



1 1.5 "[Prime Sponsor](#)" shall be that senator whose signature first appears upon the bill.

2 1.6 "[President Pro Tempore](#)" is a member of the senate elected to that position, who  
3 presides over the senate in the absence of the president of the senate.

4 1.7 "[Deputy President Pro Tempore](#)" is a member of the senate appointed by the  
5 president of the senate, who may preside over the senate in the absence of the president of the  
6 senate and the president pro tempore.

7 1.8 "[Reading Clerk](#)" is the person elected to that position under provisions of section 22-  
8 3-2 of the general laws who shall, at the direction of the presiding officer, read to the chamber  
9 any communication to the senate, resolution, bill or other document and who shall, at the  
10 direction of the presiding officer, except as provided in section 4.4 hereof, date the bills and other  
11 documents before the senate, date recording thereon the action taken and/or the disposition  
12 thereof. The reading clerk also shall, at the direction of the senate, amend any bill and transmit  
13 any bill to the house of representatives and perform such other duties as may from time to time be  
14 prescribed by the president of the senate.

15 1.9 "[Secretary of the Senate](#)" is the person elected to that position under provisions of  
16 section 22-3-2 of the general laws who shall, at the direction of the presiding officer, record the  
17 proceedings of the senate in a journal, signing said journal as secretary of the senate, and who  
18 shall, upon their referral, deliver bills and other documents to their respective committees, hold  
19 and maintain in good order any bill assigned to the calendar or the consent calendar, and transmit  
20 any bill or document to the governor. The secretary of the senate also shall perform those duties  
21 prescribed in other sections hereof and those which may from time to time be prescribed by the  
22 president of the senate.

23 1.10 "[The Rise of the Senate](#)" occurs upon the conclusion of senate floor business and the  
24 exact time varies by the amount of business to be conducted on a particular legislative day.

25 1.11 "The Senate Chamber" or "Chamber" shall include the floor, the corridor behind  
26 the floor, the cloak room and the senate lounge.

27 1.12 "Calendar Day" is that period of 24 hours between 12:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.

28 1.13 "Vote" or "Majority Vote" as used herein shall mean a majority of members present  
29 and voting unless specifically stated otherwise.

30 [SECTION 2](#)

31 [PRESIDING OFFICER](#)

32 2.1 [Presiding Officer.](#)

33 The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer  
34 of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro

1 tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to  
2 temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the  
3 legislative day on which it is made. In case of a vacancy in the offices of president, president pro  
4 tempore and the deputy president pro tempore, or in case all said officers are absent at the hour to  
5 which the senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall  
6 preside until a president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.

#### 7 2.2 Duties of the Presiding Officer.

8 The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum in and about the senate chamber  
9 during the senate session in order to prevent interference with the senate's business and  
10 deliberations. The presiding officer may speak in preference to the senators, shall decide all  
11 questions of order without debate and shall declare all votes. The assignment of bills to  
12 committee shall be at the discretion of the president of the senate subject to rule 4.5; provided,  
13 however, that the president of the senate may delegate such authority to the majority leader of the  
14 senate.

#### 15 2.3 Appealing the Ruling of Presiding Officer.

16 Any senator may appeal the ruling of the presiding officer by rising as soon as the ruling  
17 is made, even though another has the floor and, without waiting to be recognized by the chair,  
18 stating, "I appeal the ruling of the chair," and upon such appeal being seconded, the presiding  
19 officer shall immediately and without debate put the question, "Shall the ruling of the chair be  
20 sustained?", which question shall be decided by majority vote of the senators present and voting.  
21 Once sustained, the ruling shall not be subject to another appeal on the same point.

### 22 SECTION 3

#### 23 ORDER OF BUSINESS ON THE SENATE FLOOR

#### 24 3.1 Commencement of Daily Session.

25 The presiding officer shall take the chair at the hour to which the senate shall have  
26 adjourned, call the senators to order, and record attendance by electronic roll call. A quorum shall  
27 consist of 20 members. Upon late arrival, at any time prior to the adjournment of the senate a  
28 senator may report his or her presence to the secretary of the senate who shall record the senator's  
29 attendance in the journal.

#### 30 3.2 Reading the Journal.

31 The reading clerk of the senate shall, at the commencement of the session of each  
32 legislative day, read the proceedings of the previous legislative day, unless such reading is  
33 dispensed with by a majority of the senators present and voting.

#### 34 3.3 Daily Business.



1 All bills introduced on behalf of any general officer, branch, department or division of  
2 state government shall be stamped on the face sheet thereof with the title of the general officer or  
3 the name of the branch, department or division on whose behalf the bill is introduced.

4 A prime sponsor may withdraw a bill or resolution previously introduced at any time  
5 prior to its consideration by a committee, upon written request to the secretary of the senate.

6 Other than the prime sponsor of a bill, a senator may elect in writing to the secretary of  
7 the senate to have his/her name disassociated from the bill and the secretary of the senate shall  
8 immediately notify the committee clerk to which the bill is assigned.

9 All bills shall be processed through legislative council.

#### 10 4.2 [Explanation of Bills.](#)

11 There shall be attached to each bill a brief explanation thereof and the explanation of  
12 such bill shall indicate the proposed changes, and/or the statute or existing law which such bill  
13 purports to amend.

#### 14 4.3 [Copies of Bills.](#)

15 Each bill introduced shall be accompanied by not less than eight (8) copies thereof, with  
16 said copies delivered by the secretary of the senate to the office of the president of the senate for  
17 subsequent distribution as determined by the president of the senate. Nothing in this section shall  
18 prevent a senator from obtaining a preliminary draft of legislation for his/her review prior to  
19 introduction.

#### 20 4.4 [Prefiling.](#)

21 A bill or resolution may be filed by delivery to the secretary of the senate at any time  
22 from November 15 to the day prior to the commencement of the annual session. The secretary of  
23 the senate shall order it printed by legislative council and make said bill or resolution available  
24 for first reading on the second legislative day of the succeeding session.

#### 25 4.5 [Filing with Secretary of the Senate.](#)

26 All senators desiring to introduce a bill shall file the bill with the secretary of the senate  
27 not later than the time at which the presiding officer calls the senate to order. The secretary of the  
28 senate shall transmit to the office of the president of the senate all bills on the legislative day of  
29 their introduction. On the day of introduction, the president shall, upon adjournment, assign bills  
30 to committee. The secretary of the senate shall cause all bills introduced to be published in the  
31 senate journal for that legislative day. Any senator may object to the committee assignment of  
32 any bill on the first or second legislative day following the bill's introduction. Upon objection  
33 being made, the presiding officer shall assign the bill to the committee requested by the senator  
34 making the objection; provided, however, that if another senator objects to any assignment or

1 proposed assignment of the bill, then the presiding officer shall call for a vote of the senate on  
2 any motion for assignment which has been made and seconded, such motion requiring a majority  
3 vote of those Senators present and voting for assignment to a particular committee. First reading  
4 of all such bills and resolutions shall be by acceptance of the bill and the committee assignment.

5 4.6 [Deadline for Introductions.](#)

6 No public bill shall be introduced in the senate after February 14, 2013 for the year 2013  
7 and February 13, 2014 for the year 2014, except by consent of a majority of the senators present  
8 and voting. Except as otherwise expressly directed by the president of the senate, all requests for  
9 the preparation of public bills shall be submitted to the offices of Legislative Council no later than  
10 the close of business on the Friday next preceding the bill-introduction deadline set forth herein.

11 4.7 [Omnibus Claims Against the State.](#)

12 Claims against the state in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less shall not  
13 be presented in bill or resolution form, but shall be submitted to the clerk of the joint committee  
14 on accounts and claims in writing upon a form approved by the chairperson of the joint  
15 committee on accounts and claims. Any claims approved by the joint committee shall be  
16 submitted in the form of an omnibus bill which will be placed upon the consent calendar.

17 4.8 [Resolutions of Congratulations and Condolences.](#)

18 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, all resolutions of congratulations or  
19 expressing sympathy or condolences except with respect to former and present members of the  
20 general assembly, general officers, members of the judiciary and elected state or federal officials,  
21 shall be placed on the consent calendar, unless otherwise ordered by the president of the senate.  
22 Said resolution of congratulations and condolences shall not require concurrent action; upon  
23 passage, shall be forthwith transmitted to the secretary of state, and an appropriate notice of the  
24 action of the senate thereon shall be forwarded, as requested in the resolution, by the secretary of  
25 state. One formal resolution may include all the expressions of sympathy or congratulations of the  
26 several senators.

27 4.9 [Enactment of Laws.](#)

28 The concurrence of the two houses in the same session shall be necessary for the  
29 enactment of all bills except for senate resolutions.

30 4.10 [Electronic Availability of Public Bills--Requirements.](#)

31 4.10-1 [Public Bills.](#)

32 No public bill shall be considered upon its merits unless it has been electronically  
33 available to the members at least two (2) calendar days prior to its consideration on the merits,  
34 except any public bill passed by the senate and amended by the house, provided that the amended

1 public bill shall be electronically available to the senators before consideration.

2 4.10-2 [Committee Amendments.](#)

3 Except by majority vote, no public bill amended in a committee of the senate shall be  
4 considered upon the senate floor unless it has been electronically available to the senators.

5 4.10-3 [Materially Altered Bills.](#)

6 Whenever a committee shall have determined to report a bill which has been materially  
7 altered by the committee, the committee chair shall forthwith provide for printing and electronic  
8 reproduction of the same. In the event that a bill is not deemed to have been materially altered,  
9 which determination shall be made by the committee chair, a bill shall be printed only upon the  
10 request of the president of the senate, the majority leader or the minority leader. Nothing in these  
11 rules shall preclude the committee chair, with a majority of the committee, to change an act to a  
12 resolution or a resolution to an act on a substitute bill.

13 4.11 [Copies of Bills and Voting Records.](#)

14 The secretary of the senate shall retain in the files of the senate as many copies of each  
15 bill as the secretary of the senate deems necessary and the voting records on each question.

16 4.12 [Requests for Funding of Community Service Objectives.](#)

17 Requests for the funding of community service objectives grants shall not be presented in  
18 bill or resolution form, but shall be submitted to the senate fiscal advisor in writing upon a form  
19 approved by the chairperson of the senate committee on finance.

20 4.13 [Death of a Member.](#)

21 In the event that any member or member-elect shall die after filing and before  
22 consideration by committee, the death of said member or member-elect shall constitute automatic  
23 withdrawal of said bill or resolution and automatic withdrawal of the number of said bill or  
24 resolution and said number shall not be used again during the legislative session; provided,  
25 however, that where a bill or resolution shall have had more than one sponsor, said bill or  
26 resolution and number shall not be withdrawn and the member whose name appears second on  
27 said bill or resolution shall become the prime sponsor.

28 4.14 [Limitation on Number of Bills Introduced.](#)

29 No Senator shall introduce more than twenty-five (25) public bills during the  
30 annual session except with the permission of the President of the Senate.

31 [SECTION 5](#)

32 [COMMITTEES](#)

33 5.1 [Standing Committees.](#)

34 The senate shall have the following standing committees:

- 1           Committee on Judiciary
- 2           Committee on Finance
- 3           Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
- 4           Committee on Labor
- 5           Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs
- 6           Committee on Health and Human Services
- 7           Committee on Education
- 8           Committee on Commerce
- 9           Committee on Environment and Agriculture
- 10          Committee on Government Oversight
- 11          Committee on Rules

12          5.1-1 [Committee on Judiciary.](#)

13           It shall be the duty of the committee on judiciary to consider the appointments of the  
14 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all  
15 legislation and matters which affect the penal code, judicial system, ethics, open meetings, access  
16 to public records and election laws of the state, to maintain oversight over the application,  
17 execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as  
18 may be referred to it by the senate. In the matters of judicial appointments and those public  
19 hearings designated by the committee chair, all testimony shall be under oath and preserved by  
20 stenographic record which shall be transcribed upon the order of the chair.

21          5.1-2 [Committee on Finance.](#)

22           It shall be the duty of the committee on finance to consider the appointments of the  
23 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all  
24 legislation and matters relative to revenue, appropriations and taxes, to inquire into the state of  
25 the public debt, to report from time to time its opinion thereon and such propositions relative  
26 thereto as it shall deem expedient, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and  
27 operation of the laws within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred  
28 to it by the senate. The chair of the committee shall be authorized to appoint as many sub-  
29 committees as he or she deems necessary, including, but not limited to, a sub-committee on  
30 veterans affairs.

31          5.1-3 [Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.](#)

32           It shall be the duty of the committee on housing and municipal government to consider  
33 the appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent  
34 of the senate and all legislation and matters affecting housing, municipal government,



1 transportation, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws  
2 within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

3 5.1-4 [Committee on Labor.](#)

4 It shall be the duty of the committee on labor to consider the appointments of the  
5 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all  
6 legislation and matters relating to the workers' compensation and labor laws of the state, to  
7 maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction  
8 and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

9 5.1-5 [Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs.](#)

10 It shall be the duty of the committee on special legislation and veterans' affairs to  
11 consider the appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice  
12 and consent of the senate and all legislation and matters relating to constitutional amendments,  
13 liquor laws, gaming issues, license plates, veterans' affairs, domestic animals, commissions and  
14 resolutions, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within  
15 its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

16 5.1-6 [Committee on Health and Human Services.](#)

17 It shall be the duty of the committee on health and human services to consider the  
18 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of  
19 the senate and to consider all reports of the departments of health, of human services, of mental  
20 health, retardation and hospitals, of children and their families, and of elderly affairs; to consider  
21 all legislation and matters expanding or defining further areas of responsibility of the foregoing  
22 and to consider all legislation and matters relative to public health and welfare; health care and  
23 human service access and quality; health and human service professional standards of practice,  
24 and facility standards of care; to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation  
25 of the laws within its jurisdiction; and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by  
26 the senate.

27 5.1-7 [Committee on Education.](#)

28 It shall be the duty of the committee on education to consider the appointments of the  
29 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all  
30 legislation and matters relating to student performance, governance, programming, teacher  
31 preparation and planning, as well as the work and operation of all state agencies regarding all  
32 levels of education, make findings, and recommend policy initiatives and other actions to the  
33 general assembly. The commission shall also exercise oversight in relation to the implementation  
34 of all legislation and grants of authority relating to all levels of public education in the state by all

1 agencies, state and local, charged and empowered by the general assembly in relating to all levels  
2 of public education, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the  
3 laws within its jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the  
4 senate.

5 5.1-8 [Committee on Commerce.](#)

6 It shall be the duty of the committee on commerce to consider the appointments of the  
7 governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of the senate and all  
8 legislation and matters relating to financial institutions, business regulation, property and casualty  
9 insurance, technology and telecommunications, for profit as well as not-for-profit business  
10 entities, to maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its  
11 jurisdiction and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

12 5.1-9 [Committee on Environment and Agriculture.](#)

13 It shall be the duty of the committee on environment and agriculture to consider the  
14 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of  
15 the senate and all legislation and matters relating to the conservation of the air, land, water, plant,  
16 animal, mineral and other natural resources of the state, and to adopt all means necessary and  
17 proper by law to protect the natural environment of the people of the state by providing adequate  
18 resource planning for the control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and  
19 for the preservation, regeneration, and restoration of the natural environment of the state, to  
20 maintain oversight over the application, execution and operation of the laws within its jurisdiction  
21 and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the senate.

22 5.1-10 [Committee on Government Oversight.](#)

23 It shall be the duty of the committee on government oversight to consider the  
24 appointments of the governor referred to it by the senate which require the advice and consent of  
25 the senate, and (1) to monitor and evaluate past, current and prospective performance of public  
26 bodies and statutory entities, including quasi-public agencies that exercise executive  
27 governmental functions (except public bodies and statutory entities of the legislative and judiciary  
28 branches of the state) and any other public or private person, including any agencies,  
29 partnerships, corporation or business entity insofar as such person is acting on behalf of and/or in  
30 place of any public agency; (2) to consider the organization, reorganization, creation or  
31 termination of such public bodies, statutory entities, including quasi-public agencies and public or  
32 private persons; (3) to review and consider the reports of the auditor general; (4) to report its  
33 opinion and/or recommendation of legislation or action regarding the foregoing matters; (5) to  
34 consider any bill referred to it by the senate, including, but not limited to any act, resolve,

1 resolution or petition; and (6) to consider such other matters that are referred to it by the senate.

2 5.1-11 [Committee on Rules.](#)

3 It shall be the duty of the committee on senate rules to consider all matters relating to the  
4 rules of the senate.

5 5.2 [Committee Membership.](#)

6 Each of the standing committees of the senate shall consist of the president of the senate,  
7 ex officio with voting rights, and the majority and minority leaders of the senate, ex officio, with  
8 voting rights, and senators appointed by the president of the senate, each to serve until January 6,  
9 2015. Provided, however, that the president of the senate may change the committee assignment  
10 of a member with the member's consent; and provided further, however, that each senator other  
11 than the president and the majority and minority leaders, shall serve as a member of one of the  
12 following standing committees: committee on housing and municipal government; committee on  
13 commerce; committee on finance; committee on the judiciary.

14 5.3 [Vacancies on Committees.](#)

15 All vacancies occurring in any committee of the senate shall be filled by the president of  
16 the senate.

17 5.4 [Officers of Committees.](#)

18 The president of the senate shall appoint from the membership of each committee a chair,  
19 vice chair and secretary and such other committee officers as the president of the senate deems  
20 appropriate.

21 5.5 [Select Committees.](#)

22 The senate may, from time to time, by resolution, provide for the establishment of select  
23 committees upon such subjects as it may deem proper, and upon the adoption of such resolution,  
24 the president of the senate shall appoint the chair and members thereof, and shall provide for  
25 minority party representation. Any committee created pursuant to this rule shall be deemed a  
26 standing committee for all purposes of law, including the applicability of section 22-6-2.1 of the  
27 general laws.

28 5.6 [Referral to Committee.](#)

29 No bill shall be considered or acted upon by the senate unless the same has been  
30 considered by, reported, or recalled from a committee thereof, or from a joint committee, except  
31 as otherwise provided in these rules. All acts seeking to vacate the forfeiture of a charter  
32 previously granted under the laws of this state shall not be referred to committee but rather  
33 directly assigned to the calendar.

34 5.7 [Committees of Conference.](#)



1 placed on the bulletin boards provided for such agenda. The rule shall not apply to bills  
2 previously passed by the senate and amended by the house. There shall be at least two (2) bulletin  
3 boards for such posting, at least one (1) of which shall be for the public's use and shall be under  
4 the control of and situated at the main entrance to the state library. There shall also be at least one  
5 (1) bulletin board for the exclusive use of the senators which shall be situated in a convenient  
6 location.

7 6.3 [Convening of Meeting.](#)

8 The chair of the committee or, in the chair's absence, the vice chair, shall call all regular  
9 sessions of the committee, set agenda and proceed with the order of business.

10 6.4 [Public Participation.](#)

11 6.4-1 [Open Meetings.](#)

12 Every standing committee meeting, except executive sessions, shall be open to the public  
13 during the consideration of all matters coming before it. At such open meetings, persons other  
14 than members of the committee may testify at the discretion of the committee chair.

15 6.4-2 [Executive Sessions.](#)

16 Any standing committee may be called into executive session by the chair or upon  
17 motion of one of the committee members if the matter under consideration is deemed by the chair  
18 to comply with those provisions of the "Open Meetings" law (chapter 42-46) which provides for  
19 closed meetings; provided, however, when the chair of any standing committee calls the  
20 committee into executive session, the majority of those members present in the executive session  
21 may vote not to meet in executive session after having heard the reasons for such executive  
22 session but no other votes shall be permitted in executive sessions. The chair of the committee  
23 which may be called into executive session shall provide a general description to the public of the  
24 reason for calling such committee into executive session.

25 6.4-3 [Public Hearings.](#)

26 In the discretion of the chair, public hearings may be advertised in newspapers,  
27 stenographic records kept and hearings held at locations other than the state house. The purpose  
28 of the public hearing shall be to solicit the comments of the public on the matter being  
29 considered. At the public hearing all persons shall be permitted to testify; provided, however, the  
30 committee chair may limit the amount of time allotted to speakers except that the prime sponsor  
31 shall not have a time limit to speak and shall upon request be the first speaker at the hearing.  
32 After the public hearing has been held for a reasonable period and if there are still persons  
33 wishing to speak, the committee chair may continue the hearing until another date.

34 6.5 [Hearing and Consideration of Bills.](#)

1 (a) Upon a written request by the prime sponsor of any public bill received by the  
2 secretary of the senate before the closing of the next legislative day after the deadline for  
3 introduction as specified in section 4.6 that a committee hearing be held with respect to such bill,  
4 the committee chair shall schedule a committee hearing within eight (8) legislative days of such  
5 request unless a later date is agreed to by the prime sponsor. "Received" as used herein shall  
6 mean receipt in hand by the secretary of the senate or his/her designee. The secretary shall note  
7 the date and time of receipt on the request and such notation shall be dispositive. On the same  
8 day, the sponsor shall hand deliver copies of the request to the president of the senate and to the  
9 committee chair or their designees. The committee shall consider said bill not more than eight (8)  
10 days after the committee hearing, unless a later date is agreed to by the prime sponsor. If the  
11 committee does not consider the bill then the committee shall be discharged of its responsibility  
12 to consider such bill and such bill shall be placed on the senate calendar pursuant to section 7.6  
13 hereof. Consideration by a committee shall mean any one of the following actions:  
14 recommendation of passage, recommendation of passage as amended, transfer to another  
15 committee, indefinite postponement, hold for further study or defeat of the bill.

16 (b) Provided further, the minority leader may request in writing within twenty-four (24)  
17 hours after the deadline for introductions specified in section 4.6 a hearing on any senate bill in  
18 committee.

19 (c) In the event a request is made pursuant to this rule at a time less than sixteen (16) days  
20 before the deadline for committee consideration set forth in section 6.9, then such request shall  
21 not be proper and shall be automatically denied.

#### 22 6.6 [Quorum.](#)

23 A committee shall not vote upon any bill in the absence of a quorum which shall consist  
24 of a majority of the committee's members; provided, however, that at the discretion of the chair,  
25 less than a quorum may conduct any hearing including public hearings.

#### 26 6.7 [Minority Representation.](#)

27 When there is no minority member present and the committee is to consider a bill, the  
28 committee chair shall notify the office of the minority leader that there is no senator from the  
29 minority present. Unless waived by the minority leader, the committee shall not conduct business  
30 for a reasonable time not to exceed 15 minutes or until a senator from the minority is present.  
31 Once a minority member is present, his subsequent absence will not require further notice to the  
32 minority leader.

#### 33 6.8 [Committee Votes.](#)

34 All votes in committee on public bills shall be a recorded roll call vote. The vote upon all

1 motions or bills not considered a "public bill" shall, upon the request of any member of the  
2 committee, be a recorded roll call vote. Otherwise all votes shall be put by yeas and nays.  
3 Committee chairs shall submit all bills approved by committee to the floor forthwith, with a  
4 record of the committee vote.

5 6.9 [Deadline for Consideration.](#)

6 After April 11, 2013 for the year 2013 and April 10, 2014 for the year 2014, committees  
7 shall consider only those public bills which have been acted upon and transmitted to the senate by  
8 the house of representatives; provided, however, that the president of the senate may request a  
9 senate committee to immediately consider a senate bill then in committee and said bill shall be  
10 considered by the committee.

11 6.10 [Discharge from Committee.](#)

12 No bill shall be taken or called from any such committee, or the committee discharged  
13 from the consideration thereof, except:

14 (a) Any senator may present a petition, in writing, to discharge a committee from further  
15 consideration of a bill which has been in the possession of the committee for thirty (30)  
16 legislative days without having been considered, but only one petition on a particular bill may be  
17 presented during the course of a session. Prior to presenting the petition, the senator must  
18 introduce a resolution of intent to discharge such committee. Such resolution of intent shall  
19 contain the bill number and the committee to be discharged. The presiding officer shall cause the  
20 resolution of intent to be printed in the journal of the senate. The petition shall be placed in the  
21 custody of the presiding officer who shall arrange some convenient place for the signatures of the  
22 senators to be placed thereon in the presence of the reading clerk during the hours in which the  
23 senate is in session. A signature may be withdrawn by a senator at any time before the petition  
24 shall become effective.

25 On the first day of each week, there shall be printed in the journal of the senate the  
26 petitions pending under these rules, together with the signatures thereto; provided, however, that  
27 as soon as a majority of all the senators elected to the senate shall have affixed their signatures to  
28 any such petition to discharge a committee under this rule, the presiding officer shall cause notice  
29 thereof to be given to chair and clerk of the committee to which such bill was referred, and such  
30 notice shall, thereupon, automatically discharge the committee from further consideration of the  
31 bill and the bill shall be placed upon the calendar in accordance with section 7.6 hereof.

32 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change the deadline for  
33 consideration as specified in section 6.9.

34 6.11 [Compelling Committee Action.](#)

1           If a committee to which a bill has been referred fails to consider such bill within sixteen  
2 (16) legislative days of its referral, the prime sponsor of such bill, or a majority of the appointed  
3 members, but not less than four (4) committee members, may, in writing, request the chair of the  
4 committee, through the presiding officer of the senate, that such bill be considered. The request  
5 shall be printed in the journal of the senate. The committee shall consider such bill at its first  
6 meeting held at least two (2) legislative days after such request is made. If the committee does not  
7 consider the bill within eight (8) legislative days of receipt of the request then the committee shall  
8 be discharged of its responsibility to consider such bill and such bill shall be placed on the senate  
9 calendar pursuant to section 7.6 hereof. Consideration by a committee shall be interpreted to  
10 mean any one of the following actions: recommendation of passage, recommendation of passage  
11 as amended, transfer to another committee, indefinite postponement, hold for further study or  
12 defeat of the bill. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change the deadline for  
13 consideration as specified in section 6.9.

14           6.12 [Defeat of a Bill.](#)

15           Once a bill is defeated in committee, the same shall not be acted upon or considered  
16 again during the same legislative year.

17           6.13 [Indefinite Postponement.](#)

18           Whenever any bill is postponed indefinitely in committee, the same shall not be acted  
19 upon or considered again during the same legislative year.

20           6.14 [Transfer of Bills.](#)

21           In the event the chair of any standing committee determines that any bill then pending  
22 before the committee would more properly be pending before another standing committee of the  
23 senate, the chair shall transfer such bill to such other standing committee as is deemed appropriate  
24 during the reports of committees.

25           6.15 [Committee Records.](#)

26           All recorded votes of committees, all written testimony submitted to a committee, and the  
27 transcripts of any recorded testimony shall be retained by the clerk of each committee, shall  
28 constitute public records, and shall be available for inspection to any senator and to any person  
29 upon request. All committee votes, transcripts and testimony shall be transmitted to the secretary  
30 of state pursuant to state law and senate policy following final adjournment in even numbered  
31 years.

32           6.16 [Attribution of Bills.](#)

33           Upon presentation of testimony before a committee, the prime sponsor of the bill shall  
34 provide to the committee the name of any individual, group or organization responsible for the



1 substantive basis or text of the bill.

2 SECTION 7

3 PROCEEDINGS ON THE SENATE FLOOR

4 7.1 Right to the Floor.

5 No senator shall address another except through the presiding officer. A senator shall rise  
6 to put a question, may state it or read a paper sitting. When any senator wishes to speak or to  
7 deliver any matter to the senate, the senator shall press his or her recognition control and the  
8 presiding officer shall recognize the senator who so requests recognition and the order of  
9 recognition shall be determined by the presiding officer. The senator so recognized shall not be  
10 interrupted while speaking except by a call to order or a motion to suspend section 3.5. The  
11 senator shall then immediately be seated unless permitted by the senate to proceed, which shall be  
12 determined upon motion without debate. No senator shall speak more than twice on the same  
13 question without leave of the senate which shall be determined without debate, nor more than  
14 once until the other senators who have not spoken shall speak if they so desire, provided, however  
15 that a senator may yield his or her right to the floor to another senator.

16 7.2 Personal Privilege.

17 Only at the time provided for in section 3.3, a senator may claim the floor to address the  
18 senate on personal privilege. Personal privilege shall include the right to reply to criticism, or to  
19 discuss anything clearly derogatory to the member or which reflects upon his or her character that  
20 appears in the press or other public medium but shall not include the right to discuss favorable  
21 references to the senator, nor to reply to generalized criticism of the senate which does not refer  
22 to him or to her specifically, nor to attack another member of the senate personally. Whether a  
23 member's remarks constitute personal privilege shall be determined by the presiding officer.

24 7.3 Addressing the Senate on Important Matters.

25 Only at the time provided for in section 3.3, a senator may request unanimous consent of  
26 the senators present to address the senate on a topic or matter of importance to the welfare of the  
27 state. A senator granted the right to so address the senate may be interrupted at any time by  
28 another senator who wishes to object to the first senator's right to continue to address the senate  
29 and upon such objection the first senator's right to address the senate shall terminate.

30 7.4 Objectionable Language.

31 No senator shall use profane, insulting, or abusive language in the course of public debate  
32 on the senate floor, or in testimony before any committee of the general assembly.

33 7.5 Priority of Business.

34 All questions relating to priority of business to be acted upon shall be decided by the

1 presiding officer without debate.

2 7.6 [Calendar.](#)

3 There shall be a calendar kept by the secretary of the senate upon which shall be placed  
4 the bills reported by all committees, and all other matters ordered placed thereon by the senate.  
5 Matters on the calendar shall be arranged by the secretary of the senate in numerical order by  
6 committee unless otherwise ordered by the president of the senate in agreement with the majority  
7 leader and the minority leader. Such calendar shall be electronically available to all members of  
8 the senate. Except as provided in section 7.13, and during consideration of the calendar, no other  
9 business shall intervene except to receive a communication from the house or a motion to  
10 suspend section 3.5.

11 All business on the calendar not disposed of at the time of adjournment shall be first in  
12 order on the calendar the next day. No matter of business on the calendar shall be considered  
13 upon its merits unless it has been on such calendar for at least two (2) calendar days; except that  
14 the president of the senate may order a bill placed on the calendar for more than two (2) calendar  
15 days; provided, however, a bill passed by the senate and amended by the house of representatives  
16 may be considered by the senate without being on the calendar for two (2) calendar days if the  
17 requirements of section 4.10-1 have been met.

18 7.7 [Consent Calendar.](#)

19 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7.6, the secretary of the senate shall also  
20 maintain a separate calendar, designated as the consent calendar, upon which shall be placed  
21 resolutions required by Rule 4.8, acts seeking to vacate the forfeiture of a corporate charter and  
22 such other bills as directed by the president of the senate. Matters on the consent calendar shall be  
23 in order for disposal on each day and shall include all such matters reported or referred thereto  
24 from the previous day. Such consent calendar shall be posted in the chamber of the senate. All  
25 matters on the consent calendar shall be disposed by roll call vote on a single motion except such  
26 matters as may be objected to by any single senator, which said matter or matters shall be held  
27 over on the regular calendar for the next legislative day.

28 7.8 [Reports of Joint Committees.](#)

29 No bill reported by or forwarded on the recommendation of a joint committee of the two  
30 houses shall be in order for concurrence by the senate if it shall appear that the members of such  
31 joint committee on the part of the senate, if in attendance on the general assembly, shall not have  
32 been notified or present when the subject was acted on by such joint committee. No report shall  
33 be acted on in the senate from any joint committee unless as subscribed by a senator who is a  
34 member of said committee. Any report from a joint committee shall be made on the floor of the

1 senate by a member of said committee, notwithstanding that said member may not have  
2 concurred in the report and said report shall be held on the desk unless ordered placed on the  
3 calendar pursuant to section 7.6 by the president of the senate or by a majority vote of the senate.

#### 4 7.9 [Messages from the House.](#)

5 When a message is received from the house of representatives, transmitting any papers,  
6 the secretary of the senate shall transmit to the office of the president of the senate all house  
7 transmittals received on that day. The president of the senate shall assign house transmittals to  
8 committees upon adjournment of the senate. The secretary of the senate shall cause all house  
9 transmittals to be published in the senate journal for the day such transmittals are received. Any  
10 senator may object to the committee assignment for any transmittal received during the previous  
11 legislative day. Upon objection being made, the presiding officer shall assign the transmittal to  
12 the committee requested by the senator making the objection, provided, however, that if another  
13 senator objects to any assignment or proposed assignment of the transmittal, then the presiding  
14 officer shall call for a vote of the senate on any motion for assignment which has been made and  
15 seconded, such motion requiring a majority vote of those senators present and voting for  
16 assignment to a particular committee.

17 During the time for consideration of house transmittals, a senator may move for  
18 immediate consideration of a house transmittal, received by the secretary of the senate on the  
19 previous legislative day. If there is no objection to the motion, it is deemed to be approved, but if  
20 there is objection to the motion for immediate consideration, the presiding officer shall submit the  
21 motion to a vote of the senate, such motion for immediate consideration shall require the votes of  
22 two-thirds (2/3) of those senators present and voting, for approval.

#### 23 7.10 [Amendments.](#)

24 No senator may amend from the floor any bill pending before the senate unless such  
25 amendment be submitted, electronically or in writing, with sufficient copies signed by the  
26 proponent, and read to the body; provided, however, that no amendment to the annual budget bill  
27 making appropriations for the support of the state may be offered, except with the agreement of  
28 two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, unless copies thereof shall have been filed with the  
29 secretary of the senate no later than 12:00 o'clock noon on the legislative day preceding the  
30 legislative day on which the budget bill shall be in order for consideration: provided however that  
31 with majority consent a senator may make an oral amendment of a technical or minor nature.

#### 32 7.11 [Votes in Concurrence.](#)

33 Whenever any bill shall come before the senate for concurrence, and the senate concurs  
34 without amendments, or fails to concur, the secretary of the senate may announce the concurrence

1 or nonconcurrency to the other house, but the original bill received by the senate shall not be  
2 transmitted to the other house.

3 7.12 [Motions.](#)

4 No motion shall be debated until it has been seconded. For the purpose of recorded votes  
5 only the first second shall be recorded. A motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time  
6 before a decision or a motion to amend, except a motion to reconsider, which shall not be  
7 withdrawn after the time has elapsed within which it could be originally made.

8 7.13 [Interruption of Debate.](#)

9 When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except to suspend section  
10 3.5, to adjourn, to recommit, for the previous question, to close debate, to fix a time for closing  
11 debate, to take a recess, to lay on the table, to take from the table, to transmit, to postpone  
12 indefinitely, to change calendar arrangement, or to amend, and any motion or resolution the  
13 purpose of which is to take any bill or any other matter from committees of the senate or to  
14 discharge a committee from the consideration thereof, which several motions shall have  
15 precedence in the order in which they are here arranged and shall be decided by majority vote  
16 without debate.

17 7.14 [Adjournment.](#)

18 When time for meeting of the senate shall have been previously fixed, a motion to  
19 adjourn and a motion to suspend section 3.5 shall always be in order. The senate shall not be  
20 adjourned except by affirmative vote of a majority of the senators present and voting.

21 7.15 [Lay on the Table.](#)

22 When an amendment proposed to any pending measure be laid on the table, it shall not  
23 carry with it, or prejudice such measure.

24 7.16 [Dividing Questions.](#)

25 A question that is susceptible of division shall, at the request of the majority, be divided  
26 and put separately upon the propositions of which it is compounded.

27 7.17 [Non-Germane Amendments.](#)

28 No motion or proposition of a subject different from that under consideration shall be  
29 admitted under color of amendment.

30 7.18 [Motion for Reconsideration.](#)

31 A senator on the prevailing side of any vote may, on the same legislative day, move to  
32 reconsider the vote on the same or following legislative day. When a bill has been reconsidered it  
33 shall not be reconsidered again during the session. Bills and other papers in reference to which a  
34 motion to reconsider is pending shall, unless otherwise ordered, remain in the possession of the

1 secretary of the senate until the right of reconsideration has expired. The privilege to reconsider  
2 granted by this rule may be suspended by a majority vote of the senators present and voting.

3 7.19 [Printed Material.](#)

4 If the reading of any printed or written paper be objected to, the matter shall be  
5 determined by a majority vote of the senate without debate.

6 7.20 [Recommittal.](#)

7 No motion to recommit shall be entertained by the presiding officer as to any bill which  
8 is placed on the calendar as the result of section 6.10 until every senator desiring to be heard has  
9 been recognized, notwithstanding the provisions of section 7.13.

10 7.21 [Immediate Consideration.](#)

11 During the time for introduction and reference of new business, as provided in section  
12 3.3, a senator may introduce a bill and move for immediate consideration of the bill at that time.  
13 If there is no objection to the motion, for immediate consideration it is deemed to be approved,  
14 but if there is objection to the motion for immediate consideration, the presiding officer shall  
15 submit the motion to a vote of the senate; such motion for immediate consideration shall require  
16 the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of those senators present and voting, for approval. If the bill is not  
17 available electronically to all members of the senate at the time of the request for immediate  
18 consideration, then a hard copy of the bill shall be made available to any senator upon request.

19 7.22 [Questions During Debate.](#)

20 A senator, while speaking after recognition by the chair, may, upon request of a senator,  
21 yield to him or her temporarily without thereby relinquishing his or her prior right to the floor  
22 and, thereafter, may terminate such interruption and resume speaking at any time; provided,  
23 however, that it shall not be in order for a senator to rise and request that a senator, other than the  
24 one with the right to the floor, yield to a question. Furthermore, it shall not be in order for a  
25 senator, with the right to the floor, to ask another senator to yield to a question, unless such  
26 senator has previously spoken during the debate on the matter. All questions and responses shall  
27 be directed through the chair and the presiding officer shall not be interrupted when speaking.

28 [SECTION 8](#)

29 [VOTING ON THE SENATE FLOOR](#)

30 8.1 [Method of Voting.](#)

31 The electronic roll of the senate shall be called upon any vote pertaining to a public bill  
32 and for passage of the consent calendar and on any other vote at the request of any senator  
33 present; otherwise, votes shall be put by yeas and nays. In naming sums or numbers, and fixing  
34 times, the largest sum or longest time shall be put first.

1           8.2 [Voting Machine Inoperative.](#)

2           In the event the machine is not to be used to record a vote or is not operating properly, all  
3 votes and other determinations may be taken as required by senate rules, either by voice vote,  
4 division vote or by calling the roll alphabetically and recording the yeas and nays. If a senator's  
5 voting device is out of order, the senator shall rise and announce it to the presiding officer and  
6 cast his or her vote orally prior to the declaration of the result of the vote.

7           8.3 [Who May Vote.](#)

8           Any member who is present on the senate floor must vote. Any senator who is not on the  
9 floor at such time, but who returns before the machine is locked, shall be permitted to vote.  
10 Without objection or with a majority vote, a senator may be permitted to cast a vote after the  
11 results have been announced, provided however such request shall be made on the same calendar  
12 day and, only if the vote if so permitted, will not change the result previously announced.

13           8.4 [Control of Electronic Voting System.](#)

14           The electronic voting system shall be under the control of the presiding officer and shall  
15 be operated by such personnel as the president of the senate so designates.

16           8.5 [Conducting a Vote.](#)

17           At a reasonable time prior to any vote being taken, the presiding officer shall announce  
18 that a vote is about to be taken. When any senator other than the president of the senate is  
19 presiding, such senator may direct either the Secretary of the Senate or the reading clerk to cast  
20 his or her vote at his or her voting station, but at no other time may a senator designate any other  
21 person to cast his or her vote. Until the completion of the voting, no senator shall be recognized,  
22 and no other business shall be transacted. When sufficient time has elapsed for each senator to  
23 vote prior to locking the machine, the presiding officer shall ask if any member present desires to  
24 vote or change his or her vote. The presiding officer shall then order the machine locked and  
25 activate the recording process. The voting machine shall remain locked between all votes.

26           8.6 [Announcing the Tally.](#)

27           When the vote is completely recorded, the Secretary of the Senate shall advise the  
28 presiding officer of the result; and the presiding officer shall announce the result to the senate and  
29 the result shall be recorded in the journal.

30           8.7 [Changing a Vote.](#)

31           No vote may be changed after the system has been locked and the vote recorded except  
32 that, after a vote has been recorded, any senator may, by a majority vote of the senate, be  
33 permitted to change his or her vote, provided that such change be effected on the same calendar  
34 day as his or her original vote.







1 general assembly staff, guests of a senator, and authorized representatives of the news media.  
2 From this time to the adjournment or recess of said session no persons other than those listed  
3 above shall be admitted to the senate chamber except with permission from the senate president.

4 10.4-2 [Senators' Seats.](#)

5 The seat of each senator shall be assigned by the president of the senate, and in no event  
6 shall any other person be permitted to occupy such assigned seat.

7 10.4-3 [Sheriff's Duties.](#)

8 It shall be the duty of the sheriff, or the sheriff's deputies in attendance in the senate, or in  
9 their absence, a member of the capitol police department, to see that rules 10.4-1, 10.4-2, 10.4-3,  
10 10.4-4 and 10.4-9 are enforced, and that all senate entrances and exits are kept completely clear  
11 and open to passage to and from the chamber.

12 10.4-4 [Gallery.](#)

13 When the normal seating accommodations for visitors in the gallery have been filled, no  
14 additional seats shall be installed, and no persons shall be thereafter admitted to the gallery of the  
15 senate while in session except to fill vacancies.

16 10.5 [Confidentiality of Drafting.](#)

17 At the request of any senator or senate attorney to the director of the legislative council,  
18 an entry into the word processing system may be made confidential so that the entry shall be  
19 accessible only to the senator or senate attorney making such request or his or her designee. An  
20 entry may be a bill, letter, memorandum or any other document.

21 10.6 [Misuse of Rules.](#)

22 If it appears that the rules are being used as a tactic to impede senate business, the  
23 presiding officer may make a decision to that effect and put the matter before the senate and a  
24 majority vote of the senators present shall sustain with finality the ruling of the presiding officer.

25 10.7 [Extraordinary and Special Session.](#)

26 In the event of the calling of an extraordinary session of the general assembly by the  
27 governor, or a reconvened session by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate,  
28 said session shall be conducted pursuant to these rules; provided, however, that rules 4.10-1, 6.2,  
29 7.6 and 7.8 are not applicable to any such session; and, provided further, that any bill, act or  
30 resolution for consideration of which the session is called shall have been provided to the  
31 members at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the consideration of the senate.

32 10.8 [Robert's Rules.](#)

33 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedure on the senate floor and in the committees  
34 of the senate in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these rules or with any joint rules

1 of the senate and house.

2 10.9 [Use of Facilities.](#)

3 The senate locker room, lounge and corridor adjacent to them shall be for the exclusive  
4 use of the senators and their guests.

5 10.10 [Decorum.](#)

6 No senator shall use profane, insulting or abusive language or act in any manner that  
7 interferes with the orderly conduct of the session of the senate.

8 10.11 [Smoking Prohibited.](#)

9 Smoking shall be prohibited in all senate areas including, but not limited to: the chamber,  
10 gallery, lounge, committee rooms, offices, restrooms or hallways. The presiding officer shall  
11 enforce this rule.

12 10.12 [Consumption of Food and Alcoholic Beverages.](#)

13 The consumption of food and alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited on the senate floor.  
14 Except at the specific request of a member, all beverages consumed on the floor shall be in paper  
15 or plastic cups.

16 10.13 [Appropriate Attire Required.](#)

17 All persons on the floor of the senate while the senate is in session shall be properly  
18 dressed, and the presiding officer shall enforce this rule by appropriate means.

19 10.14 [Electronic Devices.](#)

20 During sessions cell phones shall not be used on the floor of the senate or in committee  
21 hearing rooms when committee meetings are in session. Further, pagers may be used only on the  
22 silent/vibrate mode.

23 10.15 [Photographic Equipment.](#)

24 During sessions, photographic equipment shall not be used on the floor of the senate or in  
25 committee hearing rooms when committee meetings are in session unless he or she has the  
26 permission of the president of the senate or the senate committee chair. This section shall not  
27 apply to properly credentialed representatives of the news media.

28 10.16 [Display of Posters, Signs, and Banners on the Floor.](#)

29 No placard, sign, poster, banner, chart or other visual aid of similar nature shall be  
30 displayed on the floor of the Senate or used in debate at any time when the Senate is in session  
31 without the consent of the presiding officer. Any decision of the presiding officer under this rule  
32 may be appealed to the body.

33 10.17 [Display of Posters, Signs, and Banners Prohibited in the Gallery.](#)

34 No placard, sign, poster, banner, chart or visual aid of similar nature shall be displayed in

1 the gallery at any time when the Senate is in session. The presiding officer shall order any such  
2 object so displayed to be removed.

3 10.18 [Official Notice.](#)

4 Except as otherwise provided in these rules, notice to a member transmitted from the  
5 Office of the President through the RILIN system to the RILIN address assigned to the member  
6 shall constitute official written notice to the member as of the date and time of the transmission. It  
7 is the responsibility of the members to monitor their RILIN address on a regular basis, or to have  
8 RILIN messages forwarded to an address which is monitored on a regular basis. Alternatively, a  
9 member may elect to receive such notice directly at an email address other than the member's  
10 RILIN address by executing a form available in the Office of the President. Once designated,  
11 transmissions to the alternate email address shall constitute written notice to the member as of the  
12 date and time of the transmission and will continue to be such until the Office of the President is  
13 notified of a different address.

14 [SECTION 11](#)

15 [TRANSPARENCY](#)

16 11.1 [Policy.](#)

17 It is declared to be the policy of the senate that to the maximum extent possible senate  
18 votes on public bills and proceedings on the floor and in committee shall be recorded, or video  
19 screened and published on the general assembly website and/or broadcast on capitol television.

20 11.2 [Publication of Committee Votes.](#)

21 To the extent possible, committee votes shall be published on the general assembly  
22 website prior to the floor vote on the bill; provided however, that failure of a committee vote to  
23 appear on the website prior to the floor vote shall not be grounds for objection to consideration of  
24 the bill on the floor.

25 11.3 [Televising or Otherwise Recording Committee Hearing.](#)

26 To the extent possible, committee hearings shall be video recorded and broadcast to the  
27 public on capitol television.

28 11.4 [Publication of Votes.](#)

29 All votes on public bills recorded electronically or by roll call shall be placed forthwith  
30 on the general assembly website.

31 11.5 [Publication of the Senate Rules.](#)

32 The senate rules together with an index thereof shall be published on the general  
33 assembly website.

34 11.6 [Authorization and Direction.](#)

1           The president of the senate and the senate staff are authorized and directed to take such  
2 reasonable and prudent action as may be necessary to carry out the policies and directives set  
3 forth in this section.

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