



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Senate Resolution No. 1

LCO No. 458



Referred to Committee on NO COMMITTEE

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

Resolved by the Senate:

1 That the following are the Senate Rules for the 2021 and 2022 sessions:

2 1. The President shall take the chair on each session day, at the hour
3 to which the Senate stands adjourned. The President shall thereupon
4 call the Senate to order and after prayer and recitation of the pledge of
5 allegiance, if a quorum is present, proceed to business.

6 2. In the absence of a quorum, the President may adjourn the Senate
7 to a subsequent time on that day or to the next session day. At all other
8 times an adjournment shall be pronounced by the President on motion.

9 3. The President shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide
10 all questions of order, upon which no debate shall be allowed except at
11 the request of the President; but the decision shall be subject to an appeal
12 to the Senate which must be seconded and on which no member shall
13 speak more than once. No other business shall be in order until such

14 appeal is disposed of.

15 4. The President shall rise to put a question or to address the Senate,
16 but may read sitting.

17 5. If there is any disturbance, disorderly conduct or other activity in
18 or about the chamber which, in the opinion of the presiding officer, may
19 impede the orderly transaction of the business of the Senate, the
20 presiding officer may take such action as is deemed necessary to
21 preserve and restore order.

22 6. If the President while presiding, wishes to leave the chair, the
23 President Pro Tempore shall preside, or, in the absence of the President
24 Pro Tempore, the President Pro Tempore's designee shall preside for a
25 period not exceeding one day.

26 7. Within one week after appointment, the President Pro Tempore
27 shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains, and if such
28 nominations are confirmed by the Senate by a majority vote, the
29 candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the 2021 and
30 2022 sessions.

31 8. The clerk shall keep a journal of the Senate, and shall enter therein
32 a record of each day's proceedings and record any amendment that may
33 be offered to any bill or resolution.

34 9. (a) Upon acceptance of a Senate agenda, the clerk's office shall act
35 upon the items listed as indicated and shall incorporate the items by
36 reference in the Senate journal and Senate transcript. The clerk shall
37 keep a Calendar on which he or she shall enter daily (1) all bills and joint
38 resolutions received from the House for action except (a) bills and
39 resolutions which do not have a favorable or unfavorable report of a
40 joint committee which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be referred
41 without further action to the appropriate committee, (b) all bills and
42 joint resolutions received from the House for action by the Senate which
43 have not been referred by the Senate to any committee, and (2) all bills

44 and resolutions favorably reported to the Senate from any committee;
45 and these shall be entered on the Calendar in the order in which they
46 are received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
47 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files and
48 on the Calendar, with a file number for two session days and shall be
49 starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:

50 (A) A resolution may be acted on in accordance with Rule 17(b) of the
51 joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives,

52 (B) A bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the
53 general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and acted
54 upon first by the Senate with the consent of the speaker; and if filed in
55 the Senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the House
56 with the consent of the President Pro Tempore,

57 (C) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this rule, any
58 bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the general
59 statutes, may be acted upon immediately in the first house, may be
60 transmitted immediately to the second house and may be acted upon
61 immediately when received by the second house,

62 (D) If the Senate rejects an amendment adopted by the House, the bill
63 or resolution after final action by the Senate may be transmitted
64 immediately to the House, or if the House rejects an amendment
65 adopted by the Senate, the bill or resolution when received from the
66 House may be placed immediately on the Calendar,

67 (E) During the last five calendar days of the session, if the Senate
68 rejects an amendment adopted by the House, or adopts a Senate
69 amendment to a bill or resolution received from the House, or takes any
70 action on the bill or resolution requiring further action by the House, the
71 bill or resolution after final action by the Senate, may be transmitted
72 immediately to the House, or if the House rejects an amendment
73 adopted by the Senate or adopts a House amendment to a bill or
74 resolution received from the Senate, or takes any action on the bill or

75 resolution requiring further action by the Senate, the bill or resolution
76 when received from the House may be placed immediately on the
77 calendar and may be acted upon immediately,

78 (F) During the last five calendar days of the session, any bill or
79 resolution after final action by the Senate may be transmitted
80 immediately to the House, or

81 (G) During the last five calendar days of the session, any bill or
82 resolution received by the Senate after final action by the House may be
83 placed on the Calendar immediately.

84 (b) All bills and resolutions starred for action shall be acted upon only
85 when reached in their regular order, and any bill or resolution passed
86 over when so reached shall retain its place on the Calendar unless it is
87 passed temporarily, put on the foot of the Calendar or its consideration
88 is made the order of the day for some specified time.

89 (c) The clerk shall immediately provide an electronic notice of the
90 filing, in either chamber, and number of any emergency certified bill
91 introduced by the President Pro Tempore and the speaker, certified in
92 accordance with section 2-26 of the general statutes, that is the biennial
93 budget bill or a bill that amends or implements the biennial budget bill
94 to the members of the Senate. No such emergency certified bill may be
95 marked ready for action or acted upon less than twelve hours following
96 the provision of such electronic notice.

97 (d) (1) On any day that is not scheduled as a session day, the President
98 Pro Tempore and the Minority Leader, or their designees, may call the
99 Senate into session for purposes of transacting business of a procedural
100 nature by filing with the clerk or the clerk's designee a written
101 instruction to conduct a pro forma Senate session with or without the
102 presence of a senator. Said direction shall include a written motion to
103 adopt the day's Senate agenda and act on all items as indicated and
104 incorporate the items by reference into the Senate journal and Senate
105 transcript. Said motion shall be read into the record and shall have the

106 same force and effect as if the Senate were convened with a presiding
107 officer and senator.

108 (2) Only during declarations of a public health or civil preparedness
109 emergency related to COVID-19 by the Governor, or at any other time
110 deemed necessary by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for public
111 health concerns related to COVID-19, on any day that is not scheduled
112 as a session day, there shall be a pro forma session, with or without the
113 presence of a senator, for purposes of transacting business of a
114 procedural nature. There shall be a written motion to adopt the day's
115 Senate agenda and act on all items as indicated and incorporate the
116 items by reference into the Senate journal and Senate transcript. Said
117 motion shall be read into the record and shall have the same force and
118 effect as if the Senate were convened with a presiding officer and
119 senator.

120 10. The clerk shall retain all bills, resolutions and other papers, in
121 reference to which any member has a right to move a reconsideration,
122 until the right of reconsideration has expired, and no longer.

123 11. The clerk shall also keep a record of all petitions, resolutions, and
124 bills for all acts which are presented for the consideration of the Senate,
125 and said record shall be so kept as to show by a single reference the
126 action of the Senate on each of them to that date.

127 12. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform the
128 same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The bill
129 clerk and the journal clerk shall perform such duties as are assigned to
130 them by the clerk.

131 13. The clerk shall cause the journals and calendars to be distributed
132 on the desks of the members daily, before the opening of the session.

133 14. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question
134 without leave of the Senate, except to explain.

135 15. No member who is interested in the decision of any question in

136 such manner that he or she cannot vote thereon may stay in the chamber
137 when such question is discussed or decided.

138 16. If a member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and
139 order of the Senate, the President shall, or any member may, call such
140 member to order; and if speaking, such member shall sit down, unless
141 permitted to explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the
142 rules and orders, such member may be required by the Senate, on
143 motion, to make satisfaction therefor, and until satisfaction has been
144 made, shall not be allowed to vote or speak except by way of excuse.

145 17. If a candidate for the Senate notifies the clerk on or before the
146 opening day of the session that such candidate contests the results of the
147 election for his or her district, a committee of three shall be appointed
148 by the President Pro Tempore within the first two days of the session. If
149 a candidate for the Senate in a special election notifies the clerk no later
150 than fourteen days following such election that such candidate contests
151 the results of the election for his or her district, a committee of three shall
152 be appointed by the President Pro Tempore no later than sixteen days
153 following such election. The committee shall take into consideration
154 such contested election and report the facts with its opinion thereon.

155 18. The majority leader shall be elected by the members of the
156 majority party in the Senate. The other leaders of the majority party in
157 the Senate and the chairperson and vice chairpersons of each standing
158 committee shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
159 Senate. Chairpersons and vice chairpersons shall serve at the pleasure
160 of the President Pro Tempore and the majority leader. The clerks of the
161 standing committees and the chairpersons of the subcommittees thereof
162 shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the respective committees
163 with the approval of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The
164 minority leader shall be elected by the members of the minority party in
165 the Senate and the other leaders of the minority party in the Senate shall
166 be appointed by the minority leader. The minority leader shall appoint
167 ranking minority members to each standing committee. Such ranking

168 members shall serve at the pleasure of the minority leader. All standing
169 committee members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
170 by the fifth regular session day of the first year of the term, except to fill
171 a vacancy caused by death or incapacity or resignation from the Senate
172 or from a committee; and except that the President Pro Tempore may
173 appoint any member elected after the fifth regular session day of the
174 first year of the term to any committee within five calendar days after
175 the member takes the oath of office. Not more than nine senators shall
176 be appointed to any standing committee, except that the joint standing
177 committee on Judiciary shall consist of not more than eleven senators
178 and the joint standing committees on Appropriations and Finance,
179 Revenue and Bonding shall consist of not more than thirteen senators.
180 The member first named shall be chairperson. The chairperson of each
181 committee may appoint one of the members of the committee as clerk
182 thereof. All Senate leaders, standing committee assignments,
183 chairpersons, vice chairpersons and clerks and subcommittee
184 chairpersons shall serve for both the 2021 and the 2022 sessions.

185 19. The order of business shall be as follows:

- 186 1. Reception of petitions.
- 187 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary of
188 the state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee
189 reports and reports.
- 190 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.
- 191 4. Reports of committees.
- 192 5. Reception of business from the House.
- 193 6. Business on the Calendar.
- 194 7. Introduction of guests.
- 195 8. Miscellaneous business.

196 9. Resolutions removed from consent calendar.

197 20. Before any petition or resolution is received, a brief statement of
198 its object shall be made by the introducer.

199 21. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the Senate by the
200 President before any debate is had thereon, and every motion shall be
201 reduced to writing if the President so directs or any member desires it.

202 22. When a motion is stated by the President, or read by the clerk, it
203 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Senate. It may be
204 withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment, but
205 not after amendment, unless the Senate gives leave.

206 23. If the question under debate consists of two or more independent
207 propositions any member may move to have the question divided. The
208 President shall rule on the order of voting on the division of a question.

209 24. (a) The yeas and nays shall be cast on the roll call machine on all
210 final action on bills on the regular calendar and on all other questions at
211 the desire of one-fifth of the members present, expressed at any time
212 before a declaration of the vote.

213 (b) Exceptions to this rule shall be allowed as to how and where the
214 yeas and nays are cast and recorded as follows:

215 (1) In the case that the roll call machine is not functioning properly,
216 the roll may be called by the clerk; or

217 (2) Only during declarations of a public health or civil preparedness
218 emergency related to COVID-19 by the Governor, or at any other time
219 deemed necessary by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for public
220 health concerns related to COVID-19, the business of the Senate may be
221 conducted in either the Senate or House chamber, as determined by the
222 President Pro Tempore, and any member who is unwilling or unable to
223 be in the chamber may vote remotely outside of the chamber from the
224 Legislative Office Building or State Capitol. Any member who chooses

225 to vote remotely shall inform the President of the Senate by telephone
226 that such member intends to cast each such vote remotely on any roll
227 call taken for the remainder of that session day and affirm that such
228 member is present and will remain present at the Legislative Office
229 Building or State Capitol for each such vote cast by the member, which
230 information the President shall promptly announce to the chamber. If
231 the member is voting remotely, (A) any such vote shall be cast using the
232 electronic remote voting system, or (B) if the electronic remote voting
233 system is not functioning properly, any such vote may be cast by the
234 member in writing, citing the LCO number of the bill, resolution or
235 amendment or the number of the consent calendar upon which the vote
236 is cast and signed by the member's hand. Such written remote vote shall
237 be delivered by a runner selected by the member's caucus to the
238 presiding officer before the roll call is announced. The presiding officer
239 shall announce the result of any such vote by such member as indicated
240 in the member's written remote vote and such vote shall be included in
241 the roll call vote announced after the receipt of such vote. No voice vote
242 may be made by written remote vote. The clerk shall retain each written
243 remote vote until the end of the regular session in which the vote was
244 cast.

245 25. Whenever the result of a vote as stated by the presiding officer is
246 doubted, it shall be taken again by rising.

247 26. When a vote has been taken, it shall be in order for any senator on
248 the prevailing side to move for a reconsideration thereof on the day of
249 the vote or on the next succeeding session day, if the bill is still in the
250 possession of the Senate; provided also that there shall be no
251 reconsideration of the following motions: To adjourn, for the previous
252 question or to reconsider, and no question shall be twice reconsidered.

253 27. Pairs may be made by senators whose votes if they were present
254 would be cast on opposite sides of any question, by filing with the clerk
255 of the Senate a memorandum, containing the names of the senators, and
256 their votes, who are thus paired and the subject matter or matters to

257 which such pairs apply. Senators making any such pairs shall be
258 excused from voting upon the merits of the matters involved while the
259 pair continues, but no pairs shall operate while both of the senators
260 paired are present.

261 28. Persons, other than members of the General Assembly, shall not
262 be permitted on the chamber floor while the Senate is in session.
263 Lobbyists shall be prohibited from the chamber floor on any day during
264 which the Senate is in session except during a public hearing in the
265 chamber. This rule shall not apply to the staff of the General Assembly,
266 to any state or municipal official or member of the media who has been
267 given permission to be on the chamber floor by the President of the
268 Senate, President Pro Tempore, majority leader or minority leader, or to
269 persons invited to the chamber for purposes of recognition or ceremony.
270 Other persons who desire to speak with a member of the Senate while it
271 is in session shall communicate such desire through one of the
272 messengers and shall not converse with such member in the chamber
273 while the Senate is in session.

274 29. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received
275 except:

- 276 1. To adjourn.
- 277 2. To recess.
- 278 3. For the previous question.
- 279 4. To close the debate at a specified time.
- 280 5. To pass temporarily.
- 281 6. To pass retain.
- 282 7. To postpone to a certain time.
- 283 8. To commit or recommit.

- 284 9. To divide the question.
- 285 10. To amend.
- 286 11. To refer to another committee.
- 287 12. To postpone indefinitely.
- 288 13. To place at foot of calendar.

289 These several motions shall have precedence in the order listed in this
290 rule, and no motion to commit or recommit, to continue to the next
291 General Assembly or to postpone indefinitely, having been once
292 decided, shall be again allowed at the same session and at the same state
293 of the bill or subject matter.

294 30. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the Senate before
295 12 noon on the day the bill is acted upon. Exceptions to this rule shall be
296 allowed: (1) Upon approval of any two of the following: The President
297 Pro Tempore, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of
298 the Senate; or (2) in the case of bills or resolutions not starred for action
299 or bills or resolutions reported in accordance with subdivision (1) of
300 paragraph (d) of Rule 15 of the joint rules of the Senate and the House
301 of Representatives.

302 (b) Upon approval of an amendment pursuant to subdivision (1) of
303 subsection (a) of this section, the sponsor of the amendment shall cause
304 a copy of the signed approval to be provided electronically or by hand
305 to a designated leader or staff member of the other party.

306 (c) Any member who offers an amendment, originating in the Senate
307 which, if adopted, would reduce state revenues or increase state
308 expenditures by a specified amount or which would involve a
309 significant fiscal impact, shall make available to the President, President
310 Pro Tempore, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader
311 of the Senate at the time the amendment is offered, in addition to a fiscal
312 note, a signed and typewritten explanation, of the decrease in

313 expenditures or the source of the increased revenues required to balance
314 the state budget.

315 (d) Whenever a bill or resolution is substantively amended, it may be
316 referred to the legislative commissioners to be re-examined for the
317 purposes set forth in Rule 13 of the joint rules of the Senate and the
318 House of Representatives and to be reprinted as amended. The
319 legislative commissioners' office shall complete its examination of any
320 such bill within three calendar days of its receipt. It shall then be printed
321 in the files with a file number and marked on the calendar starred for
322 action on the session day on which it appears.

323 31. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such
324 bills and resolutions as the majority and minority leaders of the
325 respective house shall designate. All bills and resolutions starred for
326 action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion without
327 discussion unless, at any time before voting has commenced, a member
328 requests removal of a bill or resolution from the consent calendar in
329 which case such bill or resolution shall be so removed.

330 32. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2010 edition
331 of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Senate
332 whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent with the
333 standing rules and orders of the Senate or the joint rules of the Senate
334 and the House of Representatives.

335 33. The rules of the Senate shall take precedence over the joint rules
336 of the Senate and the House of Representatives or Mason's Manual of
337 Legislative Procedure in the event of conflict.

338 34. No person shall smoke in the chamber or the gallery. No person
339 shall operate a wireless telephone or similar device in the chamber or
340 gallery or use any such device to take photographs or to make video or
341 sound recordings while the Senate is in session. The presiding officer
342 shall enforce this rule.

343 35. (a) These rules shall not be altered, amended or suspended except
344 by vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

345 (b) Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session day.
346 Suspension of a rule shall be for a specified purpose; after the
347 accomplishment of such purpose, the rule shall remain in force as
348 before.

349 36. Every member present in the chamber when a question is put by
350 the presiding officer shall vote, unless excused under Rule 15.

351 37. As used in these rules, "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease
352 designated by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as
353 coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized by said
354 organization as a communicable respiratory disease.