

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Recommended jointly by the Committees on Rules
of the House and Senate

RULE 2. The presiding officer of the house during the first regular session presides during [AT THE CONVENING OF] the second regular session or any special session and administers the oath to any new members. In the absence of the regular presiding officer, the majority leader of the house serving ex officio as presiding officer pro tempore shall preside; except that, without absenting himself from the body, the regular presiding officer may temporarily relinquish the chair to any member for a portion or the balance of the daily calendar.

RULE 4. The presiding officer of each house has the duties set forth in Section 575, MASON'S MANUAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE, when not inconsistent with these uniform rules. (See Appendix A)

RULE 6. Temporary employees other than the Chief Clerk and Senate Secretary are employed only for the duration of the session and those pre-session and post-session periods authorized by AS 24.20.060(7). Temporary employees are subject to assignment and reassignment by their supervisor as the work of the house or the Legislature may require. They are subject to dismissal without notice if the Rules Committee finds them to have been intoxicated on the job, persistently absent without excuse, improperly performing duties, attempting to influence legislation, or otherwise for cause. Compensation for temporary employees is determined by statute and payment is made for each full day of seven hours, or, if less or more than one full day, at a proportionate rate according to the time report submitted by their supervisor. The sergeants-at-arms are paid at the statutory rate for each day of the session and for actual days or fractions of days worked before or after a session.

[Entirely rewritten]

RULE 18. A call of the house is used to compel attendance of absent members who have not been previously excused from a call by a majority of the membership of the house. A call of the house may be ordered by one member. When no quorum is present, the presiding officer of the house may compel the attendance of individual absent members. If a quorum is present when a call has been ordered, the house may continue to conduct business other than the measure under consideration at the time the call was ordered. However, any member may also order a call of the house as to any other measure placed before the house for consideration after the original call has been ordered. A call is terminated by arrival of the absent members not previously excused from a call, or by a majority vote of the members present on a motion made by the member ordering the call to dispense with further proceedings under the call, which shall have the effect of withdrawing the call, or by a majority vote to adjourn.

RULE 19. Item "j" (Communications) has been relocated to follow after "e" (Messages from the other house) rather than follow "i" (Unfinished business).

RULE 22. a. Each house has the following standing committees with the jurisdiction indicated:

COMMERCE (programs and activities of the Department of Commerce in the regulation of business).

FINANCE (all appropriation, revenue, capital improvement, and bonding measures, the executive budget, and the programs and activities of the Department of Revenue).

HEALTH, WELFARE, AND EDUCATION (the programs and activities of the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Education, and the University of Alaska).

JUDICIARY (the programs and activities of the Alaska Court System and the Department of Law, and the legal and substantive review of bills referred to it for that purpose).

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT (the programs and activities of the Department of Labor relating to labor-management relations, industrial safety, unemployment compensation, and workmen's compensation).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (the programs and activities of the Local Affairs Agency and other matters relating to political subdivisions).

RESOURCES (the programs and activities of the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources [THE COMMITTEE MAY CONSIST OF TWO SUBCOMMITTEES: FISH AND GAME FOR THE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME: AND RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES].)

RULES (interpretation of the Uniform Rules, calendar, and the internal administration of the house).

STATE AFFAIRS (programs and activities of the Office of the Governor and the Departments of Administration, Economic Development and Planning, Highways, Military Affairs, Public Safety, and Public Works).

b. The committee chairmen are authorized to form such subcommittees as they determine to be necessary.

RULE 23. The presiding officer of each house appoints all special committees and designates their chairmen unless otherwise ordered by the house. The chairmen of like committees of each house may arrange for the committees to meet jointly to receive testimony and deal with other matters which may be expedited by joint committee action. [THE LIKE COMMITTEES OF EACH HOUSE MEET

JOINTLY AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY AND DEAL WITH OTHER MATTERS WHICH MAY BE EXPEDITED BY JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION.]

RULE 24. The majority of members of any committee constitutes the quorum necessary to transact business, but a lesser number may carry on routine committee business after the initial convening if a majority of the committee consents in advance. The committee chairman or vice chairman shall preside at all meetings unless the chairman designates another member to act in the absence of the chairman or vice chairman at a particular meeting. In joint committee, a majority of the members of each house committee constitutes the quorum necessary to transact business; however, all other provisions of this rule with reference to regular committees shall pertain.

RULE 25. a. A committee acts on all bills referred to it and reports its actions and recommendations to the house as soon as practicable. Committee reports must be in writing and the report must be signed by a majority of the members of the committee. The report will note the recommendation of each member signing the report. [THE REPORT WILL NOTE THE RECOMMENDATION OF MEMBERS NOT SIGNING THE MAJORITY REPORT.]

[Entirely rewritten]

RULE 31. d. The motion for reconsideration made on the next legislative day shall automatically place the question to be reconsidered again before the body and open such question for debate. However, when a motion is made that the reconsideration be taken up on the same day the notice of reconsideration is given, the question to be reconsidered shall be placed separately from the motion for reconsideration. The motion for reconsideration has precedence over every other motion except a motion to

adjourn. The motion for reconsideration cancels the previous vote on the question to be reconsidered as completely as though it had never been taken. There may be but one reconsideration even though the action of the house after reconsideration is opposite from the action of the house before reconsideration.

RULE 36. No motion or proposition on a subject shall be admitted under color of amendment if the subject matter is different from that under consideration. No amendment may be considered by the house unless submitted in writing and read aloud by the clerk or secretary. Amendments offered by a committee shall be included in its written report and attached to the original bill. A bill in second reading is subject to amendment and is treated section by section. No amendment may be made to a bill in its third reading but the bill may be returned to second reading by a majority of the membership of the house for the purpose of specific amendment. A bill may be recommitted at any time before passage, after which the bill shall automatically be returned to third reading. A title may be amended in third reading or after passage by majority vote, but same must be accomplished before the measure acted upon has been enrolled. When amendments to the body of a bill affect the numbering of sections, or passage or failure of the effective date clause affects the title the clerk or secretary may accomplish the necessary changes without formal motion. Resolutions may be amended in the same manner as a bill. [WHEN AMENDMENTS TO THE BODY OF THE BILL AFFECT ITS TITLE OR THE NUMBERING OF SECTIONS, THE CLERK OR SECRETARY MAY EFFECT THE NECESSARY CHANGES WITHOUT FORMAL MOTION. RESOLUTIONS MAY BE AMENDED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A BILL.]

[Entirely rewritten]

RULE 37. a. Bills or proposals for bills may be prefilled with the executive director of the Legislative Council during the period between December 1 and January 15. All requests are confidential and are limited to bills and joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state or federal constitutions. Bills given final approval by the sponsor will be assigned a number and duplicated during the week prior to the convening date of the session and made available to the press. A member may request no more than 10 bills for prefiling. Drafts of prefilled bills not receiving sponsor approval by January 20 will not be introduced as prefilled bills but, at the direction of the sponsor, will be prepared in final form by the council staff, subject to the demands of assigned interim and pre-session work.

b. Prefiled bills are submitted to each house for formal introduction and first reading at the commencement of the first regular session on the day when the house is organized to the point where it has committees to receive bills, or on the first day of the second regular session. Prefiled bills are read and referred to committee in advance of other bills.

[Entirely rewritten]

RULE 45. No bill or resolution other than one sponsored by a standing committee may be introduced after the thirty-fifth day of the second regular session of the Legislature. No bill or resolution other than one sponsored by a standing committee may be received in the other house after the forty-fifth day of any regular session.

RULE 47. The Governor may veto a bill or by veto strike or reduce an item in an appropriation bill. He shall return the vetoed bill or the bill in which an appropriation item was

stricken or reduced with a statement of his objections to the house of origin. The receipt of the bill and veto statement are noted in the journal, and the other house is promptly requested to meet in joint session to reconsider passage of the vetoed bill or item. The vote on reconsideration of a vetoed bill or item is entered in the journal of both houses. Bills to raise revenue and appropriation bills or items, although vetoed, become law upon reconsideration by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the full membership of the Legislature sitting in joint session as one body. Other vetoed bills become law upon reconsideration by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the Legislature sitting in joint session as one body. (Secs. 15 and 16, Art. II, State Constitution) Bills vetoed after adjournment of the first regular session shall be reconsidered by the full membership of the Legislature sitting as one body not later than the fifth day after the second regular session or any intervening special session convenes.

[A new rule to be inserted after RULE 47, with all subsequent rules renumbered accordingly.]

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS

RULE 48. Appointments by the Governor are made pursuant to AS 39.05.080. Such appointments are subject to confirmation by a majority of the full membership of the Legislature sitting in joint session as one body. (Secs. 25 and 26, Art. III, State Constitution)

[Former RULE 50]

RULE 51. When a house deems it necessary to ask the other house to join it in a joint session other than for the purposes of considering an executive veto or executive appointments, a

message is sent to the other house setting forth the reason and proposed time of the joint session and asking its concurrence. The President of the Senate in the presence of the Speaker of the House presides over joint sessions, and the joint sessions are governed by the Uniform Rules.

[Former RULE 52]

RULE 53. The Uniform Rules of each Legislature shall be adopted in joint session by a majority vote of the membership of each house. Thereafter the Uniform Rules may be amended only by the adoption of a concurrent resolution by two-thirds of the membership of each house. [THE UNIFORM RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE SHALL BE ADOPTED IN JOINT SESSION BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADOPTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF EACH HOUSE.] When the rules are affected by constitutional and statutory changes, the Legislative Council will effect the necessary formal revision in the next printing of the rules and inform the Rules Committees of the changes made.