

Senate Resolution No. 4
Introduced by Senator Gonzalez

Relative to the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2025–26 Regular Session.

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the following rules be, and the same are hereby adopted as, the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2025–26 Regular Session:

STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

CONVENING AND SESSIONS

Hours of Meeting

1. The Senate shall meet at 9:00 a.m. daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

Calling to Order

2. The President pro Tempore, Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules, or senior member present shall call the Senate to order at the hour stated and, if a quorum is present, shall proceed with the order of business.

Attendance of Senators

3. No Senator may be absent from attendance upon the Senate without first obtaining leave. A lesser number than a quorum of the Senate is authorized to send the Sergeant at Arms for any and all absent Senators at the expense of the absent Senators, unless an excuse for nonattendance made to the Senate when a quorum is present shall be judged sufficient, and in that case the expense shall be paid out of the Senate Operating Fund. The President pro Tempore, or less than a quorum present, shall have the power to issue process directly to the

Sergeant at Arms to compel the attendance of Senators absent without leave. Any Senator who refuses to obey that process, unless sick or unable to attend, shall be deemed guilty of contempt of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms shall have power to use force as may be necessary to compel the attendance of the absent Senator, and for this purpose the Sergeant at Arms may command the force of the county, or of any county in the state.

Order of Business

4. The order of business shall be as follows:
 - (1) Rollcall.
 - (2) Prayer by the Chaplain.
 - (3) Pledge of Allegiance.
 - (4) Privileges of the Floor.
 - (5) Communications and Petitions.
 - (6) Messages from the Governor.
 - (7) Messages from the Assembly.
 - (8) Reports of Committees.
 - (9) Motions, Resolutions, and Notices.
 - (10) Introduction and First Reading of Bills.
 - (11) Consideration of Daily File:
 - (a) Second Reading.
 - (b) Special Orders.
 - (c) Unfinished Business.
 - (d) Third Reading.
 - (12) Announcement of Committee Meetings.
 - (13) Leaves of Absence.
 - (14) Adjournment.

Executive Sessions

5. When a motion is adopted to close the doors of the Senate, on the discussion of any business that may require an executive session, the Presiding Officer shall require all persons, except the Senators, Secretary, Minute Clerk, and Sergeant at Arms, to withdraw, and during the discussion of that business the doors shall remain closed. Every Senator and officer present shall keep secret all matters and proceedings concerning which secrecy shall be enjoined by order of the Senate.

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

The President

6. The President may preside upon invitation of the Senate.

The President pro Tempore

7. The President pro Tempore shall take the Chair and call the Senate to order at the hour of the meetings of the Senate. The President pro Tempore is the Presiding Officer of the Senate.

It shall be the particular responsibility of the President pro Tempore to secure the prompt and businesslike disposition of bills and other business before the Senate. The President pro Tempore shall maintain order in the Senate Chamber and, in case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct outside the bar or in the gallery, the President pro Tempore shall have the power to order the same cleared.

The President pro Tempore shall serve ex officio as a member of all Senate and joint committees of which the President pro Tempore is not a regular member, with all of the rights and privileges of that membership except the right to vote. In counting a quorum of any of these committees, the President pro Tempore may not be counted as a member.

The Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules shall, in the absence of the President pro Tempore, perform the duties, and have all powers and authority, of the President pro Tempore.

Presiding by Senators

8. The President pro Tempore of the Senate may name a Senator to perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the President pro Tempore. The Senator so named shall be vested, during that time on the floor, with all the powers of the President pro Tempore, and the Senator who performs these duties shall be known as the Presiding Officer.

In the absence of the President pro Tempore or the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules, any Senator may perform the duties of the Chair.

Secretary of the Senate

9. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate to attend every session, call the roll, and read all bills, amendments, and resolutions, and all papers ordered read by the Senate or the Presiding Officer.

The Secretary of the Senate shall superintend all printing to be done for the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate shall certify to, and transmit to, the Assembly all bills, joint and concurrent resolutions, constitutional amendments, and papers requiring the concurrence of the Assembly, after their passage or adoption by the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate shall also keep a correct Journal of the proceedings of the Senate, and shall notify the Assembly of the action by the Senate on all matters originating in the Assembly and requiring action on the part of the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate shall have custody of all bills, documents, papers, and records of the Senate and may not permit any of the bills, documents, records, or papers to be taken from the Desk or out of the Secretary of the Senate's custody by any person, except in the regular course of the business of the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate is the Executive Officer of the Committee on Rules and shall act as its authorized representative in all matters delegated to the Secretary of the Senate by the committee.

Initiative measures received by the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with Section 9034 of the Elections Code shall be transmitted to the Committee on Rules and referred by the Committee on Rules to the appropriate committee.

Sergeant at Arms of the Senate

10. The Sergeant at Arms shall attend the Senate during all of its sittings, and shall execute the commands of the Senate from time to time, together with all process issued by its authority, as shall be directed to the Sergeant at Arms by the President pro Tempore. The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to arrest for contempt all persons outside the bar, or in the gallery, found in loud conversation or otherwise making a noise to the disturbance of the Senate. The actual expenses of the Sergeant at Arms for every arrest and for each day's custody and release, and the Sergeant at Arms's traveling expenses, shall be paid out of the Senate Operating Fund.

The Sergeant at Arms shall place copies of all bills, joint and concurrent resolutions, constitutional amendments, Journals, Histories, and Files, when printed, on the desks of Senators, at least one hour previous to the opening of the session. If printed copies are not available, electronic copies will suffice for purposes of this rule.

Elected and Appointed Officers

10.5. On the first day of each session, the President pro Tempore, members of the Committee on Rules, Secretary of the Senate, and Sergeant at Arms shall be elected by a majority vote of the duly elected and qualified Members of the Senate and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualify. The Committee on Rules shall appoint an Assistant Secretary, a Minute Clerk, a Chaplain, and other employees with such duties as the committee requires.

Officers and Employees Compensation: Approval

10.6. The Controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw warrants in favor of officers and employees who render services to the Senate, as certified by the Committee on Rules or by its authorized representative, from the fund set aside for the pay of officers and employees of the Senate at the rate of compensation certified by the committee or its representative, and the Treasurer is hereby directed to pay the same.

COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Appointment of Committees

11. The Committee on Rules shall consist of the President pro Tempore of the Senate, who shall be the chair of the committee, and four other Members of the Senate to be elected by the Senate. There is a vacancy on the committee in the event a member ceases to be a Member of the Senate or resigns from the Committee on Rules. Any vacancy occurring during a summer, interim study, or final recess, except in the case of the President pro Tempore, shall be filled by the President pro Tempore. A vacancy occurring at any other time shall be filled by election by the Senate.

The President pro Tempore shall appoint all other committees of the Senate and shall designate a chair and vice chair of each committee.

In making committee appointments, the President pro Tempore shall give consideration to seniority, preference, and experience. However, in making committee appointments, the President pro Tempore shall, as far as practicable, give equal representation to all parts of the state.

Standing Committees

12. The standing committees of the Senate and subjects to be referred to each are set out below. The provisions set forth below as to the assignment of bills are intended as a guide to the Committee on Rules, but are not binding upon the committee.

(1) Agriculture. Bills relating to agriculture.

(2) Appropriations. Bills that are subject to Joint Rule 10.5 and are not referred to the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review. Bills that constitute a state-mandated local program.

(3) Banking and Financial Institutions. Bills relating to financial institutions, lending, and corporations.

(4) Budget and Fiscal Review. The Budget Bill and bills implementing the Budget. Bills that directly affect the State Budget, including deficiencies and reappropriations.

(5) Business, Professions and Economic Development. Bills relating to business and professional practices, licensing, and regulations. Bills relating to economic development, commerce, and international trade.

(6) Education. Bills relating to education, higher education, and related programs. Bills relating to education employee issues and collective bargaining.

(7) Elections and Constitutional Amendments. Bills relating to elections and constitutional amendments, ballot measures, the Political Reform Act of 1974, and elected officials.

(8) Energy, Utilities and Communications. Bills relating to public utilities and carriers, energy companies, alternative energy development and conservation, and communications development and technology.

(9) Environmental Quality. Bills relating to environmental quality, environmental health, air quality, water quality, waste management, recycling, toxics, and hazardous materials and waste.

(10) Governmental Organization. Bills relating to horse racing, public gaming, and alcoholic beverages. Bills relating to the management of public safety emergencies and disaster response. Bills relating to state

government organization and bills regarding the use of state-controlled lands and buildings, state contracting, and interstate compacts.

(11) Health. Bills relating to public health, alcohol and drug use, mental health, health insurance, managed care, long-term care, and related institutions.

(12) Housing. Bills relating to housing and community redevelopment.

(13) Human Services. Bills relating to welfare, social services and support, and related institutions.

(14) Insurance. Bills relating to insurance, indemnity, surety, and warranty agreements.

(15) Judiciary. Bills amending the Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Evidence Code, Family Code, and Probate Code. Bills relating to courts, judges, and court personnel. Bills relating to liens, claims, and unclaimed property. Bills relating to privacy and consumer protection.

(16) Labor, Public Employment and Retirement. Bills relating to labor, industrial safety, unemployment, workers' compensation and insurance. Bills relating to state and local public agency collective bargaining; state and local nonschool public employees; noncertificated and classified public school employees; public retirement systems; public employees' compensation and employment benefits, including retirement and health care; and state social security administration.

(17) Local Government. Bills relating to local governmental procedure and organization. Bills relating to land use. Bills that have been considered by other committees having jurisdiction of the appropriate subject, for consideration of any questions relating to local government administration.

(18) Military and Veterans Affairs. Bills relating to veterans, military affairs, and armories. Bills amending the Military and Veterans Code.

(19) Natural Resources and Water. Bills relating to conservation and the management of public resources, fish and wildlife, regulation of oil, mining, geothermal development, wetlands and lakes, global atmospheric effects, ocean and bay pollution, coastal resources, forestry practices, recreation, parks, and historical resources. Bills relating to water supply management.

(20) Public Safety. Bills amending the Evidence Code, relating to criminal procedure; the Penal Code; and statutes of a penal nature. Bills relating to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Board of State and Community Corrections.

(21) Revenue and Taxation. Bills relating to state and local revenues and taxation, except bills described in subdivision (a) of Rule 28.9.

(22) Rules. Proposed amendments to the rules and other matters relating to the business of the Legislature.

(23) Transportation. Bills relating to the operation, safety, equipment, transfer of ownership, licensing, and registration of vehicles, aircraft, and vessels. Bills relating to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Bills relating to highways, public transportation systems, and airports.

The standing committees of any regular session shall be the standing committees of concurrent special or extraordinary sessions unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

Committee on Legislative Ethics

12.3. (a) (1) The Committee on Legislative Ethics is hereby created. The committee shall consist of six Senators, at least two of whom are members of the political party having the greatest number of members in the Senate and at least two of whom are members of the political party having the second greatest number of members in the Senate. The members of the committee shall serve two-year terms. The President pro Tempore and the Minority Floor Leader shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the committee. No more than one member of the Committee on Rules from each of those political parties shall be appointed to the committee as voting members.

(2) The Chair and Vice Chair may not be members of the same political party. The Chair may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(3) Vacancies in the committee shall be filled within 30 days for the remainder of a term.

(4) If a complaint is filed against a member of the committee, that member shall be temporarily replaced with a Senator of the same political party, who shall serve until the complaint is dismissed by the committee or the Senate takes action as it deems appropriate, whichever occurs earlier.

(5) The Committee on Rules may retain or appoint a Chief Counsel to assist the committee in carrying out its functions. The staff of the committee shall be considered permanent and professional, and shall perform their duties in a nonpartisan manner. Neither staff of the committee, nor persons currently contracted to provide services for the

committee, shall engage in partisan activities regarding a Senate or Assembly election campaign.

(b) The committee shall do all of the following:

(1) The committee shall formulate and recommend, for adoption by the Senate, standards of conduct for Senators and officers and employees of the Senate in the performance of their legislative responsibilities. The Ethics Manual for Members, Officers, and Employees of the United States House of Representatives, as prepared by the Staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, 102nd Congress Second Session (United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1992), the Code of Ethics (Article 2 (commencing with Section 8920) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code), and Joint Rule 44 shall serve as guides in the formulation of the standards of conduct.

(2) At the request of any Senator or officer or employee of the Senate, the committee shall provide an advisory opinion with respect to the standards of conduct of the Senate on the general propriety of past, current, or anticipated conduct of that Senator, officer, or employee. The opinion shall be rendered within 21 days unless the Chair and Vice Chair agree otherwise. The committee may, with appropriate deletions to ensure the privacy of the individuals concerned, publish the advisory opinions for the guidance of other Senators, officers, or employees.

(3) The committee shall develop, issue, and annually update a clear, informative, and usable manual for the Senate based on the standards of conduct adopted by the Senate, including any advisory opinions published pursuant to paragraph (2).

(4) The committee shall conduct periodic workshops, at least once each calendar year, for Senators and officers and employees of the Senate, including workshops specifically designed for newly elected Senators and newly appointed officers and employees. At least once in each biennial session, each Senator and each officer or employee of the Senate shall attend one of these workshops. The workshops shall include, but not be limited to, a comprehensive review of all applicable statutes and Senate rules. At least once in each biennial session, each Senator shall also attend an individual training or review session conducted by the Chief Counsel of the committee.

(5) After adoption by the Senate of the standards of conduct, the committee shall receive and review complaints alleging violations of the standards of conduct by Senators, or officers or employees of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures specified in this rule. The

Chief Counsel may refer complaints containing allegations outside the committee's jurisdiction to the Workplace Conduct Unit or the Committee on Rules, as appropriate.

(6) The committee shall maintain a record of its investigations, hearings, and other proceedings. All information, testimony, records, complaints, documents, and reports filed with, submitted to, or made by the committee, and all records and transcripts of any investigations or hearings of the committee, shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection by any person other than a member of the committee, the staff of the committee, or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for the committee, except as otherwise specifically provided for in this rule. Any member of the committee or any person on the staff of the committee who, during the person's tenure with the committee or anytime thereafter, and without authorization, discloses, by writing, verbal communication, or conduct, or reveals in any way, in whole, in part, or by way of summary, any information, testimony, record, complaint, document, report, or transcript that is confidential shall be subject to discipline. In the case of a contract for the performance of services for the committee, the contract shall expressly prohibit any party to the contract from, without authorization, disclosing, by writing, verbal communication, or conduct, or from revealing in any way, in whole, in part, or by way of summary, any information, testimony, record, complaint, document, report, or transcript that is confidential. The committee may, by a majority vote of the membership of the committee, authorize the release of any records, complaints, documents, reports, and transcripts in its possession to the appropriate enforcement agency if the committee determines that there is probable cause to believe that the violation or violations alleged in the complaint would constitute a felony or if the committee determines that the information is material to any matter pending before the enforcement agency.

(c) (1) Any person may file a formal complaint with the committee that alleges a violation of the standards of conduct.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), a complaint shall not be filed more than 18 months after the date that the alleged violation occurred.

(3) If the committee determines that the person filing the complaint did not know, or through the exercise of reasonable diligence could not have known, of the alleged violation within 18 months after the date

that the alleged violation occurred, the complaint may be filed within three years after the date that the alleged violation occurred.

(4) If a complaint is filed within 60 days prior to an election at which a Senator or officer or employee is a candidate for elective office, the complaint shall be returned to the person filing the complaint, and the person shall be informed that the complaint may be filed with an appropriate enforcement agency and may be refiled with the committee after the election. The period of time for filing the complaint shall be extended for 60 days.

(5) A complaint shall not be filed if it alleges a violation that occurred prior to the adoption of the standards of conduct.

(d) A formal complaint shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) It shall be in writing.

(2) It shall state the name and contact information of the person filing the complaint.

(3) It shall state the name of the Senator, or the name and position or title of the officer or employee of the Senate, who is alleged to have committed a violation of the standards of conduct.

(4) It shall set forth allegations that, if true, would constitute a violation of the standards of conduct. The allegations shall be stated with sufficient clarity and detail to enable the committee to make a finding pursuant to subdivision (h).

(5) It shall state the date of the alleged violation.

(6) It shall include a statement that the allegations are true of the person's own knowledge or that the person believes them to be true, and may include documents in the possession of the party filing the complaint relevant to, or supportive of, the allegations.

(e) The committee, on its own motion, two-thirds of the membership concurring, may initiate a proceeding by filing a complaint that complies with paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (d).

(f) The committee shall promptly send a copy of a complaint to the Senator, or officer or employee of the Senate, alleged to have committed the violation, who shall thereafter be designated as the respondent.

(g) If a complaint is filed by a person other than the committee, the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee shall examine the complaint to determine whether it was filed in accordance with this rule and any rules of the committee.

(h) Within 14 days after the complaint is filed, the Chair and Vice Chair shall provide to the committee a copy of the complaint and their opinion as to whether the allegations in the complaint, if true, would

constitute a violation of the standards of conduct. If the committee, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, finds that the allegations, if true, would constitute a violation of the standards of conduct, the committee shall hold a hearing, to the extent practicable, within 30 days to conduct a preliminary inquiry. If two-thirds of the membership of the committee fails to find that the allegations, if true, would constitute a violation of the standards of conduct, it shall dismiss the complaint and so notify the person who filed the complaint and the respondent, and the complaint shall not be made public.

(i) At the preliminary inquiry, the respondent may respond to the allegations in the complaint by written statement or oral testimony. If two-thirds of the membership of the committee finds that probable cause exists for believing that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct, the committee shall issue a count-by-count statement of alleged violations. If two-thirds of the membership of the committee fails to find that probable cause exists, the committee shall dismiss the complaint. In either event, the committee shall immediately notify the respondent and the person who filed the complaint of its action. If the committee finds that probable cause exists, the statement of alleged violations shall be made public within 14 days.

(j) Within 30 days after the issuance of the statement of alleged violations, the respondent may file an answer that admits or denies each count. Upon request of the respondent, the committee may grant the respondent an additional 21 days to respond.

(k) Within 60 days after the issuance of the statement of alleged violations, to the extent practicable, the committee shall hold a disciplinary hearing. If a majority of the membership of each party on the committee fails to find that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct, the committee shall dismiss the complaint. If a majority of the membership of each party on the committee finds by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct, the committee shall take the following action:

(1) If the respondent is a Senator, it shall hold a hearing to determine an appropriate sanction.

(2) If the respondent is an officer or employee, it shall transmit its findings to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

(l) (1) At the hearing to determine an appropriate sanction, two-thirds of the membership of the committee shall determine whether the violation is serious or minor.

(2) If the committee determines that a violation is minor or fails to determine that a violation is serious, two-thirds of the membership of the committee (A) shall, if it determines that the violation bears upon the exercise of a right or privilege, recommend that the Committee on Rules deny or limit that right or privilege and shall transmit its findings and recommendation to the Committee on Rules, or (B) shall impose any lesser sanction, including, but not limited to, issuing a private letter of admonishment for an inadvertent, technical, or otherwise de minimis violation, which shall not be considered discipline. Within 15 days after the imposition of a lesser sanction, the respondent may appeal the sanction imposed to the Committee on Rules.

(3) If the committee determines that a violation is serious, two-thirds of the membership of the committee shall recommend that the Senate take one or more of the following actions and shall transmit its findings and recommendation to the Senate:

(A) The denial or limitation of any right or privilege, if the violation bears upon the exercise of that right or privilege.

(B) A reprimand for a serious violation.

(C) A censure for a more serious violation.

(D) A suspension or expulsion for a most serious violation.

(m) The Senate shall, within 15 legislative days after receiving the findings and recommendation, vote on the recommendation of the committee. The Senate, by 21 votes, may deny or limit any right or privilege of, reprimand, or censure the Senator or, by 27 votes, may suspend or expel the Senator.

(n) The committee or Senate may defer any action required by this rule if other proceedings have been commenced on the same matter.

(o) (1) At all hearings, the Chief Counsel of the committee shall present the case. All relevant and probative evidence shall be admissible unless it is privileged. Witnesses may be called and cross-examined by the committee and the respondent, and exhibits and other documents may be entered into the record. The respondent shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel or any other person of the respondent's choosing.

(2) If the committee receives, at any time, any exculpatory information relating to the alleged violation, the committee shall make the information available to the respondent. The committee and the respondent shall comply with requests for discovery consistent with Sections 1054, 1054.1, and 1054.3 of the Penal Code.

(p) If the committee determines that the complaint was filed with malicious intent, it may request that the Committee on Rules reimburse the expenses incurred by the respondent.

(q) At any time during the proceedings, the respondent may admit to the commission of a violation of the standards of conduct. If the respondent admits some but not all of the violations alleged in the complaint or the counts set forth in the statement of alleged violations, the committee shall find that the admitted violations constituted a violation of the standards of conduct and may continue the proceedings to determine whether the other alleged violations constituted violations of the standards of conduct. If the respondent admits to all alleged violations, the committee shall find that the admitted violations constituted a violation of the standards of conduct, terminate the preliminary inquiry or disciplinary hearing, and take the action required by paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (k).

(r) Meetings of the committee shall not be open to the public until the committee finds that probable cause exists for believing that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct. Subsequent meetings of the committee or Senate shall be public, and notice of any meeting shall be published in the Senate File for four calendar days prior to the meeting.

(s) If the committee finds that probable cause exists for believing that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct, the transcript of any testimony given, or any documents admitted into evidence, at a public hearing and any report prepared by the committee subsequent to that finding that states a final finding or recommendation shall be open to public inspection.

(t) Upon request of the respondent, the committee may permit the respondent to inspect, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects that relate to the allegations in the complaint. If the committee finds that probable cause exists for believing that the respondent committed a violation of the standards of conduct, the committee shall permit the respondent to inspect, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects that relate to the statement of alleged violations.

(u) (1) A Senator or officer or employee of the Senate shall not directly or indirectly use or attempt to use that person's official authority or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, command, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of the other person to file a

complaint with the committee, testify before, or in any way cooperate with, the committee or any panel.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), “use of official authority or influence” includes promising to confer, or conferring, any benefit; effecting, or threatening to effect, any reprisal; or taking, or directing others to take, or recommending, processing, or approving, any personnel action, including, but not limited to, appointment, promotion, transfer, assignment, performance evaluation, suspension, or other disciplinary action.

(3) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to authorize any person to disclose information, the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

(v) The committee may adopt rules governing its proceedings not inconsistent with this rule. The provisions of Joint Rule 36 relating to investigating committees apply to the committee to the extent those provisions are consistent with this rule.

(w) The powers and procedures set forth in subdivisions (b) to (v), inclusive, confer independent authority and shall not be limited or altered by Joint Rule 45.

(x) Where confidentiality is required pursuant to this rule, confidentiality shall be maintained only to the extent that disclosure of the confidential information is not otherwise required by law.

General Research Committee

12.5. The General Research Committee is hereby created pursuant to Section 11 of Article IV of the California Constitution, which relates to legislative committees. The committee consists of the 40 Senators, and the President pro Tempore is its chair. The committee is allocated all subjects within the scope of legislative regulation and control, but may not undertake any investigation that another committee has been specifically requested or directed to undertake. The General Research Committee may act through subcommittees appointed by the President pro Tempore. Each member of the General Research Committee is authorized and directed to receive and investigate requests for legislative action made by individuals or groups and to report thereon to the full committee.

The committee and its members shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Senate Rules and the Joint Rules of the Senate

and Assembly. However, neither the committee nor its members may issue a subpoena without the prior approval of the Committee on Rules. The committee has the following additional powers and duties:

(a) To contract with other agencies, public or private, for the rendition and affording of services, facilities, studies, and reports to the committee as the committee deems necessary to assist it to carry out the purposes for which it is created.

(b) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of county, city, city and county, and other local law enforcement agencies in investigating any matter within the scope established by this rule, and to direct the sheriff of any county to serve subpoenas, orders, and other process issued by the committee.

(c) To meet and act at any place within the State of California and, when authorized in writing by the Committee on Rules to do so, to meet and act outside the state to carry out its duties.

(d) To report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the people from time to time.

(e) To act during sessions of the Legislature, including any recess.

(f) To do any and all other things necessary or convenient to enable it fully and adequately to exercise its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objects and purposes of this rule.

The Committee on Rules may allocate, from time to time, to the General Research Committee from the Senate Operating Fund those sums that are necessary to permit the General Research Committee and the members thereof to carry out the duties imposed on them. In addition, the Committee on Rules may allocate to any subcommittee from the Senate Operating Fund those sums that the Committee on Rules deems necessary to complete the investigation or study conferred upon that subcommittee.

12.6. A select committee is a subcommittee of the General Research Committee. Staff providing services to a select committee are Senate employees assigned by the Committee on Rules to the General Research Committee.

(a) A Senator who proposes to establish a select committee shall submit to the Committee on Rules a written request that includes all of the following:

(1) A description of the topic to be addressed by the select committee and a general work plan and timetable, including hearings, anticipated work product, and staffing needs and other anticipated resource demands.

(2) A statement by the Senator proposing the select committee that the Senator has discussed the Senator's plans with the chair of the standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposed select committee. The statement shall describe any objections that chair has to the establishment of the proposed select committee.

(b) A select committee may be established only by a resolution adopted by the Committee on Rules that specifies the jurisdiction of the select committee. In making this decision, the Committee on Rules shall consider any objections to that action raised by the chair of a standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposed select committee.

(c) The Committee on Rules shall appoint the members of a select committee. A select committee may act only with regard to the particular study or investigation assigned to it by the Committee on Rules.

(d) A select committee is terminated automatically upon the adjournment of the regular session in which it is established, or at an earlier time specified in the resolution. In deciding whether to reestablish a select committee established in a previous regular session, the Committee on Rules shall consider the extent to which the select committee successfully achieved its assigned objectives.

Additional Committee on Rules Powers

12.7. In addition to other rights, duties, and powers vested in the Committee on Rules, the committee and the members thereof shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers of the General Research Committee and the members thereof, as provided in Rule 12.5, with authority to act on any subject allocated by Rule 12.5 to the General Research Committee.

Committee on Rules

13. (a) The Committee on Rules is charged with the general responsibility for the administrative functioning of the Senate. The committee has general charge of the books, documents, and other papers and property of the Senate and shall see that the same are properly kept, cared for, filed, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with applicable law and rules. The committee also has the duties of making studies and recommendations designed to promote, improve, and expedite the business and procedure of the Senate and its committees, including

investigating committees consisting wholly or in part of Members of the Senate, and of proposing any amendments to the rules deemed necessary to accomplish those purposes.

(b) The Committee on Rules shall continue in existence during any recess of the Legislature until the convening of the next regular session, and shall have the same powers and duties as while the Senate is in session.

(c) The committee and its members shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and made applicable to the Committee on Rules and its members.

(d) The committee may make available to any Senate or joint committee, or any Member of the Senate, assistance in connection with the duties of the committee or other legislative matters as the personnel resources under the direction of the committee or its other facilities permit.

(e) (1) All employees on the payroll of the Senate are employees of the Senate and not of individual members, and they are under the direct control of the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules has general supervision over all employees of the Senate and the powers and duties to suspend, discipline, or discharge any employees when necessary. Any insubordination or inefficiency on the part of any employee shall be reported to the Committee on Rules.

(2) A Senator or officer or employee of the Senate shall not retaliate against an employee of the Senate for reporting information to the Senate Committee on Rules, the Senate Committee on Legislative Ethics, or any government or law enforcement agency regarding a possible violation of the Senate Standards of Conduct or any state or federal law or regulation, or because the Senator, officer, or employee believes that the employee reported or may report such information, if the employee who reported the information reasonably believed that the information disclosed a violation of the Senate Standards of Conduct or any state or federal law or regulation.

(f) The committee shall make available and furnish to the Members of the Senate, and the Senate committees, personnel resources as may be reasonably necessary for the Members and the committees to carry out their duties.

(g) The Committee on Rules constitutes the Committee on Introduction of Bills and has charge of the engrossment and enrollment of bills, the contingent expenses of the Senate, and legislative printing, except insofar as these functions are delegated to the Secretary of the Senate.

(h) The rooms, passages, and buildings set apart for the use of the Senate are under the direction of the Committee on Rules, and the committee may assign the press desks in the Senate Chamber to accredited newspaper representatives.

(i) Executive communication of nominations sent by the Governor, or any other entity with the authority to make appointments, to the Senate for confirmation shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, without debate.

(j) The Committee on Rules shall, at each regular session, appoint a Member of the Senate to serve on the Judicial Council and has the authority during any joint recess to fill any vacancy in that position that occurs during the recess.

(k) When a report of a joint legislative committee is delivered to the Senate Desk, the Committee on Rules shall refer it to a standing committee for review and appropriate action.

Expenses of Senate Committees

13.1. All claims for expenses incurred by investigating committees of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms shall be approved by the Committee on Rules or its authorized representative before the claims are presented to the Controller.

All proposed expenditures, including furniture, equipment, and other property, but not including stationery supplies, shall be approved by the Committee on Rules or its authorized representatives before the expenses are incurred, unless the expenditure is specifically exempted from the provisions of this rule by the resolution authorizing it.

A warrant may not be drawn in payment of any claim for expenses until the approval of the Committee on Rules, or its authorized representative, has been obtained in accordance with this rule.

The Committee on Rules may adopt rules and regulations limiting the amount, time, and place of expenses and allowances to be paid to employees of Senate investigating committees and regulating the terms and conditions of employment of their employees. Copies of all rules

and regulations adopted pursuant to this rule shall be distributed to the chair of every investigating committee.

Alteration, Repair, and Improvement to Senate

13.2. The Committee on Rules is authorized and directed to incur and pay expenses of the Senate not otherwise provided for as the committee determines are reasonably necessary, including the repair, alteration, improvement, and equipping of the Senate Chamber and the offices provided for the Senate in the State Capitol.

In order to avoid unanticipated reversions of appropriations for contingent expenses, the Committee on Rules may designate the appropriation from which payment shall be made pursuant to allocations to committees or for other purposes. If insufficient money is available in any appropriation to pay all claims pursuant to allocations charged against it, the committee shall designate another appropriation from which the allocations shall be paid.

Rooms and Property of Senate

13.3. The Committee on Rules is responsible for the safekeeping of Senate property. The Director of General Services is directed to maintain the Senate Chamber and all the committee rooms and other rooms used by the Senators and officers of the Senate in a condition that they will be available for the use of the Senate at any time. It is further directed that no persons other than the Members, officers, and employees of the Senate may occupy or use the offices, committee rooms, or other rooms now occupied by the Senate without permission as hereinafter provided, that the desks, furniture, and other equipment of the Senate shall be at the disposal of the Committee on Rules, and that no person except Members of the Senate may occupy any of the Senate's offices or make use of Senate equipment without permission of the committee or its authorized representative.

Inventory of Senate Property

13.4. The Committee on Rules is authorized and directed, through its authorized representative, to make and maintain a complete inventory of all property of the Senate, including all property in the possession or control of any Senate committee. The Committee on Rules has

custody and control of all property of the Senate and shall adopt rules or orders as it may determine are necessary relating to the purchase, care, custody, and use or disposal thereof.

Status of Standing Rules for Regular Session

13.5. The adoption of the Standing Rules for any special session are not to be construed as modifying or rescinding the Standing Rules of the Senate for a regular session.

Operating Expense Fund

13.6. The Committee on Rules is the committee identified in Section 9126 of the Government Code. The balance of all money in the Senate Operating Fund, including money now or hereafter appropriated by the Legislature, except sums that are made available specifically for purposes other than the expenses of designated committees, is hereby made available to the Committee on Rules for any charges or claims it may incur in carrying out the duties imposed upon it by these rules or by Senate or concurrent resolution.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

14. The Committee on Rules shall propose to the Senate such schedules for regular meetings of the standing committees as will permit all members of each committee to attend without a conflict of committee engagements.

The committee may also propose such special committee meetings or special schedules of committee meetings as will facilitate the business of the Senate. Those schedules may provide a special schedule of committee meetings upon certain days of the week or to meet any special condition that may arise.

Powers of Standing Committees

16. Each standing committee of the Senate to which a proposed law or bill is assigned has full power and authority during the session of the Legislature, or any recess thereof, to make an investigation and study concerning any proposed law or bill as the committee shall determine necessary to enable it to properly act thereon.

In the exercise of the power granted by this rule, each committee may appoint a secretary and employ clerical, legal, and technical assistants as may appear necessary when money has been made available therefor by the Senate.

Each standing committee is authorized and empowered to summon and subpoena witnesses, to require the production of papers, books, accounts, reports, documents, records, and papers of every kind and description, to issue subpoenas, and to take all necessary means to compel the attendance of witnesses and to procure testimony, oral and documentary. However, no committee may issue a subpoena, nor may a committee require testimony under oath, without the prior approval of the Committee on Rules.

The Sergeant at Arms, or other person designated by the Sergeant at Arms or by the committee, shall serve any and all subpoenas, orders, and other process that may be issued by the committee, when directed to do so upon a vote of the majority of the membership of the committee.

Each of the members of the standing committees is authorized and empowered to administer oaths, and all of the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 9400) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to the attendance and examination of witnesses before the Legislature and the committees thereof, apply to the committees.

All officers of this state, including the head of each department, agency, and subdivision thereof, all employees of the departments, agencies, and subdivisions of the state, the Legislative Counsel, and all other persons, whether connected with the state government or not, shall give and furnish to these committees upon request such information, records, and documents as the committees deem necessary or proper for the achievement of the purposes for which each standing committee was created.

Each standing committee may meet at the State Capitol and do any and all things necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise the powers and perform the duties herein granted to it, and may expend such money as may be made available by the Senate for that purpose, except that no committee may incur any indebtedness unless money has been first made available therefor.

Funerals

17.5. The Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules may designate any one or more of the Members of the Senate as a Senate committee to attend funerals in appropriate circumstances. The Members so designated may receive expenses as provided in Joint Rule 35.

The Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules, or any Member of the Senate designated by either of these officers, may incur such expense as may be necessary for the purchase on behalf of the Senate of suitable floral pieces for the funeral.

All expenses incurred pursuant to this rule shall be paid out of the money allocated from the Senate Operating Fund to the Committee on Rules and disbursed, after certification by the Chair or Vice Chair of the committee or by the committee's disbursing officer appointed and designated therefor by the committee, upon warrants drawn by the Controller upon the Treasury.

Expenditures

18. A member of a committee may not incur any expense chargeable to the Senate unless authorized by resolution of the Senate.

The Committee on Rules shall provide, by rules and regulations, for the manner of authorizing expenditures by Members, committees, and officers and employees of the Senate that are not otherwise authorized by law, these rules, or the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, and for the payment of the expenditures from the Senate Operating Fund upon certification of claims therefor to the Controller by the Committee on Rules or its authorized representative.

Printing of Reports

18.5. All requests for the printing of reports of Senate committees shall be made to the Committee on Rules.

The Committee on Rules shall determine if the report is to be printed, the number of copies needed, and whether or not the report shall be printed in the Journal.

If the report is to be printed by the Office of State Publishing, it shall hold the type for each Senate committee report for a period of 90 days from the date of the first printing or for such other time as the Committee on Rules deems necessary.

PROCEDURES AND RULES

Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments

19. Joint, concurrent, and Senate resolutions, and constitutional amendments shall be treated the same as bills under these rules, except that they shall have only one official reading, which reading shall occur after they have been reported by committee.

Parliamentary Rules

20. In all cases not provided for by the Constitution, these rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, or statute, the authority shall be the latest edition of Mason's Manual or the custom and usage of the Senate.

Suspension of Rules or Amending of Rules

21. A standing rule of the Senate may not be adopted, amended, or repealed except upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the Senate, one day's notice being given, except that any rule not requiring more than a majority vote may be temporarily suspended without that notice by a vote of a majority of the membership of the Senate. A rule requiring a two-thirds vote on any question may be amended only by a two-thirds vote on one day's notice, except that a rule requiring a two-thirds vote may be temporarily suspended without that notice by a two-thirds vote.

All proposed amendments to these rules shall, upon presentation, be referred to the Committee on Rules without debate.

Suspension of the Joint Rules

21.1. Pursuant to Joint Rule 33, a joint rule may not be suspended by the Senate except with the concurrence of 27 Members unless a lower vote is prescribed by these rules or the Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly.

Permission of Committee on Rules

21.2. Notwithstanding Rule 21 or 21.1, a Senate or Joint Rule may not be suspended unless the Committee on Rules determines that an extraordinary circumstance exists that justifies the suspension.

Rules Governing Standing Committees

21.5. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, standing committees of the Senate shall be governed as follows:

(a) The officers of each Senate committee shall be a chair, vice chair, and secretary.

(b) The chair shall preside at meetings when present except when the committee is considering a bill of which the chair is the sole author or the lead author. Whenever the chair is not presiding, the vice chair shall assume the duties of the chair. In the absence of both, a member designated by the chair shall preside.

(c) The secretary shall keep a complete record of the meetings and actions taken by the committee. Bills and other measures favorably acted upon shall be reported to the Senate as expeditiously as the reports can be prepared.

(d) The committee shall meet in regular session on the day and hour designated by the Committee on Rules. Adjourned meetings or special meetings shall be held at the time fixed in the adjourning motion, or, for a special meeting, on the call of the chair.

(e) A special meeting may be called by the chair, with the approval of the Committee on Rules, by giving reasonable notice to all members of the committee, either in writing or by telephone, specifying the purpose of the meeting, the time and place thereof, and the matters to be considered at the meeting. Notice of hearing of bills as required by subdivision (a) of Joint Rule 62 may also be given in the Daily File. A matter may not be considered at the special meeting unless specified in the notice.

A special meeting shall be scheduled so as to permit all members of the committee to attend without conflict with other scheduled committee meetings.

(f) A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum. A vote of a majority of the membership of the committee shall be required to table a bill, remove it from the table, or reconsider a vote on a bill.

(g) Action may not be taken on any measure outside of a duly constituted committee meeting.

(h) The chair shall set the hearings of bills and arrange the calendar for committee hearings. Notice of hearing of any bill shall be given to the author and other persons requiring notice. A bill may not be considered in the absence of the author without the author's consent, except that a bill may be presented by the author's representative who is authorized in writing.

(i) A committee or a subcommittee thereof, by a majority vote of the membership of the committee, may meet in executive session for any purpose authorized by Section 9029 of the Government Code. Otherwise, all meetings shall be open and public.

(j) The chair shall direct the order of presentation of the arguments for and against matters for consideration by the committee, and shall permit questions to be asked by members of the committee in an orderly fashion and in keeping with proper decorum.

(k) Further consideration of a bill that has been voted out of a committee or defeated shall be by reconsideration only, as follows:

(1) A motion to reconsider a vote by which a bill is voted out shall be in order, and shall be voted upon at the same meeting. If the motion is carried by a vote of a majority of the membership of the committee, the bill may be considered at that meeting, provided the author is present, or at a subsequent meeting.

(2) The procedure for reconsideration of a bill that has been defeated shall conform to the requirements of subdivision (a) of Joint Rule 62. Any bill as to which reconsideration has been granted pursuant to this paragraph may not be heard again until a subsequent meeting of the committee, after being calendared in the Daily File.

(l) Any bill that has been laid on the table and is removed from the table at a later meeting may not be heard again until a subsequent meeting of the committee, after being calendared in the Daily File and after notice.

(m) When a committee adopts proposed amendments to a bill, the bill may be taken up for vote at that meeting or, if the committee or author requests, sent out to print before final action. If the amendments are not in proper form, they shall be prepared and submitted to the chair for approval before being reported to the Desk. Amendments submitted by the author that, in the opinion of the committee chair, are major or substantial shall be submitted to the committee at least two legislative days before the bill is scheduled for hearing.

(n) A bill may not be set for hearing, nor may any notice thereof be published, by a Senate committee until the bill has been referred to the committee by the Committee on Rules.

(o) The chair may appoint, with the permission of the Committee on Rules, subcommittees of one or more members to consider and recommend to the full committee action on matters as may be assigned to the subcommittee for consideration from time to time by the chair. The chair may assign and reassign members of, and matters to, the various subcommittees. The recommendation of a subcommittee may be accepted by a vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

(p) In all cases not provided for by this rule, the Senate Rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, or statute, the authority shall be the latest edition of Mason's Manual.

Additional Rules

21.6. Committees may adopt additional rules that are not in conflict with Rule 21.5 or any other rule.

Reporting Measures Out of Committee

21.7. The vote of a majority of the membership of a standing committee shall be required to report a bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, or joint resolution out of committee.

A vote of a majority of all members of a standing committee who are present and voting shall be required to report a Senate resolution out of committee.

Press Participation

21.8. Accredited press representatives may not be excluded from any public legislative meeting or hearing, and may not be prohibited from taking photographs of, televising, or recording the committee or house hearings, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) This rule extends to all public legislative meetings.
- (2) Lights may be used only when cameras are filming and, when possible, proceedings in hearing rooms and the chamber shall be filmed without lights.
- (3) Every effort should be made to set up filming equipment before hearings or sessions begin.

(4) The committee chair or the Committee on Rules shall be notified, as far in advance of the proceedings as possible, that recordings and television cameras will be present and filming.

(5) To the extent practical, flash cameras shall not be used.

(6) Photographs shall be taken in an orderly and expeditious manner so as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the committee or to the Members in the chamber.

However, the chair of a committee may request any person to relocate or remove any object, or discontinue the use of any equipment, that is situated or used in a manner so as to disrupt the proceedings or to create a potential danger to, or substantially obstruct the view of, members of the committee or the public.

In case any person fails to respond to a request of the chair to relocate, remove, or discontinue the use of the objects or equipment, the committee may, by majority vote, require it.

INTRODUCTION AND REFERENCE OF MEASURES

Introduction, First Reading, and Reference of Measures

22. Any Senator desiring to introduce a bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, or Senate resolution shall send it to the Senate Desk.

When received at the Secretary's desk, a bill shall, under the proper order of business, be numbered, read, printed, and referred by the Committee on Rules to a standing committee. The Committee on Rules shall check all Assembly measures before reference to committee and shall designate the committee to which they shall be referred.

All joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and Senate resolutions shall be automatically referred to the Committee on Rules upon introduction, and may be rereferred to any other standing committee upon the vote of a majority of the membership of the Committee on Rules.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate without debate, the assignment of the measure shall then be complete and, after printing, the Secretary shall deliver the measure to the committee designated by the Committee on Rules.

Under the order of Messages from the Assembly, the Secretary shall read each Assembly bill the first time and shall read the name of the committee to which the bill has been assigned by the Committee on

Rules. Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate without debate the assignment of the bill shall then be complete, and the Secretary shall deliver the bill to the committee so designated.

Bill Introduction Limitation

22.5. (a) A Member of the Senate may introduce or subsequently author not more than 35 bills in the regular session.

(b) This rule may be suspended with respect to a particular bill by approval of the Committee on Rules.

(c) This rule does not apply to a constitutional amendment, any type of resolution, or a bill introduced by a committee.

Short Title

22.6. A bill may not add a short title that names a current or former Member of the Legislature.

Bills Assigning, Requesting, or Requiring Studies

22.7. Except as determined by the Committee on Rules, a bill that assigns, requests, or requires a study, or is amended to assign, request, or require a study, shall be rereferred to the Committee on Rules.

Introduction of Bills by a Committee

23. (a) A standing committee may introduce a bill germane to any subject within the proper consideration of the committee in the same manner as any Member. A committee bill shall contain the signatures of all of the members of the committee.

(b) A committee may amend into a bill related provisions germane to the subject and embraced within the title and, with the consent of the author, may constitute that bill a committee bill.

Bill Introduction Deadline

23.5. The Senate Desk shall remain open for the introduction of bills from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the days designated in subdivision (a) of Joint Rule 54 as the deadlines for the introduction of bills in the first and second years of the regular session.

Introduction of Bills and Resolutions at Special Sessions

24. Whenever, at any special session, a bill or resolution is received at the Desk, under the order of Introduction of Bills, it shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, which shall decide whether or not the bill or resolution can properly be considered at the session. If, in the judgment of the Committee on Rules, the bill or resolution can be considered, the committee shall report the bill or resolution back and designate the committee to which it shall be assigned. Thereafter the bill or resolution shall be assigned a number by the Secretary, read the first time, and referred to the committee recommended by the Committee on Rules unless otherwise referred on motion without debate.

Resolutions

24.5. A Senate concurrent resolution or Senate resolution may be introduced relating to a present or former state or federal elected official or a member of the official's immediate family. Other resolutions for the purpose of commendation or congratulation of any person, group, or organization, or for the purpose of expressing sympathy, regret, or sorrow on the death of any person, shall be prepared as Rules Committee resolutions and presented to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

The Committee on Rules may approve exceptions to this rule for Senate resolutions. The Secretary may not accept for introduction any Senate resolution that is contrary to this rule unless it is accompanied by the approval of the Committee on Rules.

Senate Resolutions

25. All Senate resolutions eligible to be introduced under the rules, upon being presented, shall be given a number by the Secretary. A Senate resolution shall be printed, and indexed in the History and Journal.

Bills Authored by a Former Member

26. Whenever a bill in the Senate is authored by an individual who is no longer a Member of the Legislature, upon a request of a committee or current Member of the house in which the bill was introduced, the

Senate Committee on Rules may authorize that committee or Member to be the author of that bill. Absent that authorization, action may not be taken by a committee or the Senate with respect to a bill authored by a former Member.

BILLS IN COMMITTEE

Author's Amendments

27. Upon request of the author of a bill, the chair of the committee to which the bill has been referred may, by the chair's individual action taken independently of any committee meeting, cause the bill to be reported to the Senate with the recommendation that amendments submitted by the author be adopted and the bill be reprinted as amended and rereferred to the committee.

Withdrawing a Bill From Committee

28. A bill or resolution may not be withdrawn from committee except upon written notice being first given to the Committee on Rules and by 21 votes of the Senate.

Consent Calendar

28.3. (a) If a Senate bill or Assembly bill is amended in the Senate to create a new bill or to rewrite the bill, a standing committee may not place the bill on its consent calendar, and may not report the bill out of committee with the recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar on the floor.

(b) For purposes of this rule, an amendment creates a new bill or rewrites the bill if the amendment (1) changes the subject of the bill to a new or different subject, or (2) adds a new subject to the bill that is different from, and not related to, the contents of the bill.

Referral of Bills

28.4. (a) If a Senate bill or Assembly bill is amended in the Committee on Appropriations to create a new bill or to rewrite the bill and the chair of the committee determines pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8 that (1) any additional state costs are not significant and do not and will

not require the appropriation of additional state funds, and (2) the bill will cause no significant reduction in revenues, the bill shall be reported to the Senate with the recommendation that it be placed on second reading, except that the bill first shall be referred to the Committee on Rules. Upon receipt of the bill, the Committee on Rules shall either refer the bill to an appropriate policy committee or order that the bill be placed on second reading.

(b) For purposes of this rule, an amendment creates a new bill or rewrites the bill if the amendment (1) changes the subject of the bill to a new or different subject, or (2) adds a new subject to the bill that is different from, and not related to, the contents of the bill.

Measures to be Authored

28.5. Each bill, constitutional amendment, or resolution shall be authored by a Member or committee of the Legislature before it is considered or voted on by a committee or the Senate. Each amendment to a bill, constitutional amendment, or resolution shall be signed by a Member or committee of the Legislature prior to adoption by the Senate. A bill may be authored only by a Member or committee of the house of origin. A Member other than a Member of the house of origin may be a “principal coauthor” or “coauthor.”

Vote in Committee

28.7. Voting on the disposition of bills, constitutional amendments, concurrent resolutions, and joint resolutions by committees shall be by rollcall vote only. A rollcall vote shall be taken on a motion to amend only if requested by any member of the committee or the author of the measure. All rollcall votes taken in committees shall be promptly transmitted by their respective chairs to the Secretary of the Senate, who shall cause a record of the rollcall votes to be printed in the Journal.

This rule does not apply to:

- (a) Procedural motions that do not have the effect of disposing of a bill.
- (b) Withdrawal of a bill from a committee calendar at the request of an author.
- (c) A committee’s return of a bill to the Senate, if the bill has not been voted on by the committee.
- (d) The assignment of bills to committee.

On a legislative day when the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader is in attendance, the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader, in the absence of any objection, may instruct the committee secretary of a committee of which the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader is a member to add the President pro Tempore's or Minority Floor Leader's vote to any previously announced vote that was taken while the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader was performing the responsibilities of the office of President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader, provided the outcome of the vote is not thereby changed. This provision does not apply to any rollcall after adjournment of the legislative day during which the rollcall in question was taken. The intent of this paragraph is to allow the President pro Tempore and the Minority Floor Leader to carry out the unique and special duties of their offices without losing the opportunity to vote on matters before the committees of which they are members.

Appropriations Committee

28.8. Any bill referred to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Joint Rule 10.5 that does not appropriate money may not be set for hearing and shall, along with any nonsubstantive amendments, promptly be reported to the Senate with the recommendation it be placed on second reading if the chair of the committee determines that (a) any additional state costs are not significant and do not and will not require the appropriation of additional state funds, and (b) the bill will cause no significant reduction in revenues.

State-Mandated Local Program Bills

28.9. (a) Any bill having a digest that, pursuant to Section 17575 of the Government Code, indicates that the bill imposes a state-mandated local program on local agencies or school districts shall be rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations. The bill may not be rereferred to the Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

(b) Any bill rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to this rule that does not appropriate money and does not contain a complete disclaimer of all of the provisions of Section 905.2 of, and Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of, the Government Code, need not be set for hearing and may, along with any nonsubstantive amendments, be reported to the Senate with the

recommendation that it be placed on second reading if the chair of the committee determines, after consideration of the analyses of local costs prepared by the Legislative Analyst and the Department of Finance, that (1) any additional local costs are not significant and (2) the bill will cause no significant reduction in local revenues.

For the purposes of this rule, “complete disclaimer” means a provision in a bill that prohibits local agencies and school districts from filing claims with the Commission on State Mandates for reimbursement for the costs of unfunded mandated programs or services.

(c) Whenever the Assembly amends and passes a Senate bill and the Senate must concur in the amendments, upon the request of any Senator the bill shall be rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations if, based upon the Legislative Counsel’s Digest of the Assembly amendments or an analysis prepared pursuant to Rule 29.8, the bill (1) imposes state-mandated local costs without providing adequate reimbursement, or (2) contains a complete disclaimer. The Committee on Appropriations shall make a recommendation to the Senate regarding whether the Senate should concur in the Assembly amendments.

(d) Any bill referred to the Committee on Appropriations solely pursuant to this rule, and that otherwise would not be rereferred to the committee pursuant to Joint Rule 10.5, is not subject to subparagraph (a)(2), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(10), (a)(12), (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(5), (b)(8), (b)(9), (b)(13), or (b)(15) of Joint Rule 61.

Display Bills

28.10. A display bill shall not be heard or acted on in any committee, or voted on by the Senate. For purposes of this rule, “display bill” means a bill that sets forth substantive changes in or additions to existing law but states in the text of the bill that its provisions are set forth for display purposes only, or words of like effect.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Order of Making Files

29. When bills are reported from committee they shall be placed upon the Daily File, to be kept by the Secretary as follows: All bills when reported to the Senate by the committee shall be placed at the foot of the Second Reading Senate or Assembly File, in the order in

which the reports are made and, after the second reading, shall be placed at the foot of the Senate or Assembly Third Reading File, in the order of reading. Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, the File shall be taken up in the following order: Senate Second Reading File, Assembly Second Reading File, Special Orders, Unfinished Business, Senate Third Reading File, and Assembly Third Reading File. The bills upon the third reading shall be considered in the order in which they appear upon the File, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

A Senate bill returned from the Assembly for concurrence in Assembly amendments may not be considered until it appears under Unfinished Business on the Daily File pursuant to Joint Rule 26.5 and an analysis is provided to each Senator pursuant to Senate Rule 29.8.

An inactive file shall be kept, to which bills and resolutions may be transferred at the request of the author, or on motion. Bills shall be so transferred when they have been passed on third reading file without action three successive times. Bills and resolutions may be transferred from the inactive file to the second reading file on motion and, after being read the second time, the bills shall take their place regularly on third reading file and be available for consideration and passage.

Bills, resolutions, and other questions may be transferred from the unfinished business file to the inactive file upon request or motion and may be returned to the unfinished business file by request or on motion.

Placement of any question on the inactive file shall not prejudice the question.

Strike From File

29.2. A motion to strike any bill, resolution, or other question from the File shall require 21 votes. That bill, resolution, or other question may not be acted upon again during the session.

Measures Amended From the Floor

29.3. (a) The consideration of a bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, or Senate resolution that has been amended by amendments offered from the floor, except committee amendments reported with measures or amendments offered with a motion to amend and rerefer to committee, is not in order until the amended measure has been in print for not less than one legislative day. Any measure so amended shall be placed on the second reading file.

(b) A bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, or Senate resolution shall not be recommended for amendment by any committee after the last day to amend bills on the floor, as specified in the legislative calendar adopted by the Senate for the 2025–26 Regular Session.

Bills Approving Memoranda of Understanding

29.4. The Senate may not pass a bill that approves a memorandum of understanding, for purposes of Section 3517.5 and following of the Government Code, until the final version of the subject memorandum of understanding is received by the Secretary of the Senate and made available for review for seven legislative days and its availability for review noted in the Senate Daily Journal for that period.

Amended Forms of Measures

29.5. No bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, or Senate resolution may be considered for passage unless and until a copy of the measure as last amended is on the desk of each Member in printed or electronic form.

Conference Reports

29.6. (a) No conference committee on any bill, other than the Budget Bill and the budget implementation bills, may approve any substantial policy change in any bill if that substantial policy change has been defeated in a policy committee of the Senate during the current legislative session.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (d) of Joint Rule 29.5, the term “heard” means that a printed bill with substantially similar language was before the appropriate committee and taken up at a regular or special hearing of the committee during the current legislative session, or that an amendment, which was drafted and given a request number or approved as to form by Legislative Counsel, was before the committee and taken up at a regular or special hearing of the committee.

Conference Committee Meetings

29.7. Before the adoption of a conference report by the Senate, any Senator may raise a point of order and put the following question to the chair of the Committee on Conference from the Senate: “Did the Committee on Conference meet at a public meeting attended by at least two of the Assembly Members and two of the Senate Members of the Committee on Conference and adopt the conference report by an affirmative rollcall vote of not less than two of the Assembly Members and two of the Senate Members constituting the Committee on Conference?” If the chair answers this question in the negative, the conference report shall be returned to the Committee on Conference and may not be further considered by the Senate until the committee has met at a public meeting attended by at least two of the Assembly Members and two of the Senate Members of the committee, and has adopted the conference report by an affirmative rollcall vote of not less than two of the Assembly Members and two of the Senate Members constituting the committee.

Analysis of Measures, Conference Reports, and Floor Amendments

29.8. (a) With the exception of the Budget Bill and budget implementation bills, no bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, Senate resolution, unfinished business item, or report of a conference committee may be considered unless and until an analysis thereof has been prepared by the Office of Senate Floor Analyses and placed upon the desks of the Senators, unless otherwise ordered by the President pro Tempore.

(b) An amendment from the floor is not in order unless and until the amendment has been reviewed by the Office of Senate Floor Analyses. Upon a request by the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules, or by the lead author of the measure to which a substantive amendment is proposed from the floor, an analysis thereof shall be prepared by the Office of Senate Floor Analyses and placed upon the desks of the Senators.

Consideration of Conference Reports

29.9. No conference report may be adopted by the Senate until it has been in print for two days prior to being taken up by the Senate.

Referral of Bills

29.10. (a) If the analysis, prepared in accordance with subdivision (b) of Rule 29.8, of proposed floor amendments to a bill, other than the Budget Bill and budget implementation bills, discloses that the amendments create a new bill or rewrite the current form of the bill, upon adoption of the amendments the bill shall be reprinted and referred to the Committee on Rules.

(b) When amendments adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) rewrite the bill, as specified in subdivision (e), the Committee on Rules shall either refer the bill to a standing committee or hold the bill. If the bill is referred to a standing committee, the standing committee shall meet and act upon the bill no later than the next scheduled hearing of the committee. If the bill is referred to a standing committee during a time when standing committees are not meeting, the standing committee shall meet and act upon the bill as directed by the Committee on Rules and, in any event, within two legislative days of receipt of the bill. Upon receipt of the bill, the committee by a vote of a majority of the membership may do any of the following: (1) hold the bill, (2) return the bill to the Senate floor for consideration, or (3) rerefer the bill to fiscal committee pursuant to Joint Rule 10.5.

If the bill is referred to a standing committee during the time when no committee may meet, the Committee on Rules shall grant permission to suspend the joint rule to allow the committee to meet as directed by the Committee on Rules.

If the bill is referred to the Committee on Rules on the last legislative day preceding a joint recess, the Committee on Rules and, if the bill is referred to a standing committee, the standing committee, shall meet and act upon the bill before adjourning for the recess. If the bill is referred to the Committee on Rules on any of the three legislative days preceding February 1 or September 1 of an even-numbered year, the Committee on Rules and, if the bill is referred to a standing committee, the standing committee, shall meet and act upon the bill on the same legislative day.

(c) When amendments adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) create a new bill, as specified in subdivision (f), the bill shall be referred to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules, by a vote of a majority of its membership may either (1) hold the bill, or (2) refer the bill to the appropriate standing committee subject to all of the time and other

limitations provided in these rules and the Joint Rules for the hearing and passage of bills.

(d) If the analysis, prepared in accordance with subdivision (a) of Rule 29.8, of a bill, other than the Budget Bill and budget implementation bills, that is returned to the Senate for a vote on concurrence discloses that the Assembly amendments create a new bill or rewrite the bill as passed by the Senate, the bill shall be referred to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules by a vote of a majority of its membership may either (1) refer the bill to an appropriate standing committee, (2) recommend that the bill be taken up for consideration of the Assembly amendments, or (3) hold the bill.

If the bill is referred to a standing committee, the committee shall meet and act upon the bill no later than the next scheduled hearing of the committee. If the bill is referred to a standing committee during a time when standing committees are not meeting, the standing committee shall meet and act upon the bill as directed by the Committee on Rules and, in any event, within two legislative days of receipt of the bill. Upon receipt of the bill, the standing committee by a majority vote of the membership may either (1) hold the bill, or (2) return the bill to the Senate floor for consideration of the bill as amended in the Assembly.

If the bill is referred to a standing committee during the time when no committee may meet, the Committee on Rules shall grant permission to suspend the joint rule to allow the committee to meet as directed by the Committee on Rules.

If the bill is referred to the Committee on Rules on the last legislative day preceding a joint recess, the Committee on Rules and, if the bill is referred to a standing committee, the standing committee, shall meet and act upon the bill before adjourning for the recess. If the bill is referred to the Committee on Rules on any of the three legislative days preceding February 1 or September 1 of an even-numbered year, the Committee on Rules and, if the bill is referred to a standing committee, the standing committee, shall meet and act upon the bill on the same legislative day.

(e) An amendment rewrites a bill if the amendment (1) is germane to the previous version of the bill but adds a new subject to the bill that is different from, but related to, the contents of the bill, or (2) is not described in subdivision (f) and makes a change of fiscal or policy significance that may be appropriate for review by a standing committee.

(f) An amendment creates a new bill if the amendment changes the subject of the bill to a new or different subject.

Special Order

30. Any measure or subject may, by vote of a majority of those voting, be made a special order and, when the time fixed for its consideration arrives, the Presiding Officer shall lay it before the Senate.

Messages From the Governor or Assembly

31. Messages from the Governor or from the Assembly may be introduced at any stage of business except while a question is being put, while the ayes and noes are being called, or while a Senator is addressing the Senate.

Messages from the Governor or from the Assembly may be considered when indicated in the order of business or at any other time by unanimous consent or upon motion.

Engrossing Measures

32. All Senate bills, constitutional amendments, and joint and concurrent resolutions shall be engrossed after each amendment and before final action is taken on them in the Senate. Engrossment shall consist of comparing the printed engrossed measure with the original measure introduced and any amendments adopted to ascertain that it is correct, and making necessary technical corrections. When a measure is reported correctly engrossed it shall be substituted for the original measure.

Enrolling Measures

33. All Senate measures shall be enrolled immediately following their final passage and receipt from the Assembly. An enrolled copy of every bill, constitutional amendment, or resolution shall be printed and examined to ascertain that it is a true and accurate copy of the measure as it was passed. It shall then be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary of the Senate or a designee, and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or a designee, and transmitted to the Governor or Secretary of State, as the case may be.

DEBATE

Statement of Motion

34. A motion may not be debated until it is distinctly announced by the Presiding Officer, and it shall be reduced to writing if desired by any Senator, and read by the Secretary, before it is debated.

Regulations as to Speaking

35. (a) When a Senator desires to address the Senate, the Senator shall rise at the Senator's desk, address the Presiding Officer, and, when recognized, proceed to speak through the public address system. When speaking, the Senator shall confine the Senator's remarks to the question before the house. A Senator who has not been recognized by the Presiding Officer shall not address the body.

(b) A Senator may not speak more than twice in any one debate on the same day, and at the same stage of the bill, without leave; Senators who have once spoken are not again entitled to the floor (except for explanation) so long as any Senator who has not spoken desires to speak. During the five days prior to the deadline for each house to pass bills introduced in that house and the five days prior to the last day for each house to pass bills, limits may be adopted to expedite the completion of the Senate's business by limiting the number of speakers per measure, amendment, or debatable motion and the time allotted to each speaker as long as these limits are applied equally to speakers in support and in opposition.

(c) When two or more Senators arise at the same time to address the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall designate the Senator who is entitled to the floor.

(d) A Senator may not be interrupted when speaking, and no question may be asked of the Senator except through the Presiding Officer.

(e) The author or floor manager of a bill, motion, or resolution shall have the privilege of closing the debate, and may elect to answer questions raised in the debate during the author's or floor manager's closing.

Order in Debate

36. When a Senator is called to order, the Senator shall sit down until the Presiding Officer has determined whether or not the Senator is in order. Every question of order shall be decided by the Presiding Officer, subject to an appeal to the Senate by any Senator. If a Senator is called to order for words spoken, the objectionable language shall immediately be taken down in writing by the Secretary of the Senate.

Right to Address the Senate

37. A person other than a Member of the Senate may not address the Senate while it is in session, except that the Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and, while sitting as a Committee of the Whole, may be addressed by persons other than Members.

QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

Amendments to Measures

38. When amendments to a measure are reported by a committee or offered from the floor, the amendments shall be submitted in writing.

Adoption of amendments to any measure in the Senate prior to third reading, other than by rollcall, shall not preclude subsequent consideration, in committee or on the third reading of the measure, of the amendments or any part thereof by the Senate.

Amendments to Be Germane

38.5. Every amendment proposed must be germane. In order to be germane, an amendment must relate to the same subject as the original bill, resolution, or other question under consideration.

A point of order may be raised that the proposed amendment or an amendment now in the bill, resolution, or other question under consideration is not germane, so long as the question is within control of the body. In that case the President pro Tempore shall decide whether the point of order is well taken. In the absence of the President pro Tempore, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules shall decide whether the point of order is well taken. If, in the opinion of the President pro Tempore or the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules,

the point of order is well taken, the question of germaneness shall upon the motion of the President pro Tempore or the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules be referred to the Committee on Rules for determination. The Committee on Rules shall make its determination by the following legislative day. If the point of order is raised and referral is made on the last legislative day preceding a joint recess, the Committee on Rules shall make its determination before adjourning for the recess.

The proposition shall remain on file until the determination is made. If, upon consideration of the matter, the Committee on Rules determines that the amendment is not germane, the bill, resolution, or other question shall be stricken from the file and may not be acted upon during the remainder of the session, provided that the author of a bill, resolution, or other question shall be given the opportunity to amend the bill, resolution, or other question to delete the portions that are not germane, in which case the bill, resolution, or other question may continue to be acted upon. If the Committee on Rules determines that the amendment is germane, the bill, resolution, or other question may thereafter be acted upon by the house.

Notwithstanding Rule 21, this rule may not be suspended unless the Committee on Rules determines that an extraordinary circumstance and overwhelming public interest exist that justify the suspension.

Amendments From the Floor

38.6. Amendments to a bill, constitutional amendment, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, or Senate resolution offered from the floor, except committee amendments reported with measures or amendments offered with a motion to amend and rerefer to committee, are not in order unless and until a copy of the proposed amendments provided by the author has been placed upon the desks of the Members.

Motion to Lay on the Table

39. When an amendment proposed to any pending measure is laid on the table, it may not carry with it or prejudice the measure.

Division of a Question

40. If a question in debate contains more than one distinct proposition, any Senator may have the same divided.

The Previous Question

41. The previous question shall be put in the following form: “Shall the question be now put?” It shall require a majority vote of the Senators present, and its effect shall be to put an end to all the debate except that the author of the bill or the amendment shall have the right to close, and the question under discussion shall thereupon be immediately put to a vote.

Call of the Senate

42. Upon a motion being carried for a call of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall immediately order the doors to be closed, and shall direct the Secretary to call the names of the absentees as disclosed by the last previous rollcall. Thereupon, a Member may not be permitted to leave the Senate Chamber except by written permission of the President pro Tempore or, in the absence of the President pro Tempore, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules or, in the absence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules, another member of the Committee on Rules designated for that purpose by the President pro Tempore or the Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules. Those Members who are found to be absent and for whom no excuse or insufficient excuses are made may, by order of those present, be taken into custody, as they appear, or may be sent for and then taken into custody by the Sergeant at Arms whenever found, or by special messenger to be appointed for that purpose. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the Members present may order a rollcall of the Senate and compel the attendance of absentees in the manner above provided.

A call of the Senate may be ordered after the roll has been called and prior to the announcement of the vote. A call of the Senate may be dispensed with at any time upon a majority vote of the Senators present, that action to become effective upon completion of the rollcall and the announcement of the vote upon the matter for which the call was ordered.

A recess may not be taken during a call of the Senate. During any call, the call may be made to apply also to other items of business by a motion made and adopted by a majority vote of the Members present. Under those circumstances, when the call of the Senate is dispensed with as to any item of business, the call is deemed to be continued in effect until other items of business that have been made subject to the call by a majority of the Members present have been acted upon. When a call of the Senate is ordered, pending the announcement of the vote upon the completion of a rollcall, the pending rollcall shall become unfinished business, the consideration of which shall be continued until further proceedings under the call of the Senate are dispensed with, when it will forthwith become the order of business before the Senate.

A motion to adjourn is not in order during a call of the Senate.

Reconsideration

43. On the day on which a vote has been taken on any question, a motion to reconsider the vote may be made by any Member. Reconsideration may be granted only once.

The motion may be considered on the day made or on the succeeding legislative day, but may not be further postponed without the concurrence of 30 Members.

A vote by which a bill was passed may not be reconsidered on the last legislative day preceding the interim study joint recess or the final recess, and a vote by which the bill was passed may not be reconsidered on a Senate bill introduced during the first year of the biennium of the legislative session on January 31, or on the last legislative day immediately preceding January 31, of an even-numbered year.

When reconsideration of the vote by which any bill has passed has been demanded, the Secretary may not transmit it to the Assembly until the demand has been disposed of or the time for reconsideration has expired, but if the bill has already been transmitted to the Assembly the demand for reconsideration shall be preceded by a motion to request the Assembly to return the bill. The motion shall be put to a vote immediately without debate and, if not adopted, shall preclude a demand for reconsideration.

A demand to reconsider the vote on any debatable question opens the main question to debate, and the vote on the reconsideration shall be on the merits of the main question.

VOTING BY SENATE

Rescinding

43.5. An action whereby a bill has been passed or defeated may not be rescinded without the concurrence of 27 Members.

Voting on Rollcall

44. Whenever a rollcall is required by the Constitution or rules, or is ordered by the Senate or demanded by three Members, every Member within the Senate shall without debate answer “Aye” or “No” when the Member’s name is called.

The names of Members shall be called alphabetically.

A Senator may not vote or change the Senator’s vote after the announcement of the vote by the Presiding Officer.

On a legislative day when the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader is in attendance throughout a session, the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader, in the absence of any objection, may instruct the Secretary of the Senate to add the vote of the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader to any previously announced vote that was taken while the President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader was performing the responsibilities of the office of President pro Tempore or Minority Floor Leader, provided the outcome of the vote is not thereby changed. This provision does not apply to any rollcall after adjournment of the legislative day during which the rollcall in question was taken. The intent of this paragraph is to allow the President pro Tempore and the Minority Floor Leader to carry out the unique and special duties of their offices without losing the opportunity to vote on matters before the Senate.

Excused From Voting

45. When a Senator declines or fails to vote on call of the Senator’s name, the Senator may, after completion of the rollcall and before the announcement of the vote, be required to assign the reasons therefor and, the Senator having assigned them, the Presiding Officer shall submit the question to the Senate: “Shall the Senator, for the reasons assigned by the Senator, be excused from voting?” which question shall

be decided without debate. Unless the Senator is excused from voting, the Senator shall be required to vote.

Voting by Presiding Senator

46. When any Member is presiding over the Senate, the Member shall vote on rollcall the same as though the Member were not presiding.

Vote Required

47. Unless otherwise required by the Constitution, the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, or these rules, any action that can be taken by the Senate requires only a majority vote of the Senate, a quorum being present.

The following actions require 35 votes:

(1) To pass a bill amending specified provisions of the Protect App-Based Drivers and Services Act (Prop. 22, Nov. 3, 2020; Sec. 7465, Bus. & Prof. C.).

The following actions require 32 votes:

(2) To pass a bill amending specified provisions of the Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act of 1988 (Prop. 99, Nov. 8, 1988; Sec. 30130, R. & T.C.).

(3) To pass a bill amending the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act of 1990 (Prop. 116, June 5, 1990; Sec. 99605, P.U.C.).

(4) To pass a bill amending the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Sec. 8, Prop. 117, June 5, 1990).

(5) To pass a bill amending specified provisions of the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 (Sec. 9(c), Prop. 56, Nov. 8, 2016).

(6) To pass a bill amending the Emergency Ambulance Employee Safety and Preparedness Act (Prop. 11, Nov. 6, 2018; Sec. 890, Lab. C.).

(7) To pass a bill amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act (Sec. 8, Prop. 12, Nov. 6, 2018).

The following actions require 30 votes:

(8) To dispense with the constitutional provision requiring a 30-calendar-day delay after introduction before a bill may be heard by any committee or acted upon by either house (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8(a)).

(9) To postpone the reconsideration of a vote beyond the first legislative day succeeding the day the motion was made.

(10) To pass a bill amending the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016 (Sec. 20, Prop. 66, Nov. 8, 2016).

The following actions require 28 votes:

(11) To pass a bill amending the statutory provisions, other than the bond provisions, of the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act (Sec. 8, Prop. 71, Nov. 2, 2004).

(12) To pass a bill amending the statutory provisions of the Victims' Bill of Rights Act (Sec. 9, Prop. 9, Nov. 4, 2008).

(13) To pass a bill amending the statutory provisions, other than the bond provisions, of the California Stem Cell Research, Treatments, and Cures Initiative of 2020 (Sec. 26, Prop. 14, Nov. 3, 2020).

The following actions require 27 votes:

(14) To pass an urgency clause and urgency statute (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8(d)).

(15) To dispense with the constitutional provision requiring the reading of bills on three several days (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8(b)(1)).

(16) To waive the 72-hour notice period for a bill if the Governor has submitted to the Legislature a written statement that dispensing with the notice period for that bill is necessary to address a state of emergency (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8(b)(2)).

(17) To pass a bill over the Governor's veto (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 10).

(18) To prescribe compensation and reimbursement for travel and living expenses of the Members of the Legislature (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 4).

(19) To propose an amendment to or revision of the Constitution (Constitution, Art. XVIII, Secs. 1, 2).

(20) To amend or withdraw a proposed legislative constitutional amendment or revision (Constitution, Art. XVIII, Sec. 1).

(21) To classify or exempt personal property for property taxation purposes (Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 2).

(22) To permit an exemption of real property from taxation (Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 7).

(23) To remove a member of the Public Utilities Commission (Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 1).

(24) To reconsider the vote by which a concurrent resolution proposing a constitutional amendment is defeated.

(25) To rescind the action whereby a bill has been passed or defeated.

(26) To suspend the rule against lobbying in the Senate Chamber.

(27) To concur in Assembly amendments to, or adopt a report of a committee on conference concerning, a constitutional amendment or bill that requires 27 votes for passage.

(28) To concur in Assembly amendments to, or adopt a report of a committee on conference concerning, a Senate bill that contains an item or items of appropriation subject to Section 12(d) of Article IV of the Constitution.

(29) To amend an initiative statute that permits that action and requires 27 votes for passage.

The following action requires 22 votes:

(30) To pass a bill amending the Safety for All Act of 2016 (Sec. 13, Prop. 63, Nov. 8, 2016).

The following actions require 21 votes:

(31) To adopt, amend, or suspend the rules, except as provided in Rule 21.

(32) To pass a bill, unless under other rules a greater vote is required (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8(b)).

(33) To adopt a joint or concurrent resolution.

(34) To reconsider a bill, or a joint or concurrent resolution.

(35) To confirm an appointment by the Governor, unless a greater vote is required by statute, or to reconsider the same.

(36) To recall a bill from committee.

(37) To concur in Assembly amendments to, or adopt a report of a committee on conference concerning, a joint or concurrent resolution or bill that requires 21 votes for passage.

(38) To change a rate of bank and corporation taxation, or tax on insurers, for state purposes (Constitution, Art. XIII, Secs. 27, 28).

(39) To strike from file.

(40) To adopt a resolution that does not favor a Governor's Reorganization Plan (Sec. 12080.5, Gov. Code).

Actions requiring 14 votes:

(41) To reconsider a vote by which a concurrent resolution proposing a constitutional amendment was adopted.

Vote Required for Amendments

48. A constitutional amendment or bill requiring a vote of two-thirds of the Members elected to the Senate for final adoption or passage may be amended by a majority of those voting.

CONTENTS OF SENATE JOURNAL

Proceedings to Be Printed

49. The proceedings of the Senate, when not acting as a Committee of the Whole, shall be entered in the Journal as concisely as possible, care being taken to record a true and accurate account of the proceedings.

The Journal shall state the name of the Senator presenting each Assembly bill, concurrent or joint resolution, or constitutional amendment to the Senate for final action.

Every vote of the Senate shall be recorded in the Journal.

Titles of Measures to Be Printed

50. The titles of all bills, joint and concurrent resolutions, and constitutional amendments when introduced and when acted upon by the Senate, and a brief statement of the contents of each petition, memorial, or paper presented to the Senate, shall be printed in the Journal.

Other Matters to Be Printed

51. Messages from the Governor (other than annual messages and inaugural addresses) shall be printed in the Journal, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

Letters of transmittal presenting reports of committees and reports of state departments and agencies as shall be made to the Senate pursuant to law or resolution adopted by the Senate shall be printed in the Journal, but the reports shall be printed in the Appendix to the Journal unless otherwise directed by the Senate.

Duty of Secretary to Order Printing

52. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed, to order for the Senate the necessary printing, including stationery for the Members, and to audit and approve all bills for printing to be charged to the Senate. The Secretary of the Senate shall order from the Office of State Publishing the number of copies of bills, Journals, Histories, Files, forms, and other printing as shall be necessary.

It shall further be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate to order bills and other legislative publications for which there is a demand, to be printed before the supply of same shall become exhausted.

Printing Only on Written Orders; Rush Orders

53. The Office of State Publishing may not charge any printing or other work to the Senate except as required by law unless the Office of State Publishing has a written order from the Secretary of the Senate prior to beginning the printing or other work. All printing orders by the Secretary of the Senate shall be delivered as directed by the Secretary of the Senate. The Secretary of the Senate may, when necessity requires it, order from the Office of State Publishing the printing that the Secretary of the Senate deems necessary to be printed in advance of the regular order of business, under a specially prepared written order to be known as a "Rush Order."

THE SENATE CHAMBER

Admission to the Senate Chamber

55. (a) Persons who are not Members, officers, or employees of the Senate may be admitted to the Senate Chamber only as follows:

1. The Members, officers, and assistant clerks of the Assembly.
2. The Legislative Counsel or the Legislative Counsel's representatives.
3. The accredited press, radio, and television representatives.
4. Former State Senators and Assembly Members.
5. Visitors in the chairs reserved for that purpose, on invitation of the President pro Tempore or a Senator or on presentation of a pass.

(b) While the Senate is in session a person, except Members of the Legislature, may not engage in influencing the passage or defeat of legislation in any way in the Senate Chamber.

(c) A person meeting the definition of a lobbyist in Section 82039 of the Government Code may not be admitted to the Senate Chamber while the Senate is in session.

(d) Only Members and officers of the Senate and Assembly, former Members of the Senate, assistant clerks of the Senate and the Assembly, the Legislative Counsel or the Legislative Counsel's representatives, Senate employees for the purpose of delivering messages and when so directed by a Member of the Senate, and members of the press who have seats assigned to them may be permitted on the Floor of the Senate.

(e) The Senate Chamber is the Senate Chamber proper, including Room 215 of the Capitol.

(f) The Floor of the Senate is all of the Senate Chamber.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, any person may be admitted to Room 215 to attend a meeting of a Senate, Assembly, joint, or conference committee.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, a person may not be permitted on the Floor of the Senate while it is in session unless the person is wearing formal business attire. Accredited camerapersons, sound technicians, and photographers are exempt from this requirement. Floor of the Senate, for this purpose, has the same meaning set forth in subdivision (f).

(i) This rule may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate.

Procedures During Emergencies

56. (a) This rule applies only during an emergency. For purposes of this rule, "emergency" means a state of emergency or a local emergency, as those terms are defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code, or an imminent threat of a state of emergency or local emergency.

(b) The President pro Tempore or the President pro Tempore's designee may assign, remove, and replace any member of a standing, joint, or special committee or subcommittee during an emergency. The President pro Tempore may also establish, define the jurisdiction of, and appoint members and staff to any special committee that the President pro Tempore deems necessary.

(c) (1) During an emergency, the President pro Tempore or the President pro Tempore's designee may authorize a standing, joint, or special committee or subcommittee to conduct a meeting in which one or more members of the committee participate remotely by telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or other electronic means. The public may also participate remotely in the meeting by any means made available by the committee.

(2) During an emergency, the President pro Tempore may determine that Senators who are participating remotely can be considered present for purposes of determining if a quorum is present.

(3) With a quorum present, a vote of a majority of the members of a committee shall be required to report a bill, constitutional amendment, or resolution out of the committee.

(d) (1) During an emergency, the President pro Tempore or the President pro Tempore's designee may authorize a meeting of the Senate to be conducted at which one or more Senators participate in the meeting remotely by telephone, teleconference, videoconference or other electronic means.

(2) During an emergency, the President pro Tempore may determine that Senators who are participating remotely can be considered present for purposes of determining if a quorum is present.

(3) When a Senator participating remotely desires to address the Senate, the Senator shall notify the Presiding Officer through the electronic means used by the Senator to participate remotely. When recognized, the Presiding Officer shall announce the Senator and the Senator may speak through the same electronic means.

(e) To the extent practicable, a Senator who requests to participate or vote remotely must submit a request to the Secretary of the Senate and obtain approval from the Secretary prior to participating or voting remotely.

(f) To the extent practicable, a Senator participating remotely under this rule shall participate from the Senator's district office with the office background visible without video alteration.

(g) A Senator participating remotely by electronic means who has been authorized to vote remotely may vote during a rollcall vote. The Senator must be visible and audible through the electronic means used for remote participation at the time the Senator casts a vote. The Secretary of the Senate shall prepare a certification of votes cast remotely which shall be signed by the Senator voting remotely to certify the Senator's vote.

(h) During an emergency, no Senator other than the author or floor manager may be allowed to speak more than three minutes on any measure, amendment, or debatable motion. The author or floor manager may speak for a total of five minutes, which shall include the author's or floor manager's opening and closing statements. Questions asked of the author or floor manager by any Senator shall be charged to that Senator's allotted time.

(i) During an emergency, the Committee on Rules may adopt limits on the number of bills each Senator and Member of the Assembly may have heard by the Senate during the emergency.

(j) During an emergency, the President pro Tempore may adopt additional policies and protocols to protect the health and safety of Senators, staff, and the public.

Senate Resolution No. 4 read and adopted by the Senate December 2, 2024.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate