demonstrate that they  
9.21 provide regular news coverage of the legislature. For session credentials, an organization or  
9.22 individual must submit an application to the Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms must review  
9.23 the application and approve or reject it within 14 days after receipt. Upon the request of the  
9.24 Sergeant at Arms, an applicant for credentials must provide evidence of the applicant's activities  
9.25 in providing regular news coverage of the legislature. Evidence of regular news coverage must  
9.26 include examples of news coverage of legislative matters produced by the applicant. The  
9.27 examples must include written, video, or audio coverage written or recorded in the past year, and  
9.28 a description of how they were publicly distributed. Any opinion expressed in the examples is not  
9.29 subject to review under this rule at any time.

9.30 (c) If an application is rejected, the Sergeant at Arms must state the reason for the rejection  
9.31 in writing and notify the applicant, the Secretary of the Senate, the Majority Leader, and the  
9.32 Minority Leader in writing.

10.1 (d) An appeal of a denial of credentials must be made in writing to the Secretary of the  
10.2 Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. The Committee on Rules and  
10.3 Administration shall review and decide the appeal within 14 days after receiving a letter of appeal.

10.4 16.2 The Sergeant at Arms may grant day passes upon the request of a member or upon  
10.5 the request of an individual or organization who has not applied for credentials and who is not  
10.6 prohibited from receiving credentials under Rule 16.1, paragraph (a).

10.7 16.3 The Secretary shall compile and distribute to the public a directory of individuals  
10.8 and organizations who have been issued credentials under Rule 16.1 to provide news coverage  
10.9 from the Senate floor. The directory must include each individual's picture and organization  
10.10 and a brief biography.

10.11 16.4 The Secretary must issue each individual or organization with credentials an  
10.12 identification badge showing the individual's name and organization. The individual must wear  
10.13 the badge when in the Senate Chamber.

## 10.14 **17. DECORUM**

10.15 17.1 In case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct in the lobbies or galleries, the President  
10.16 may order them cleared.

10.17 17.2 A member may not introduce a visitor or visitors in the galleries from the floor or  
10.18 rostrum of the Senate.

10.19 17.3 Smoking is not permitted in the Senate Chamber or galleries, the Retiring Room,  
10.20 hearing rooms, offices, or other spaces under the control of the Senate.

10.21 17.4 During floor proceedings, picture taking by persons other than accredited news or  
10.22 legislative photographers, picture taking with floodlights or flash units, and visual or audible  
10.23 disruptions are prohibited. At all times, demonstrations and food or beverages are prohibited  
10.24 in the Senate Chamber and in the galleries.

10.25 17.5 Television recording or broadcasting on the Senate floor is under the direction of the  
10.26 Secretary.

## 10.27 **18. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

10.28 18.1 The order of business is as follows:

- 10.29 1. Petitions, letters, remonstrances.
- 10.30 2. Executive and official communications.
- 10.31 3. Messages from the House of Representatives.

- 11.1 4. First reading of House bills.
- 11.2 5. Reports of committees.
- 11.3 (a) From standing committees.
- 11.4 (b) From select committees.
- 11.5 6. Second reading of Senate bills.
- 11.6 7. Second reading of House bills.
- 11.7 8. Introduction and first reading of Senate bills.
- 11.8 9. Motions and Resolutions.
- 11.9 10. Calendar.
- 11.10 11. Consent Calendar.
- 11.11 12. General Orders.
- 11.12 13. Announcements of Senate interest.
- 11.13 18.2 Under the order of business of Motions and Resolutions, the Senate may by a majority
- 11.14 vote of the whole Senate temporarily revert or proceed to any other order of business.

11.15 **19. PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

11.16 19.1 In presenting a petition, memorial, remonstrance or other communication addressed

11.17 to the Senate, a member shall only state the general purpose of it.

11.18 19.2 Every petition, memorial, remonstrance, resolution, bill and report of committee, must

11.19 have an appropriate title, and the name of the member presenting it written on it.

11.20 19.3 Every written communication distributed to members in the Senate Chamber must

11.21 have the name of the member or officer distributing it displayed on it.

11.22 **20. MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE**

11.23 A message from the House of Representatives that a Senate bill has been amended, and the

11.24 amendment, must be printed and placed on the members' desks before a member may move to

11.25 concur in the House amendment. If the amendment has been printed in the House Journal for a

11.26 preceding day and is available to the members, the Journal copy may serve as the printed copy.

12.1 **21. OBJECTIONS TO COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

12.2 A member may question the proper reference of a bill at the time the bill is reported by a  
12.3 standing committee to which it was previously referred. When a member questions the reference  
12.4 of a bill, the bill must be referred without debate to the Committee on Rules and Administration  
12.5 to report the proper reference. Upon adoption of the report of the Committee on Rules and  
12.6 Administration, the bill must be referred accordingly.

12.7 **22. GENERAL ORDERS**

12.8 22.1 The Secretary shall make a list of all bills, resolutions, reports of committees, and  
12.9 other proceedings of the Senate that are referred to the Committee of the Whole and number  
12.10 them. The lists are called the "General Orders".

12.11 22.2 Items on General Orders may be taken up in the order in which they are numbered, as  
12.12 ordered by the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, or as otherwise ordered by a  
12.13 majority of the committee.

12.14 22.3 General Orders, together with all bills required to be included on it, must be  
12.15 electronically available or printed at least one calendar day before being considered in Committee  
12.16 of the Whole.

12.17 22.4 With the concurrence of the chief author of the bill, a majority of the whole Senate  
12.18 may at any time take a bill from the table and place it on General Orders.

12.19 **23. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

12.20 23.1 All bills, memorials, orders, resolutions and votes requiring the approval of the  
12.21 Governor must, after a second reading, be considered in Committee of the Whole before they are  
12.22 finally acted upon by the Senate, unless considered on the Consent Calendar or as a Special Order.

12.23 23.2 The President may call a member to the Chair when the Senate resolves itself into the  
12.24 Committee of the Whole.

12.25 23.3 The rules observed in the Senate govern, as far as practicable, the proceedings of the  
12.26 Committee of the Whole, and the Chair of the Committee of the Whole has the powers of the  
12.27 President, as appropriate. However, a member may speak more than twice on the same subject  
12.28 and a call for the previous question may not be made.

12.29 23.4 A member may request a roll call vote. The vote must be recorded in the Journal  
12.30 along with the amendment.

12.31 23.5 The recommendations of the Committee of the Whole must be reported to the Senate.  
12.32 The question is on the adoption or rejection of the report, and no other question may be admitted.  
12.33 The question may be divided to permit separate Senate action on the report as to any bill.

13.1 23.6 On adoption of the report of the Committee of the Whole, all bills recommended to  
13.2 pass must be placed on the Calendar.

13.3 **24. CALENDAR**

13.4 24.1 The Secretary shall make a Calendar of all bills, resolutions and other matters  
13.5 approved by the Committee of the Whole for final action. The Secretary shall place them on the  
13.6 Calendar in the order in which they have been acted upon in Committee of the Whole.

13.7 24.2 The Calendar must be electronically available or printed at least one calendar day  
13.8 before the matters on it are considered.

13.9 **25. CONSENT CALENDAR**

13.10 25.1 If a committee determines that a bill it recommends to pass is not likely to be opposed,  
13.11 the committee may recommend that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. If the committee  
13.12 report is adopted, the bill must be electronically available or printed and placed on the Consent  
13.13 Calendar after its second reading. On the question of adoption of the report, the question of  
13.14 accepting the recommendation that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar may be divided  
13.15 from the question of adopting the report in other respects.

13.16 25.2 A majority of the whole Senate, or the Chair of the Committee on Rules and  
13.17 Administration, may order a bill on General Orders placed on the Consent Calendar.

13.18 25.3 The Consent Calendar must be electronically available or printed at least one calendar  
13.19 day before the matters on it are considered.

13.20 25.4 If a member objects to consideration of a bill on the Consent Calendar at any time  
13.21 during its consideration in the Senate before the question on final passage is put, and that objection  
13.22 is supported by at least two other members, the bill is referred to the Committee of the Whole, and  
13.23 the Secretary shall place it at the bottom of General Orders subject to Rule 22.2, except that it  
13.24 need not lie over one calendar day before consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

13.25 **26. SPECIAL ORDERS**

13.26 26.1 The Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, or the Chair's designee,  
13.27 may designate a special order for a bill that has been given its second reading.

13.28 26.2 A special order may provide that the bill be considered immediately, at a time certain,  
13.29 or after specific other business is completed.

13.30 26.3 During consideration of a special order, Rule 36.5 is suspended.

13.31 26.4 As nearly as applicable, debate on the bill and all proceedings including amendments  
13.32 and substitutions must be conducted as in the Committee of the Whole.

14.1 26.5 On any question, a member may request a roll call vote, which must be entered  
14.2 in the Journal.

14.3 26.6 Unless it is otherwise disposed of, after consideration a bill on Special Orders must  
14.4 immediately proceed to its third reading and final passage.

14.5 **27. MOTIONS**

14.6 27.1 A motion or amendment must be written if a member requests. It must identify the  
14.7 member or committee offering it.

14.8 27.2 When a motion is made, it must be stated by the President. If it is in writing, it must  
14.9 be handed to the Secretary and read to the members.

14.10 27.3 After a motion is stated by the President, or read by the Secretary, it is in possession  
14.11 of the Senate, but may be withdrawn by the author at any time before decision or amendment.

14.12 **28. PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS**

14.13 28.1 When a question is under debate no motion may be made, except:

14.14 1. To adjourn.

14.15 2. To recess.

14.16 3. To reconsider.

14.17 4. To lay on the table.

14.18 5. For the previous question.

14.19 6. To refer.

14.20 7. To postpone to a day certain.

14.21 8. To amend.

14.22 9. To postpone indefinitely.

14.23 28.2 Motions numbered 1, 2, 4 and 5 above are not debatable.

14.24 28.3 These motions have precedence in the foregoing order; but when a motion for the  
14.25 previous question has been made, or the main question ordered, a motion to lay on the table  
14.26 is not in order.





16.1 31.2 On a motion for the previous question, a call of the Senate is in order before the  
16.2 President submits the question to the Senate.

16.3 31.3 On a motion for the previous question there is no debate. All incidental questions  
16.4 of order, arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending the motion, must  
16.5 be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

16.6 **32. MOTION TO REFER**

16.7 A bill or resolution may be referred to committee at any time before its passage. If an  
16.8 amendment is reported on the referral to any committee other than the Committee of the Whole, it  
16.9 must again be read the second time, considered in Committee of the Whole, read the third time and  
16.10 placed on final passage. If the referral is to the Committee of the Whole it must be placed at the  
16.11 head of General Orders, except when the referral is from the Consent Calendar under Rule 25.4.

16.12 **33. MOTION TO AMEND BILL OR RESOLUTION**

16.13 33.1 A motion to amend must be written if a member requests. It must identify the  
16.14 member offering it.

16.15 33.2 In drawing an amendment to a bill or resolution, reference must be made, first to  
16.16 the number of the bill, then to the page, and then to the line or lines where language is to be  
16.17 stricken or inserted.

16.18 33.3 In filling blanks, the largest sum, the longest time and the greatest distance must be  
16.19 first taken.

16.20 33.4 The title to a bill may be amended by the Secretary at any time the bill is amended  
16.21 by the Senate.

16.22 33.5 An amendment is not in order to a bill on the Calendar or after third reading without  
16.23 the unanimous consent of the Senate unless it:

16.24 (1) fills a blank;

16.25 (2) amends the title;

16.26 (3) is proposed to the chief author of the bill by the Revisor of Statutes to correct technical  
16.27 defects found by the Revisor while engrossing earlier amendments to the bill; or

16.28 (4) is proposed to a bill on the Consent Calendar before the bill is given its third reading.

16.29 **34. MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES**

16.30 34.1 A rule may be suspended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the whole Senate.



18.1 36.7 A member may not speak without using a microphone.

18.2 36.8 All remarks during debate shall be addressed to the President.

18.3 36.9 When the President puts a question, or addresses the Senate, no one may walk out of  
18.4 or cross the Chamber.

18.5 36.10 When a member is called to order, the member shall be silent until it is determined  
18.6 whether or not the member is in order. If a member is called to order for words spoken in debate,  
18.7 the words excepted to must be taken down in writing by the Secretary immediately.

18.8 36.11 Debate on the report of a conference committee is in order at any time after the  
18.9 report has been made available electronically or printed and placed on the desk of each member,  
18.10 or at an earlier time agreed to by a majority of the whole Senate.

### 18.11 **37. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS**

18.12 A member or officer of the Senate may not be absent from a session of the Senate unless  
18.13 excused by the Senate. The name of a member excused must be printed in the Journal.

### 18.14 **38. CALL OF THE SENATE**

18.15 38.1 A member may impose a call of the Senate requiring the attendance of all members  
18.16 before any further proceedings occur except a motion to adjourn.

18.17 38.2 Upon the imposition of a call, a member may request a record of those present and the  
18.18 Sergeant at Arms shall bring in the absent members.

18.19 38.3 When the Senate has been placed under call, a member may demand that the doors be  
18.20 closed and that no member be permitted to leave the Chamber until the matter or question, if any,  
18.21 under consideration at the time of the call is disposed of, or until the call is lifted by a majority of  
18.22 the whole Senate, or until the Senate adjourns.

18.23 38.4 A majority of the whole Senate may excuse members not answering the call.

18.24 38.5 A call may not be imposed after voting has commenced.

### 18.25 **39. DIVISION OF QUESTION**

18.26 39.1 A member may call for a division of the question when the division is possible.  
18.27 A motion to strike and insert is indivisible.

18.28 39.2 The defeat of a motion to strike does not preclude an amendment nor a motion to  
18.29 strike and insert.

19.1 **40. VOTING**

19.2 40.1 The President shall distinctly state the question before taking the vote. The President  
19.3 shall declare the result of the vote. If a member questions the result of a vote, the President  
19.4 shall order a division.

19.5 40.2 A member may vote on a question or be counted on a division only at the member's  
19.6 own seat in the Senate Chamber.

19.7 40.3 At any time before the start of voting on a question, a member may request a roll call  
19.8 vote, which must be entered in the Journal, unless at the time the request is made, the Senate is  
19.9 taking a roll call vote using the electrical voting system.

19.10 40.4 Unless otherwise ordered, a roll call vote, except upon elections, may be taken by  
19.11 means of the electrical voting system under the control of the President.

19.12 40.5 A roll call vote may not be interrupted except to close the roll as provided in Rule 41.3.

19.13 40.6 A member or other person may not proceed to or remain by the Secretary's desk while  
19.14 a roll call or division is being taken.

19.15 **41. MEMBERS TO VOTE UNLESS EXCUSED**

19.16 41.1 Every member who is in the Senate Chamber during a roll call, including in the  
19.17 Committee of the Whole, shall vote upon the request of another member unless excused by  
19.18 the Senate.

19.19 41.2 A motion by a member to be excused from voting must be made before the question is  
19.20 put. A member wishing to be excused from voting may make a brief statement of the reason for  
19.21 making the request. The question on the motion to excuse must be taken without further debate.

19.22 41.3 When members have had an opportunity to vote and fail to do so, a majority of the  
19.23 whole Senate may, by motion, direct the President to close the roll.

19.24 41.4 The vote on a motion to close the roll must be taken without debate. No member  
19.25 is required to vote on the motion.

19.26 **42. FINAL PASSAGE**

19.27 The final question on a bill or other matter requiring action by both Houses after its first and  
19.28 second reading, and after the consideration in Committee of the Whole, is on its final passage.

19.29 **43. TRANSMITTING BILLS TO THE HOUSE**

19.30 43.1 Except when a motion to reconsider has been made as provided in Rule 30,  
19.31 immediately after the passage of a bill or other matter in which the concurrence of the House of  
19.32 Representatives is requested, the Secretary shall transmit it to the House.

20.1 43.2 On the concurrence of a bill or other matter of the House by the Senate, or on the  
20.2 concurrence or disagreement in a vote of the House, the Secretary shall notify the House.

20.3 **44. ENGROSSING AND ENROLLING OF BILLS**

20.4 44.1 The Secretary and the Engrossing Secretary shall ensure that every bill, memorial, or  
20.5 resolution originating in the Senate is carefully engrossed before it is transmitted to the House  
20.6 of Representatives for concurrence.

20.7 All engrossing and enrolling of bills shall be done at the direction and under authority of  
20.8 the Senate.

20.9 44.2 The Secretary shall ensure that every bill, memorial, or resolution originating in the  
20.10 Senate is carefully enrolled by the Revisor of Statutes before it is presented to the Governor  
20.11 or filed with the Secretary of State.

20.12 **45. COMPARISON AND SUBSTITUTION OF BILLS**

20.13 45.1 A House bill, after its first reading, must be referred as follows, unless there is a  
20.14 motion by the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration or a designee of the Chair:

20.15 (a) If there is no Senate companion bill, the House bill must be referred to the appropriate  
20.16 standing committee, unless there is objection under Rule 4.10.

20.17 (b) If there is a Senate companion bill, the House bill must be referred to the standing  
20.18 committee possessing the Senate companion.

20.19 (c) If the Senate companion bill has been reported to the Senate, the House bill must be  
20.20 referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, which shall report whether the House bill  
20.21 is identical to the Senate companion bill. If the bills are identical, the report must recommend that  
20.22 the House bill be given its second reading and substituted for the Senate companion bill and the  
20.23 Senate companion bill be indefinitely postponed. If the House bill is not identical to the Senate  
20.24 companion bill, the report of the committee must recommend an amendment to the House bill  
20.25 that when adopted will render the House bill identical to the Senate bill. Upon adoption of a  
20.26 committee report containing the proposed amendment, the House bill as amended must be given  
20.27 its second reading and substituted for the Senate companion bill and the Senate companion  
20.28 bill must be indefinitely postponed.

20.29 45.2 The Secretary shall prepare and submit reports under this rule on behalf of the  
20.30 Committee on Rules and Administration.

20.31 45.3 A House bill placed on the Calendar by substitution must not be given its third reading  
20.32 on the same day as the substitution.

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**46. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

46.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration may constitute a standing Subcommittee on Conference Committees, the report of which within its jurisdiction has the effect of a report of the Committee on Rules and Administration. The subcommittee consists of three members, one of whom must be a member of the minority group.

46.2 The Subcommittee on Conference Committees shall appoint all conference committees of the Senate and report the appointments to the Senate. In the appointment of members of conference committees between the two houses, the Subcommittee on Conference Committees shall appoint those who are in accord with the position of the Senate. Whenever practical, the subcommittee shall give preference to authors of bills in dispute and to members of standing committees in which the bills were considered.

**47. DISPOSITION OF BILLS ON ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment of the regular session in an odd-numbered year to a date certain in the following year is equivalent to daily adjournment, except that a bill on the Calendar, Consent Calendar, General Orders, or table, other than a bill laid on the table after being vetoed by the governor or after its conference committee has been discharged under Joint Rule 3.02, must be returned to the standing committee other than the Committee on Rules and Administration from which it was last reported to the Senate, unless otherwise provided for by motion before adjournment.

**48. PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BILLS**

48.1 Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, all Senate bills that have been reported upon favorably or without recommendation by a committee must be electronically available or printed before consideration by the Senate or the Committee of the Whole.

48.2 A House bill amended by the Senate must be unofficially engrossed and electronically available or printed when placed on General Orders.

48.3 A bill may be electronically available or printed by order of the Secretary when amended after second reading.

48.4 A bill must be electronically available or printed when ordered by the Senate.

48.5 Action by the Senate on a bill that has not been printed is a waiver of the printing requirement.

48.6 To the extent practical, the Secretary shall provide a copy of any bill to the public and may charge a reasonable fee.

22.1

## **49. JOURNAL AND INDEX**

22.2           49.1 The Secretary shall keep a correct Journal of the proceedings of the Senate and shall  
22.3 perform other duties assigned to the Secretary.

22.4           49.2 The Secretary shall not permit Journal records, accounts or papers to be taken out of  
22.5 the Secretary's custody, other than in the regular mode of business. If a document in the Secretary's  
22.6 charge is missing, the Secretary shall report the fact to the President, so that inquiry may be made.

22.7           49.3 The Secretary shall supervise the recording of proceedings in the Journal, the  
22.8 engrossing, transcribing and copying of bills and resolutions, and generally perform the duties of  
22.9 Secretary, under direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

22.10          49.4 The Journal of each day's proceedings is open for correction at any time during the  
22.11 session of the next day the Senate meets. Unless corrected on that day, the Journal stands approved.

22.12          49.5 The Secretary shall keep a record of all Senate and House bills showing the status  
22.13 of each bill pending, until its final passage.

22.14

## **50. ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS**

22.15          50.1 The Secretary shall cause to be recorded on electronic media the proceedings of the  
22.16 Senate, the Committee of the Whole, and each standing committee, subcommittee, and division.  
22.17 Each electronic record must be clearly labeled to show the name of the body whose proceedings  
22.18 are recorded and the dates the proceedings occurred. Each electronic record of the proceedings of  
22.19 the Senate and the Committee of the Whole must be accompanied by a log showing the number of  
22.20 each bill considered and the places on the record where consideration of the bill occurred.

22.21          50.2 Within two working days after each Senate session, the Secretary shall make a copy  
22.22 of the electronic record and corresponding log of proceedings of the Senate and the Committee  
22.23 of the Whole available to the Legislative Reference Library.

22.24          50.3 Within one week after each meeting of a standing committee, subcommittee, or  
22.25 division, the Secretary shall make the electronic record of the meeting available to the Legislative  
22.26 Reference Library, together with an agenda showing bills considered and any action taken on them.

22.27          50.4 Upon completion and approval of the minutes of the meeting of a standing  
22.28 committee, subcommittee, or division, the Secretary shall ensure that the completed minutes of  
22.29 the meeting are made available to the public. By October 1st of each year, the Secretary shall  
22.30 deliver a copy of minutes for each meeting held in that calendar year before October 1st to  
22.31 the Legislative Reference Library.

22.32          50.5 The Secretary shall keep a record of each session of the Senate and the Committee  
22.33 of the Whole, each meeting of a Senate standing committee, subcommittee, or division and



23.1 the date on which the electronic record of the session or meeting was made available to the  
23.2 Legislative Reference Library. The Library shall keep a similar record of all electronic records  
23.3 to which it has been given access.

23.4 50.6 The Library shall provide committee staff with reasonable access to Senate electronic  
23.5 records and shall provide the public with convenient facilities to listen to them.

23.6 50.7 The Secretary shall make copies of Senate electronic records available to the public  
23.7 for a fee determined by the Secretary to be adequate to cover the cost of preparing the copies. A  
23.8 copy must be provided free to a member of the Senate upon request for use in legislative business.

23.9 50.8 The Secretary shall keep the original electronic record and log of each session of the  
23.10 Senate and the Committee of the Whole until the end of the period for which the members of the  
23.11 existing House of Representatives have been elected, at which time the electronic record may be  
23.12 preserved or disposed of as the Secretary sees fit. The Legislative Reference Library shall keep  
23.13 electronic records, logs, and minutes forwarded to it until two years after the end of the period  
23.14 for which the members of the existing Senate have been elected, at which time they may be  
23.15 preserved or disposed of as the Library sees fit.

23.16 50.9 The Senate intends that testimony and discussion preserved under this rule not be  
23.17 admissible in any court or administrative proceeding on an issue of legislative intent.

## 23.18 **51. OTHER DUTIES OF SECRETARY**

23.19 51.1 The Secretary shall not issue a certificate authorizing the payment of money by virtue  
23.20 of a motion or resolution, unless the motion or resolution is voted for by a majority of the whole  
23.21 Senate on a roll call vote.

23.22 51.2 The Secretary and the Engrossing Secretary shall correct all mistakes in numbering  
23.23 the sections and reference to them, whether the errors occur in the original bill or are caused  
23.24 by amendments to it.

23.25 51.3 The Secretary is the agent of the Senate for the purchase of supplies and services. The  
23.26 Secretary's records on purchase of supplies and services are open for inspection.

23.27 51.4 The Secretary shall adopt administrative controls to ensure that each member is  
23.28 accountable for the member's own long distance telephone calls and that Senate telephones  
23.29 are used only for Senate business.

23.30 51.5 By the 15th day of April, July, October, and January of each year, the Secretary shall  
23.31 submit a detailed report of Senate expenditures during the previous quarter to the Committee on  
23.32 Rules and Administration.

23.33 51.6 The Secretary's public records may be inspected during normal business hours.

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**52. SERGEANT AT ARMS**

- The Sergeant at Arms shall:
- (1) execute all orders of the President;
  - (2) perform all assigned duties connected with the police and good order of the Senate Chamber;
  - (3) exercise supervision over the entry and exit of all persons to and from the Chamber;
  - (4) see that messages are promptly delivered;
  - (5) see that the hall is properly ventilated and the temperature is properly regulated;
  - (6) see that the Chamber is open for the use of members of the Senate at least one-half hour before the start of a session; and
  - (7) perform all other services pertaining to the office of Sergeant.

**53. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES**

- 53.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration shall adopt an operating budget for the Senate and post it on the Senate Web site.
- 53.2 All propositions for the appointment and payment of employees of the Senate or for expenditures of the legislature, other than those provided by law, must be referred without debate to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

**54. EMPLOYEES**

- 54.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration shall establish positions, set compensation, appoint employees, and authorize expense reimbursement for employees as it deems necessary to carry out the work of the Senate. At the request of any committee member, an action of the committee must be submitted as a Senate resolution for adoption by the Senate.
- 54.2 The Secretary shall keep a roster of all employees of the Senate, including positions and compensation, which must be open for inspection by the public.
- 54.3 The Secretary shall post, in a public place in the Capitol or on the Senate Web site, a notice of every vacant position on the permanent staff of the Senate. The notice must remain posted for at least one week, and no vacancy may be filled until the period of posting has elapsed.
- 54.4 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Committee on Rules and Administration has full and exclusive authority over, and charge of all employees of the Senate both elected and appointed. The committee has the sole and exclusive power and authority to assign them to duties other than for which they were elected or appointed as the committee may provide.
- 54.5 The committee may make employment rules and regulations. In case of violation of an order of the committee by an employee, or in case of a violation of a rule or regulation made

25.1 by the committee, or in case of misconduct or omission by an employee, the Committee on Rules  
25.2 and Administration may hear complaints and discharge the employee or impose discipline, a fine,  
25.3 or other punishment upon the employee. The committee may, by a vote of a majority of the  
25.4 members of the committee, discuss an employee disciplinary proceeding under this rule in an  
25.5 executive session to which the open meeting requirements of Rules 12.1 to 12.3 do not apply.

25.6 54.6 The Secretary shall supervise the employees under the direction of the Committee on  
25.7 Rules and Administration.

## 25.8 **55. SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT**

25.9 55.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration shall appoint a Subcommittee on Ethical  
25.10 Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration consisting of four members, two from the  
25.11 majority group and two from the minority group.

25.12 55.2 The subcommittee shall serve in an advisory capacity to a member or employee upon  
25.13 written request and shall issue recommendations to the member or employee. A member may  
25.14 request the subcommittee to provide its advice on a potential conflict of interest to the member in  
25.15 private. If so requested, the subcommittee shall conduct its proceedings on the advisory opinion  
25.16 in private. The request, proceedings on the request, and any advice given by the subcommittee  
25.17 in response to the request must remain private. The member may not use an advisory opinion  
25.18 from the subcommittee as a defense to a complaint under this rule unless the opinion has been  
25.19 adopted by the subcommittee at a public meeting.

25.20 55.3 The subcommittee shall investigate a complaint made in writing by a member of the  
25.21 Senate under oath. The complaint must be received before adjournment sine die in the last year of  
25.22 a senate term or during a special session held after that time regarding improper conduct by a  
25.23 member or employee of the Senate. The subcommittee has the powers of a standing committee  
25.24 to issue subpoenas under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.153.

25.25 55.4 Within 30 calendar days after receiving a complaint, the subcommittee must meet and  
25.26 either make a finding of no probable cause, vote to defer action until a certain time, or proceed  
25.27 with its investigation.

25.28 55.5 In order to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that improper conduct  
25.29 has occurred, the subcommittee may, by a vote of three of its members, conduct a preliminary  
25.30 inquiry in executive session to which the open meeting requirements of Rules 12.1 to 12.3 do  
25.31 not apply. The executive session may be ordered by a vote of three of its members whenever  
25.32 the subcommittee determines that matters relating to probable cause are likely to be discussed.  
25.33 The executive session must be limited to matters relating to probable cause. Upon a finding of  
25.34 probable cause, further proceedings on the complaint are open to the public.



