
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 75 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, KANE, L. WILLIAMS, MUTH, SCHWANK,
BREWSTER, KEARNEY, COMITTA, SAVAL AND COSTA, JUNE 24, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 24, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the Senate, further providing for bills
2 and for committees.

3 RESOLVED, That Senate Rules 12 and 14(e) be amended to read:

4 Rule 12. Bills.

5 (a) Passage of bills.--

6 (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill
7 shall be so altered or amended, on its passage through either
8 House, as to change its original purpose. (Const. Art. III,
9 Sec. 1)

10 (2) No alteration or amendment shall be considered which
11 is not appropriate and closely allied to the original purpose
12 of the bill. If a bill has been amended after being reported
13 by the Appropriations Committee and if the amendment may
14 require the expenditure of Commonwealth funds or funds of a
15 political subdivision or cause a loss of revenue to the
16 Commonwealth or a political subdivision, the Appropriations
17 Committee shall make a fiscal note reflecting the impact of
18 the amendment available to the Senators.

1 (b) Reference and printing.--No bill shall be considered
2 unless referred to a committee, printed for the use of the
3 members and returned therefrom. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 2)

4 (c) Form of bills.--No bill shall be passed containing more
5 than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title,
6 except a general appropriation bill or a bill codifying or
7 compiling the law or a part thereof. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 3)

8 (d) Consideration of bills.--Every bill shall be considered
9 on three different days in each House. All amendments made
10 thereto shall be available pursuant to Rule 13(a)(2) for the use
11 of the members before the final vote is taken on the bill. Upon
12 written request addressed to the presiding officer of the Senate
13 by at least 25% of the Members elected to the Senate, any bill
14 shall be read at length in that House. No bill shall become a
15 law, unless on its final passage the vote is taken by yeas and
16 nays, the names of the persons voting for and against it are
17 entered on the Journal, and a majority of the Members elected to
18 each House is recorded thereon as voting in its favor. (Const.
19 Art. III, Sec. 4)

20 (e) Local and special bills.--No local or special bill shall
21 be passed unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall
22 have been published in the locality where the matter or the
23 thing to be effected may be situated, which notice shall be at
24 least 30 days prior to the introduction into the General
25 Assembly of such bill and in the manner to be provided by law;
26 the evidence of such notice having been published shall be
27 exhibited in the General Assembly before such act shall be
28 passed. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 7)

29 (f) Revenue bills.--All bills for raising revenue shall
30 originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may

1 propose amendments as in other bills. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 10)

2 (g) Appropriation bills.--

3 (1) The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing
4 but appropriations for the executive, legislative and
5 judicial departments of the Commonwealth, for the public debt
6 and for public schools. All other appropriations shall be
7 made by separate bills, each embracing but one subject.

8 (Const. Art. III, Sec. 11)

9 (2) No appropriation shall be made for charitable,
10 educational or benevolent purposes to any person or community
11 nor to any denomination and sectarian institution,
12 corporation or association: Provided, That appropriations may
13 be made for pensions or gratuities for military service and
14 to blind persons 21 years of age and upwards and for
15 assistance to mothers having dependent children and to aged
16 persons without adequate means of support and in the form of
17 scholarship grants or loans for higher educational purposes
18 to residents of the Commonwealth enrolled in institutions of
19 higher learning, except that no scholarship, grants or loans
20 for higher educational purposes shall be given to persons
21 enrolled in a theological seminary or school of theology.

22 (Const. Art. III, Sec. 29)

23 (h) Charitable and educational appropriations.--No
24 appropriation shall be made to any charitable or educational
25 institution not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth,
26 other than normal schools established by law for the
27 professional training of teachers for the public schools of the
28 State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected
29 to each House. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 30)

30 (i) Land transfer legislation.--

1 (1) No bills granting or conveying Commonwealth land or
2 taking title thereto shall be reported by any committee of
3 the Senate unless there has been filed with the Secretary-
4 Parliamentarian and the Chair of the Reporting Committee, a
5 memorandum from the Department of General Services indicating
6 the use to which the property is presently employed, the full
7 consideration for the transfer, if any, a departmental
8 appraisal of the property, including its valuation and a list
9 of recorded liens and encumbrances, if any, the use to which
10 the property will be employed upon its transfer, the date by
11 which the land is needed for its new use and the senatorial
12 district or districts in which the land is located. The
13 memorandum shall be filed within 60 days after a request is
14 made for same and contain a statement by a responsible person
15 in the Department of General Services indicating whether or
16 not the departments involved favor the transfer which is the
17 subject of the bill under consideration. The sponsor of the
18 bill or the Chair of the Reporting Committee may request the
19 memorandum from the Department of General Services.

20 (2) No amendment granting or conveying Commonwealth land
21 or taking title thereto shall be considered by the Senate
22 unless there has been filed with the Secretary-
23 Parliamentarian and the Chair of the committee reporting the
24 bill a memorandum from the Department of General Services
25 indicating the use to which the property is presently
26 employed, the full consideration for the transfer, if any, a
27 departmental appraisal of the property, including its
28 valuation and a list of recorded liens and encumbrances, if
29 any, the use to which the property will be employed upon its
30 transfer, the date by which the land is needed for its new

1 use, the senatorial district or districts in which the land
2 is located and a statement by a responsible person in the
3 Department of General Services indicating whether or not the
4 departments involved favor the transfer which is the subject
5 of the amendment under consideration. The memorandum shall be
6 filed within 60 days after a request is made. The sponsor of
7 the amendment or the Chair of the Reporting Committee may
8 request the memorandum from the Department of General
9 Services.

10 (3) If a memorandum is not filed within 60 days after a
11 request is made to the Department of General Services, the
12 Senate or any committees of the Senate may consider bills or
13 amendments granting or conveying Commonwealth land or taking
14 title thereto, notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2).

15 (j) Consideration during second regular session.--All bills,
16 joint resolutions, resolutions, concurrent resolutions or other
17 matters pending before the Senate upon the recess of a first
18 regular session convening in an odd-numbered year shall maintain
19 their status and be pending before a second regular session
20 convening in an even-numbered year but not beyond adjournment
21 sine die or November 30th of such year, whichever first occurs.

22 (k) Introduction.--All bills shall be introduced in
23 quadruplicate or filed electronically with the Secretary-
24 Parliamentarian's Office through a process determined by the
25 Secretary-Parliamentarian. A sponsor may be added after a bill
26 has been printed but the addition of sponsors shall not require
27 that the bill be reprinted. All bills shall be examined by the
28 Legislative Reference Bureau for correctness as to form and
29 shall be imprinted with the stamp of the Bureau before being
30 filed with the Secretary-Parliamentarian for introduction.

1 (1) Character of bills to be introduced.--No Member shall
2 introduce, nor shall any committee report any bill for the
3 action of the Senate, proposing to legislate upon any of the
4 subjects prohibited by Article III, section 32 of the
5 Constitution.

6 (m) Printing of amended bills.--

7 (1) All bills reported or re-reported from committee, if
8 amended by the committee, and all bills on the Calendar, if
9 amended by the Senate, shall be reprinted and a new printer's
10 number assigned thereto before any action is taken thereon.

11 (2) No bill or joint resolution re-reported from
12 committee as amended shall be voted upon on final passage
13 until at least six hours have elapsed from the time of the
14 committee report.

15 (n) First consideration.--Bills on first consideration shall
16 not be subject to amendment, debate or a vote thereon.

17 (o) Second consideration.--Bills on second consideration may
18 be subject to amendment, debate and a vote thereon.

19 (p) Third consideration and final passage.--

20 (1) The following apply:

21 (i) Bills on third consideration may be amended and
22 are subject to debate. Bills on final passage may not be
23 amended but are open to debate. The vote on final passage
24 shall be taken by a roll call. The names of the Senators
25 voting for and against shall be recorded, entered in the
26 Journal and posted on the Internet website maintained by
27 the Senate. No bill shall be declared passed unless a
28 majority of all Senators elected to the Senate shall be
29 recorded as voting for the same.

30 (ii) No bill which may require an expenditure of

1 Commonwealth funds or funds of any political subdivision
2 or cause a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth or any
3 political subdivision shall be given third consideration
4 on the Calendar until it has been referred to the
5 Appropriations Committee and a fiscal note attached
6 thereto.

7 (iii) In obtaining the information required by these
8 Rules, the Appropriations Committee may utilize the
9 services of the Budget Office and any other State agency
10 as may be necessary.

11 (iv) No bills appropriating money for charitable or
12 benevolent purposes shall be considered finally until
13 after the general appropriation bill shall have been
14 reported from committee.

15 (2) The following apply:

16 (i) It shall not be in order, by suspension of this
17 Rule or otherwise, to consider a bill on final passage
18 unless it is printed, together with amendments, if any,
19 and made available to the Senators.

20 (ii) No bill or joint resolution amended on third
21 consideration shall be voted on final passage until at
22 least six hours have elapsed from the time of adoption of
23 the amendment.

24 (q) Prefiling of bills, joint resolutions and resolutions.--
25 Any Senator or Senator-elect may file, via paper or electronic
26 format, bills, joint resolutions and resolutions with the
27 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate commencing on December
28 15 of each even-numbered year. The Secretary-Parliamentarian of
29 the Senate shall number the bills, joint resolutions and
30 resolutions and shall have them available for distribution. Upon

1 the naming of the committees of the Senate at the convening of a
2 First Regular Session, the President Pro Tempore shall refer all
3 prefiled measures to the proper committee within 14 calendar
4 days.

5 (r) Normal filing of bills, joint resolutions and
6 resolutions.--Senators may introduce bills, joint resolutions
7 and resolutions by filing the same, via paper or electronic
8 format, with the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate. The
9 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate shall number the bills,
10 joint resolutions and resolutions and shall notify the President
11 Pro Tempore of the fact of such filing.

12 (s) Referral to committee by President Pro Tempore.--Every
13 bill, joint resolution and resolution introduced by a Senator or
14 received from the House of Representatives shall be referred by
15 the President Pro Tempore to the appropriate committee within 14
16 calendar days. Upon referral, the Secretary-Parliamentarian of
17 the Senate shall deliver the bills, joint resolutions and
18 resolutions, via paper or electronic format, to the committees
19 to which they have been referred. The Secretary-Parliamentarian
20 of the Senate shall have the bills, joint resolutions and
21 resolutions available for distribution.

22 (t) Senate calendar.--Members of the Senate shall receive a
23 marked Senate calendar no later than 12 hours in advance of the
24 start of the Senate session.

25 Rule 14. Committees.

26 * * *

27 (e) Notice of meetings.--

28 (1) The following apply:

29 (i) The Chair of a committee or, in the absence of
30 the Chair, the Vice Chair, with the approval of the

1 Chair, shall provide each member of the committee with
2 written notice of committee meetings, which shall include
3 the date, time and location of the meeting and the number
4 of each bill, resolution or other matter which may be
5 considered. The Chair shall give due notice of a standing
6 committee meeting or hearing not later than 72 hours
7 before the date and time the standing committee meeting
8 or hearing is to be scheduled. Committee members shall
9 give due notice of amendments to be offered not later
10 than 24 hours before the scheduled standing committee
11 meeting. During session, notice of meetings of standing
12 committees shall be published daily. Notice shall be
13 delivered by the Chair to the Secretary-Parliamentarian's
14 office on a form prescribed by the Secretary-
15 Parliamentarian of the Senate by the end of the session
16 on the day preceding its intended publication.

17 (ii) Whenever the Chair of any standing committee
18 shall refuse to call a regular meeting, then a majority
19 plus one of the members of the standing committee may
20 vote to call a meeting by giving two days' written notice
21 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate, setting
22 the time and place for such meeting. Such notice shall be
23 read in the Senate and the same posted by the Secretary-
24 Parliamentarian in the Senate. Thereafter, the meeting
25 shall be held at the time and place specified in the
26 notice. In addition, any such meeting shall comply with
27 all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open
28 meetings) relative to notice of meetings.

29 (iii) When the majority plus one of the members of a
30 standing committee believe that a certain bill or

1 resolution in the possession of the standing committee
2 should be considered and acted upon by such committee,
3 they may request the Chair to include the same as part of
4 the business of a committee meeting. Should the Chair
5 refuse such request, the membership may require that such
6 bill be considered by written motion made and approved by
7 a majority plus one vote of the entire membership to
8 which the committee is entitled.

9 (2) A committee meeting, or hearing for which notice has
10 not been published as provided in paragraph (1), may be held
11 during a session only if approval is granted by [the Majority
12 Leader and the Minority Leader] two-thirds vote of the
13 members of the relevant standing committee and if notice of
14 the bills to be considered is given during session.

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