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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 3

Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY PITTMAN AND COSTA, JANUARY 3, 2023

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 3, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting the Rules of the Senate for the 207th and 208th Regular  
2 Session.

3 RESOLVED, That the following be adopted as the Rules of the  
4 Senate for the governing of the 207th and 208th Regular Session.  
5  
6 2023-2024

7 RULES OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

8 Rule 1. Sessions.

9 (a) Regular and special.--The General Assembly shall be a  
10 continuing body during the term for which its Representatives  
11 are elected. It shall meet at twelve o'clock noon on the first  
12 Tuesday of January each year. Special sessions shall be called  
13 by the Governor on petition of a majority of the Members elected  
14 to each House or may be called by the Governor whenever in his  
15 opinion the public interest requires. (Const. Art. II, Sec. 4)

16 (b) Weekly.--The Senate shall convene its weekly sessions on  
17 Monday, unless the Senate shall otherwise direct.

18 Rule 2. President.

The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate.

1 (Const. Art. IV, Sec. 4)

2 Rule 3. Duties of the President.

3 The President shall:

4 (1) Take the chair on every legislative day at the hour  
5 to which the Senate stands recessed, immediately call the  
6 Senators to order, and proceed with the Order of Business of  
7 the Senate.

8 (2) While in session have general direction of the  
9 Senate Chamber. It shall be the President's duty to preserve  
10 order and decorum, including ensuring all members and staff  
11 with privilege of the floor are properly attired pursuant to  
12 Senate Rule 10, and, in case of disturbance or disorderly  
13 conduct in the Chamber or galleries, may cause the same to be  
14 cleared. When in the President's opinion there arises a case  
15 of extreme disturbance or emergency the President shall, with  
16 the concurrence of the President Pro Tempore, the Majority  
17 Leader and the Minority Leader, recess the Senate. Such  
18 recess shall not extend beyond the limitation imposed by  
19 Article II, section 14 of the Constitution.

20 (3) During debate, prevent personal references or  
21 questions as to motive, and confine Senators, in debate, to  
22 the question.

23 (4) Decide, when two or more Senators arise, who shall  
24 be first to speak.

25 (5) In the presence of the Senate, within one  
26 legislative day after receipt or adoption, sign all bills and  
27 joint resolutions which have passed both Houses after their  
28 titles have been read.

29 (6) Sign resolutions, orders, writs, warrants and  
30 subpoenas issued by order of the Senate. The signature shall

1 be attested by the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate,  
2 or, if absent, by the Chief Clerk of the Senate; and the fact  
3 of signing shall be entered in the Journal on the next  
4 available session day.

5 (7) Decide all points of order, subject to appeal,  
6 giving, however, any Member called to order the right to  
7 extenuate or justify. Debate shall not be permitted unless  
8 there be an appeal from a decision of the President in which  
9 event the President shall submit the question to the whole  
10 Senate for decision. The President shall submit points of  
11 order involving the constitutionality of any matter to the  
12 Senate for decision. Questions of order submitted to the  
13 Senate may be debated.

14 Rule 4. President Pro Tempore.

15 (a) Election.--The Senate shall, at the beginning and close  
16 of each regular session and at such other times as may be  
17 necessary, elect one of its Members President Pro Tempore, who  
18 shall perform the duties of the Lieutenant Governor in any case  
19 of absence or disability of that officer, and whenever the  
20 office of Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant. (Const. Art. II,  
21 Sec. 9)

22 (b) Voting.--The vote of a majority of the Members voting  
23 shall be required to elect a President Pro Tempore. Except at  
24 the beginning and close of each regular session, the Senate  
25 shall only elect a President Pro Tempore when the office has  
26 become vacant and the vote of the majority of the Members  
27 elected shall be required to vacate the office of a seated  
28 President Pro Tempore.

29 Rule 5. Duties of President Pro Tempore.

30 (a) Mandatory.--The President Pro Tempore shall:

1           (1) Appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and members of the  
2 Standing Committees of the Senate as soon after the election  
3 of the President Pro Tempore as possible. Upon the  
4 resignation of the Chair of a standing committee, the  
5 President Pro Tempore may designate an acting Chair.

6           (2) Appoint members to special committees whenever  
7 authorized.

8           (3) Fill all vacancies occurring in standing and special  
9 committees.

10          (4) Refer to the appropriate standing committee every  
11 bill and joint resolution which may be introduced in the  
12 Senate or received from the House of Representatives.

13          (5) Appoint and have under the President Pro Tempore's  
14 direction such Senate employees as are authorized by law.

15          (6) Vote last on all questions when occupying the Chair.

16          (b) Discretionary.--The President Pro Tempore may name any  
17 Senator to preside in the absence of the President, or if both  
18 the President and President Pro Tempore are absent the Majority  
19 Leader, or the Majority Leader's designee, shall preside. The  
20 Majority Leader, during such time, shall be vested with all  
21 powers of the President. This authority shall not extend beyond  
22 a day's recess.

23 Rule 6. Duties of the Secretary-Parliamentarian.

24          (a) Election.--At the beginning of each regular session  
25 convening in an odd-numbered year and at other times as may be  
26 necessary, the Senate shall elect a Secretary-Parliamentarian of  
27 the Senate.

28          (b) General duties.--The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the  
29 Senate shall:

30           (1) Assist the presiding officer in conducting the

1 business of the session.

2 (2) Act in the capacity of Parliamentarian.

3 (c) Specific duties.--The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the  
4 Senate shall, subject to the direction of the President Pro  
5 Tempore:

6 (1) Direct the following functions:

7 (i) Amending bills in the Senate.

8 (ii) Preparing and publishing the Senate Calendar.

9 (iii) Publication of the Senate History.

10 (iv) Numbering Senate bills as they are introduced  
11 and causing them to be distributed to the chair of the  
12 committee to which they are referred and receiving a  
13 receipt for the same.

14 (v) Printing of bills.

15 (vi) Maintain and update, as needed, the Legislative  
16 Data Processing Senate Virtual Session Desk application  
17 for use by members and staff.

18 (2) Keep a record of the Senate action on a bill on a  
19 special record sheet attached to the bill after it has been  
20 reported from committee.

21 (3) Keep a record of all leaves granted by the Senate by  
22 compiling the leave requests submitted by a member and  
23 transmitted to the Secretary-Parliamentarian by the  
24 respective Whips. These records shall be retained only for  
25 the duration of the two-year legislative session. Further,  
26 these records shall be available for public inspection upon  
27 request.

28 (4) Transmit all bills, joint resolutions, concurrent  
29 resolutions and other communications to the House of  
30 Representatives within one legislative day of final passage

1 or adoption, and each shall be accompanied by a message  
2 stating the title to the measure being transmitted and  
3 requesting concurrence of the House, as required.

4 (5) Attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by  
5 order of the Senate; certify as to the passage of Senate  
6 Bills and the approval of executive nominations.

7 (6) Supervise the Senate Library, assist Senators by  
8 making reference material available to them and perform any  
9 duties assigned to the Senate Librarian by any statute.

10 (7) Supervise the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, the Senate  
11 Bill Room, the Senate Print Shop, the Official Reporter's  
12 Office and the Senate Page Service.

13 (8) Post each roll call vote taken in the Senate on the  
14 Internet website maintained by the Senate immediately, but in  
15 no case later than 24 hours after the vote. Each roll call  
16 vote shall be posted in a manner which clearly identifies the  
17 bill, resolution or other subject of the vote.

18 (9) Post the Legislative Journal of the Senate on the  
19 Internet website maintained by the Senate upon approval of  
20 the Journal or within 90 calendar days of each session day,  
21 whichever is earlier. The journal shall be the official  
22 record of the Senate upon Senate approval or posting of the  
23 Journal on the Internet website by the Secretary-  
24 Parliamentarian.

25 (10) Provide for the publication and dissemination of  
26 educational or informational literature pertaining to the  
27 Senate, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Government of  
28 the United States.

29 Rule 7. Duties of the Chief Clerk of the Senate.

30 (a) Election.--At the beginning of each regular session

1 convening in an odd-numbered year and, whenever necessary, the  
2 Senate shall elect a Chief Clerk of the Senate.

3 (b) Duties.--The Chief Clerk shall be the chief fiscal  
4 officer of the Senate and shall perform those powers and duties  
5 prescribed by law, the Rules of the Senate and at the direction  
6 of the President Pro Tempore. In the absence of the Secretary-  
7 Parliamentarian, the Chief Clerk shall, subject to the direction  
8 of the President Pro Tempore, attest all writs, warrants and  
9 subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and shall certify as to  
10 the passage of Senate Bills and the approval of executive  
11 nominations.

12 Rule 8. Duties of the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms.

13 There shall be a Chief Sergeant-at-Arms who shall:

14 (1) Be constantly in attendance during the sessions of  
15 the Senate except when absent in discharging other duties.

16 (2) Appoint, have charge of and direct the work of the  
17 assistant sergeants-at-arms.

18 (3) Serve all subpoenas and warrants issued by the  
19 Senate or any duly authorized officer or committee.

20 (4) Maintain order, at the direction of the presiding  
21 officer, in the Senate Chamber and adjoining rooms.

22 (5) See that no person, except those authorized to do  
23 so, disturbs or interferes with the desk, or its contents, of  
24 any Senator or officer.

25 (6) Exclude from the Floor all persons not entitled to  
26 the privilege of the same.

27 (7) Have charge of all entrances to the Chamber during  
28 the sessions of the Senate and shall see that the doors are  
29 properly attended.

30 (8) Announce, upon recognition by the presiding officer,

1 all important communications and committees.

2 (9) Escort the Senate to all Joint meetings with the  
3 mace.

4 (10) Escort the Senate to attend funeral services of  
5 members, former members of the Senate or other dignitaries  
6 with the mace.

7 Rule 9. Order of Business.

8 (a) General rule.--The Order of Business to be observed in  
9 taking up business shall be as follows:

10 First Call to Order.

11 Second Prayer by the Chaplain and Pledge of  
12 Allegiance.

13 Third Reading of Communications.

14 Fourth Receiving reports of committees.

15 Fifth Asking of leaves of absence. No Senator  
16 shall absent himself without leave of the  
17 Senate, first obtained, unless prevented  
18 from attendance by sickness, or other  
19 sufficient cause.

20 Sixth Approval of Journals of preceding session  
21 days.

22 Seventh Offering of original resolutions.

23 Eighth Introduction of Guests. As a special order  
24 of business, the Majority Leader, in  
25 consultation with the Minority Leader, may  
26 permit approved committee meetings to be  
27 held in the Rules Room during the  
28 introduction of guests.

29 Ninth Consideration of the Calendar. Any bill or  
30 resolution on the Calendar not finally



1                   acted upon within 10 legislative days shall  
2                   be removed from the Calendar and laid on  
3                   the table, unless the Senate shall  
4                   otherwise direct.

5 Tenth                   Consideration of Executive Nominations.

6 Eleventh               Unfinished Business. Reports of Committees.

7 Twelfth               First consideration of bills reported from  
8                   committee, which, at this time, shall not  
9                   be subject to amendment, debate or a vote  
10                   thereon.

11 Thirteenth            Announcements by the Secretary-  
12                   Parliamentarian.

13 Fourteenth           Introduction of Petitions and  
14                   Remonstrances.

15 Fifteenth             Recess.

16       (b) Special order of business.--Any subject may, by a vote  
17 of a majority of the Members present, be made a special order;  
18 and when the time so fixed for its consideration arrives, the  
19 presiding officer shall lay it before the Senate.

20 Rule 10. Order and decorum.

21       (a) Recognition.--Any Senator who desires to speak or  
22 deliver any matter to the Senate shall rise and respectfully  
23 address the presiding officer as "Mr. President" or "Madam  
24 President," and on being recognized, may address the Senate at a  
25 microphone located on the Floor of the Chamber.

26       (b) Avoiding personal references.--Any Senator addressing  
27 the Senate shall confine remarks to the question under debate,  
28 avoiding personal references or questions as to motive.

29       (c) Speaking out of order.--If any Senator transgresses the  
30 Rules of the Senate, in speaking or otherwise, the presiding

1 officer may, or any Senator may through the presiding officer,  
2 call that Senator to order.

3 (d) Speaking more than twice.--No Senator shall speak more  
4 than twice on one question without leave of the Senate.

5 (e) Decorum.--When a Senator is speaking, no other person  
6 shall pass between the Senator and the presiding officer.

7 (f) Order and privilege.--No Senator speaking shall be  
8 interrupted except by a call to order, a question of privilege,  
9 a question of order or a call for the previous question, without  
10 the consent of the Senator speaking, and no Senator shall speak  
11 on a question after it is put to a vote.

12 (g) Questions of order.--The presiding officer shall decide  
13 all questions of order, subject to appeal by any member. No  
14 debate shall be allowed on questions of order, unless there is  
15 an appeal. A second point of order on the same general subject,  
16 but not the same point, is not in order while an appeal is  
17 pending, but when the first appeal is decided, laid on the table  
18 or otherwise disposed of, the second point of order is in order  
19 and is subject to appeal. While an appeal is pending, no other  
20 business is in order. It is within the discretion of the  
21 presiding officer as to whether to vacate the chair on an  
22 appeal.

23 (h) Question when interrupted.--A question regularly before  
24 the Senate can be interrupted only by a call for the previous  
25 question, for amendment, postponement, to lay on the table,  
26 commitment, recess or adjournment sine die.

27 (i) Use of tobacco products.--No tobacco products, including  
28 cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco, shall be used in  
29 the Senate Chamber or in Senate Committee Rooms.

30 (j) Cell phones.--In the Senate Chamber, cell phones and

1 similar portable communication devices shall be set to silent  
2 mode and use of voice or video recording and broadcasting  
3 capabilities is prohibited.

4 (k) Proper attire.--Members and staff with privilege of the  
5 floor during Senate sessions shall not dress in a manner  
6 offensive to the decorum of the Senate but shall be dressed in  
7 professional attire, including a coat, tie and trousers or  
8 slacks for men, and appropriate dignified dress for women.

9 Rule 11. Motions.

10 (a) Putting a motion.--When a motion is made, it shall,  
11 before debate, be stated by the presiding officer. Every motion  
12 made to the Senate and entertained by the presiding officer  
13 shall be entered in the Journal with the name of the Senator  
14 making it. A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator making it  
15 before amendment, postponement, an order to lay on the table or  
16 decision.

17 (b) Precedence of motions.--Motions shall take precedence in  
18 the following order:

- 19 (1) Adjourn sine die.
- 20 (2) Recess.
- 21 (3) Previous question.
- 22 (4) Recess temporarily within the same session day.
- 23 (5) Questions of privilege of the Senate.
- 24 (6) Orders of the day.
- 25 (7) Lay on the table.
- 26 (8) Limit, close or extend limit on debate.
- 27 (9) Postpone.
- 28 (10) Commit or recommit.
- 29 (11) Amend.
- 30 (12) Main motion.

1 (c) Non-debatable motions.--Non-debatable motions are:

2 (1) Adjourn sine die.

3 (2) Recess.

4 (3) Recess temporarily within the same session day.

5 (4) Previous question.

6 (5) Lay on the table.

7 (6) Orders of the day.

8 (7) Limit, close or extend limit on debate.

9 (d) Motions which permit limited debate.--

10 (1) On the motion to postpone, the question of  
11 postponement is open to debate, but the main question is not.

12 (2) The motion to commit or recommit to committee is  
13 debatable as to the propriety of the reference, but the main  
14 question is not open to debate.

15 (3) The motion to amend is debatable on the amendments  
16 only and does not open the main question to debate.

17 (e) Seconding motions.--All motions, except for the previous  
18 question, which shall be seconded by not less than four  
19 Senators, may be made without a second.

20 (f) Recessing and convening.--

21 (1) A motion to recess shall always be in order, except,  
22 when on the call for the previous question, the main question  
23 shall have been ordered to be now put, or when a Member has  
24 the Floor, and shall be decided without debate.

25 (2) On a motion to recess, adopted and not having a  
26 reconvening time, the Senate will meet the following day at  
27 10:00 a.m.

28 (3) The Senate shall not convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.  
29 unless the Senate adopts a motion that sets forth the need to  
30 convene earlier than 8:00 a.m.

1           (4) The Senate shall not recess later than 11:00 p.m.  
2 each session day unless the Senate adopts a motion that sets  
3 forth the need to recess later than 11:00 p.m.

4           (g) Motion for previous question.--Pending the consideration  
5 of any question before the Senate, a Senator may call for the  
6 previous question, and if seconded by four Senators, the  
7 President shall submit the question: "Shall the main question  
8 now be put?" If a majority vote is in favor of it, the main  
9 question shall be ordered, the effect of which shall cut off all  
10 further amendments and debate, and bring the Senate to a direct  
11 vote first upon the pending amendments and motions, if there be  
12 any, then upon the main proposition. The previous question may  
13 be ordered on any pending amendment or motion before the Senate.

14           (h) Motion to lay on table.--The motion to lay on the table  
15 is not debatable, and the effect of the adoption of this motion  
16 is to place on the table the pending question and everything  
17 adhering to it. Questions laid on the table remain there for the  
18 entire session unless taken up before the session closes.

19           (i) Motion to take from table.--A motion to take from the  
20 table, a bill or other subject, is in order under the same order  
21 of business in which the matter was tabled. It shall be decided  
22 without debate or amendment.

23           (j) Reconsideration.--

24           (1) When a question has once been made and carried in  
25 the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order to move the  
26 reconsideration thereof. When the Senate has been equally  
27 divided on a question, or a bill shall have failed to pass by  
28 reason of not having received the number of votes required by  
29 the Constitution, it shall be in order to move the  
30 reconsideration thereof.

1           (2) Provided, however, that no motion for the  
2 reconsideration of any vote shall be in order after a bill,  
3 resolution, report, amendment or motion upon which the vote  
4 was taken shall have gone out of the possession of the  
5 Senate.

6           (3) Provided, further, that no motion for  
7 reconsideration shall be in order unless made on the same day  
8 on which the vote was taken, or within the next five days of  
9 voting session of the Senate thereafter.

10          (4) A motion to reconsider the same question a third  
11 time is not in order.

12          (5) When a bill, resolution, report, amendment, order,  
13 or communication, upon which a vote has been taken, shall  
14 have gone out of the possession of the Senate and been sent  
15 to the House of Representatives or to the Governor, the  
16 motion to reconsider shall not be in order until a resolution  
17 has been passed to request the House or Governor to return  
18 the same and the same shall have been returned to the  
19 possession of the Senate.

20 Rule 12. Bills.

21       (a) Passage of bills.--

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

26           (2) No alteration or amendment shall be considered which  
27 is not appropriate and closely allied to the original purpose  
28 of the bill. If a bill has been amended after being reported  
29 by the Appropriations Committee and if the amendment may  
30 require the expenditure of Commonwealth funds or funds of a

1 political subdivision or cause a loss of revenue to the  
2 Commonwealth or a political subdivision, the Appropriations  
3 Committee shall make a fiscal note reflecting the impact of  
4 the amendment available to the Senators.

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

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

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

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

1 exhibited in the General Assembly before such act shall be  
2 passed. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 7)

3 (f) Revenue bills.--All bills for raising revenue shall  
4 originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may  
5 propose amendments as in other bills. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 10)

6 (g) Appropriation bills.--

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

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

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

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

27 (h) Charitable and educational appropriations.--No  
28 appropriation shall be made to any charitable or educational  
29 institution not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth,  
30 other than normal schools established by law for the



1 professional training of teachers for the public schools of the  
2 State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected  
3 to each House. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 30)

4 (i) Land transfer legislation.--

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

24 (2) No amendment granting or conveying Commonwealth land  
25 or taking title thereto shall be considered by the Senate  
26 unless there has been filed with the Secretary-  
27 Parliamentarian and the Chair of the committee reporting the  
28 bill a memorandum from the Department of General Services  
29 indicating the use to which the property is presently  
30 employed, the full consideration for the transfer, if any, a

1 departmental appraisal of the property, including its  
2 valuation and a list of recorded liens and encumbrances, if  
3 any, the use to which the property will be employed upon its  
4 transfer, the date by which the land is needed for its new  
5 use, the senatorial district or districts in which the land  
6 is located and a statement by a responsible person in the  
7 Department of General Services indicating whether or not the  
8 departments involved favor the transfer which is the subject  
9 of the amendment under consideration. The memorandum shall be  
10 filed within 60 days after a request is made. The sponsor of  
11 the amendment or the Chair of the Reporting Committee may  
12 request the memorandum from the Department of General  
13 Services.

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

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

26 (k) Introduction.--All bills shall be introduced in  
27 quadruplicate or filed electronically with the Secretary-  
28 Parliamentarian's Office through a process determined by the  
29 Secretary-Parliamentarian. A sponsor may be added after a bill  
30 has been printed but the addition of sponsors shall not require

1 that the bill be reprinted. All bills shall be examined by the  
2 Legislative Reference Bureau for correctness as to form and  
3 shall be imprinted with the stamp of the Bureau before being  
4 filed with the Secretary-Parliamentarian for introduction.

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

10 (m) Printing of amended bills.--

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

15 (2) No bill or joint resolution re-reported from  
16 committee as amended shall be voted upon on final passage  
17 until at least 10 hours have elapsed from the time of the  
18 committee report.

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

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

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

24 (1) The following apply:

25 (i) Bills on third consideration may be amended and  
26 are subject to debate. Bills on final passage may not be  
27 amended but are open to debate. The vote on final passage  
28 shall be taken by a roll call. The names of the Senators  
29 voting for and against shall be recorded, entered in the  
30 Journal and posted on the Internet website maintained by

1 the Senate. No bill shall be declared passed unless a  
2 majority of all Senators elected to the Senate shall be  
3 recorded as voting for the same.

4 (ii) No bill which may require an expenditure of  
5 Commonwealth funds or funds of any political subdivision  
6 or cause a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth or any  
7 political subdivision shall be given third consideration  
8 on the Calendar until it has been referred to the  
9 Appropriations Committee and a fiscal note attached  
10 thereto.

11 (iii) In obtaining the information required by these  
12 Rules, the Appropriations Committee may utilize the  
13 services of the Budget Office and any other State agency  
14 as may be necessary.

15 (iv) No bills appropriating money for charitable or  
16 benevolent purposes shall be considered finally until  
17 after the general appropriation bill shall have been  
18 reported from committee.

19 (2) The following apply:

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

24 (ii) No bill or joint resolution amended on third  
25 consideration shall be voted on final passage until at  
26 least 10 hours have elapsed from the time of adoption of  
27 the amendment.

28 (q) Prefiling of bills, joint resolutions and resolutions.--  
29 Any Senator or Senator-elect may file, via paper or electronic  
30 format, bills, joint resolutions and resolutions with the

1 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate commencing on December  
2 15 of each even-numbered year. The Secretary-Parliamentarian of  
3 the Senate shall number the bills, joint resolutions and  
4 resolutions and shall have them available for distribution. Upon  
5 the naming of the committees of the Senate at the convening of a  
6 First Regular Session, the President Pro Tempore shall refer all  
7 prefiled measures to the proper committee within 14 calendar  
8 days.

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

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

26 Rule 13. Amendments.

27 (a) When in order.--

28 (1) Amendments shall be in order when a bill is reported  
29 or re-reported from committee, on second consideration and on  
30 third consideration. No amendments shall be received by the

1 presiding officer or considered by the Senate which destroys  
2 the general sense of the original bill or is not appropriate  
3 and closely allied to the original purpose of the bill. Any  
4 Member, upon request, must be furnished a copy of a proposed  
5 amendment, this includes being available on the Senate  
6 Virtual Session Desk application or its successor  
7 applications, and be given a reasonable opportunity to  
8 consider same before being required to vote thereon.

9 (2) Amendments offered on the Floor shall be read by the  
10 Reading Clerk and stated by the presiding officer to the  
11 Senate before being acted upon. Amendments shall be presented  
12 with at least four typewritten copies obtained electronically  
13 through the Legislative Reference Bureau, which shall have  
14 the Sponsor identified. No amendment may be considered by the  
15 Senate until the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate has  
16 posted the amendment on the Internet website maintained by  
17 the Senate.

18 (3) Amendments to bills or other main motions or  
19 questions before the Senate may be tabled. When an amendment  
20 proposed to any bill or other main motion or question before  
21 the Senate is laid on the table, it shall not carry with it  
22 or prejudice the bill, main motion or question. A motion to  
23 take an amendment from the table shall only be in order if  
24 the bill or other main motion or question remains before the  
25 Senate for decision. The motion to take an amendment from the  
26 table is not debatable and shall have the same precedence as  
27 the motion to amend.

28 (b) Amendments reconsidering; revert to prior print.--  
29 Amendments adopted or defeated may not be again considered  
30 without reconsidering the vote by which the amendments were

1 adopted or defeated, unless a majority vote of the Senators  
2 present shall decide to revert to a prior printer's number. If  
3 such a motion is made to a bill on third consideration and  
4 carried it shall not be in order to vote on the final passage of  
5 the bill until a copy of the reverted printer's number is made  
6 available to the Senators, this includes being available on the  
7 Senate Virtual Session Desk application or its successor  
8 applications.

9 (c) Concurrence in House amendments.--

10 (1) The following apply:

11 (i) No amendments to bills by the House shall be  
12 concurred in by the Senate, except by the vote of a  
13 majority of the Members elected to the Senate taken by  
14 yeas and nays. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 5)

15 (ii) If a bill on concurrence contains an amendment  
16 which may require the expenditure of Commonwealth funds  
17 or funds of a political subdivision or cause a loss of  
18 revenue to the Commonwealth or a political subdivision,  
19 the bill may not be voted finally until a fiscal note  
20 reflecting the impact of the amendment is made available  
21 to the Senators.

22 (2) The following apply:

23 (i) Any bill or resolution containing House  
24 amendments which is returned to the Senate shall be  
25 referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive  
26 Nominations immediately upon the reading of the  
27 communication by the Reading Clerk. The consideration of  
28 any bill or resolution containing House amendments may  
29 include the amendment of House amendments only by the  
30 Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations. The vote on

1 concurring in amendments by the House to bills or  
2 resolutions amended by the House shall not be taken until  
3 the bills or resolutions have been favorably reported, as  
4 committed or as amended, by the Committee on Rules and  
5 Executive Nominations and have been placed on the desks  
6 of the Senators, this includes being available on the  
7 Senate Virtual Session Desk application or its successor  
8 applications, and particularly referred to on their  
9 calendars.

10 (ii) Unless the Majority Leader and the Minority  
11 Leader shall agree otherwise, the offering of an  
12 amendment to House amendments in the Committee on Rules  
13 and Executive Nominations shall not be in order until at  
14 least one hour after the filing of a copy of the  
15 amendment as prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
16 with the office of the Secretary-Parliamentarian. Upon  
17 the filing of such an amendment, the Secretary-  
18 Parliamentarian shall immediately time stamp the  
19 amendment and forward a time-stamped copy of the  
20 amendment to the offices of the Majority Leader and the  
21 Minority Leader. Except as provided in this subsection,  
22 it shall not be in order to suspend or otherwise waive  
23 the requirements of this subsection.

24 Rule 14. Committees.

25 (a) Standing committees.--

26 (1) There shall be the following permanent standing  
27 committees, the Chair, the Vice Chair and members thereof to  
28 be appointed by the President Pro Tempore as soon as possible  
29 after the election of the President Pro Tempore in sessions  
30 convening in odd-numbered years or such other times as may be



1 necessary. The composition of each standing committee shall  
2 reasonably reflect the caucus composition of the Senate  
3 membership.

4 Aging and Youth - 10 members

5 Agriculture and Rural Affairs - 10 members

6 Appropriations - 21 members

7 Banking and Insurance - 13 members

8 Communications and Technology - 10 members

9 Community, Economic and Recreational Development - 13  
10 members

11 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure - 13  
12 members

13 Education - 10 members

14 Environmental Resources and Energy -- 10 members

15 Finance -- 10 members

16 Game and Fisheries -- 10 members

17 Health and Human Services -- 10 members

18 Intergovernmental Operations -- 10 members

19 Judiciary - 13 members

20 Labor and Industry -- 10 members

21 Law and Justice -- 10 members

22 Local Government -- 10 members

23 Rules and Executive Nominations - 16 members

24 State Government -- 10 members

25 Transportation - 13 members

26 Urban Affairs and Housing -- 10 members

27 Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness -- 10  
28 members

29 (2) Subcommittees. Each standing committee or the chair  
30 thereof may appoint, from time to time, a subcommittee to

1 study or investigate a matter falling within the jurisdiction  
2 of the standing committee or to consider a bill or resolution  
3 referred to it. A subcommittee may hold public hearings only  
4 with the prior permission of its standing committee.

5 Subcommittees shall be regulated by the Senate Rules of  
6 Procedure and shall be in existence for only that time  
7 necessary to complete their assignments and report to their  
8 standing committees.

9 (b) Members-ex-officio.--

10 (1) The President Pro Tempore shall be an ex-officio  
11 voting member of all standing committees and any  
12 subcommittees that may be established and shall not be  
13 included in the number of committee members herein provided.  
14 However, the President Pro Tempore shall not be an ex-officio  
15 Member of the Committee on Ethics and Official Conduct.

16 (2) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader shall  
17 each be an ex-officio member of the Committee on  
18 Appropriations and shall not be included in the number of  
19 members of the committee provided herein.

20 (3) The Majority Leader shall serve as Chair of the  
21 Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and the Minority  
22 Leader shall serve as the Minority Chair.

23 (4) During a roll call vote, ex-officio members shall be  
24 called immediately before calling the Chair of a committee or  
25 subcommittee, whose name shall be called last.

26 (c) Committees' function between sessions.--Standing  
27 committees shall exist and function both during and between  
28 sessions. Such power shall not extend beyond November 30th of  
29 any even-numbered year.

30 (d) Powers and responsibilities.--Standing committees are

1 authorized:

2 (1) To maintain a continuous review of the work of the  
3 Commonwealth agencies concerned with their subject areas and  
4 the performance of the functions of government within each  
5 such subject area, and for this purpose to request reports  
6 from time to time, in such form as the standing committee  
7 shall designate, concerning the operation of any Commonwealth  
8 agency and presenting any proposal or recommendation such  
9 agency may have with regard to existing laws or proposed  
10 legislation in its subject area. The standing committee is  
11 authorized to require public officials and employees and  
12 private individuals to appear before the standing committee  
13 for the purpose of submitting information to it.

14 (2) In order to carry out its duties, each standing  
15 committee is empowered with the right and authority to  
16 inspect and investigate the books, records, papers,  
17 documents, data, operation and physical plant of any public  
18 agency in this Commonwealth.

19 (3) In order to carry out its duties, each standing  
20 committee or special committee appointed under Rule 5(a)(2)  
21 may issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum and other  
22 necessary process to compel the attendance of witnesses and  
23 the production of any books, letters or other documentary  
24 evidence desired by the committee. The chair may administer  
25 oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to  
26 witnesses who shall appear before the committee to testify.

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 may be done  
3 electronically. The notice of a meeting shall include the  
4 date, time and location of the meeting and the number of  
5 each bill, resolution or other matter which may be  
6 considered. During session, notice of meetings of  
7 standing committees shall be published daily. Notice  
8 shall be delivered by the Chair to the Secretary-  
9 Parliamentarian's office on a form prescribed by the  
10 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate by the end of the  
11 session on the day preceding its intended publication.

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

24 (iii) When the majority plus one of the members of a  
25 standing committee believe that a certain bill or  
26 resolution in the possession of the standing committee  
27 should be considered and acted upon by such committee,  
28 they may request the Chair to include the same as part of  
29 the business of a committee meeting. Should the Chair  
30 refuse such request, the membership may require that such

1 bill be considered by written motion made and approved by  
2 a majority plus one vote of the entire membership to  
3 which the committee is entitled.

4 (2) A committee meeting, or hearing for which notice has  
5 not been published as provided in paragraph (1), may be held  
6 during a session only if approval is granted by the Majority  
7 Leader and the Minority Leader and if notice of each bill,  
8 resolution or other matter to be considered is given during  
9 session.

10 (3) A committee meeting, or hearing for which notice has  
11 been published as provided in paragraph (1), may be  
12 rescheduled and held during a session in consultation with  
13 the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader and if notice of  
14 each bill, resolution or other matter to be considered is  
15 given during session.

16 (f) Bills recommitted.--Any bill or resolution reported by  
17 any standing committee without prior notice having been given as  
18 required by these Rules shall be recommitted to the committee  
19 reporting the same.

20 (g) Public meetings or hearings.--

21 (1) The following apply:

22 (i) The Chair of a standing committee may hold  
23 hearings open to the public and in doing so shall make a  
24 public announcement in writing prior to the date of the  
25 hearing of the date, time, location and subject matter of  
26 the hearing.

27 (ii) The Chair of a standing committee shall have  
28 the power to designate whether or not a meeting of the  
29 committee for the purpose of transacting committee  
30 business shall be open to the public or shall be held in

1 executive session and therefore closed to the public, but  
2 no matters may be considered in executive session for  
3 which an open meeting is required under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
4 (relating to open meetings).

5 (2) All standing committees may have their hearings  
6 reported and transcribed if payment for such service is being  
7 made from committee funds. If payment is expected to be made  
8 from a source other than committee funds, approval must be  
9 first obtained from the President Pro Tempore.

10 (3) The meetings of the Senate standing and special  
11 committees may be livestreamed as determined by the committee  
12 chair, if held in a hearing room equipped for that purpose,  
13 and posted on the official Senate Internet website. The  
14 official Senate livestream and recordings of the livestream,  
15 video or audio, may be broadcasted and posted on the  
16 respective Senate caucus websites and social media platforms.  
17 The restrictions on video and audio feeds under Rule 23 apply  
18 to livestreamed and video recordings of standing and special  
19 committee meetings.

20 (h) Quorum of committee.--A committee is actually assembled  
21 only when a quorum constituting a majority of the members of  
22 that committee is present in person. A majority of the quorum of  
23 the whole committee shall be required to report any bill,  
24 resolution or other matter to the Floor for action by the whole  
25 Senate.

26 (i) Quorum of subcommittee.--A subcommittee is actually  
27 assembled only when a quorum constituting a majority of the  
28 members of that subcommittee is present in person. A majority of  
29 the quorum of the whole subcommittee shall be required to report  
30 any bill, resolution or other matter to the committee.

1 (j) Discharging committees.--

2 (1) No standing committee shall be discharged from  
3 consideration of any bill, resolution or other matter within  
4 10 legislative days of its reference to committee without the  
5 unanimous consent of the Senate or after such 10-day period  
6 except by majority vote of all members elected to the Senate.

7 (2) Such discharge shall be by resolution which shall  
8 lie over one day for consideration upon introduction and  
9 which may be considered under the Order of Business of  
10 Resolutions on the Calendar.

11 (k) Amendments in committee.--Unless the Chair and Minority  
12 Chair of a committee agree otherwise, a committee shall not  
13 consider an amendment unless a copy of the amendment as prepared  
14 by the Legislative Reference Bureau has been emailed to the  
15 Chair and Minority Chair of the committee or uploaded and  
16 distributed to all committee members through the virtual desk no  
17 less than one hour prior to the commencement of the committee  
18 meeting.

19 Rule 15. Committee officers.

20 (a) Chair-ex-officio.--The Chair and Minority Chair of each  
21 standing committee shall be ex-officio members of each  
22 subcommittee that may be established as part of the standing  
23 committee, with the right to attend meetings of the subcommittee  
24 and vote on any matter before the subcommittee.

25 (b) Calling committee to order.--The Chair or, if authorized  
26 by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall call the committee to order  
27 at the hour provided by these Rules. Upon the appearance of a  
28 quorum, the committee shall proceed with the order of business.  
29 Any member of the committee may question the existence of a  
30 quorum.

1 (c) Chair control of the committee room.--The Chair or, if  
2 authorized by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall preserve order  
3 and decorum and shall have general control of the committee  
4 room. In case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct in the  
5 committee room, the Chair or, if authorized by the Chair, the  
6 Vice Chair, may cause the same to be cleared. The use of cell  
7 phones and similar portable communication devices within any  
8 Senate committee room by other than members of the Senate or  
9 their staffs is strictly prohibited.

10 (d) Chair's authority to sign documents and decide questions  
11 of order.--The Chair shall sign all notices, vouchers, subpoenas  
12 or reports required or permitted by these Rules. The Chair shall  
13 decide all questions of order relative to parliamentary  
14 procedure, subject to an appeal by any member of the committee.

15 (e) Vote of Chair, Vice Chair.--The Chair and Vice Chair  
16 shall vote on all matters before such committee; Provided, That  
17 the name of the Chair shall be called last.

18 (f) Performance of duties by Vice Chair.--Upon the death of  
19 the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the office  
20 until and unless the President Pro Tempore shall appoint a  
21 successor or designate an acting Chair. Upon and during  
22 disability, or incapacity of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall  
23 perform the Chair's duties.

24 (g) Chair's duty to report.--The Chair shall report any bill  
25 to the Floor of the Senate not later than the next occurring  
26 legislative day after the committee's vote to report it.

27 (h) Amendments.--Upon reporting the bill from committee, the  
28 Chair shall submit all amendments adopted in committee to the  
29 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for posting on the  
30 Internet website maintained by the Senate.



1 Rule 16. Committee members.

2 Members, attendance and voting shall be as follows:

3 (1) Every member of a committee shall be in attendance  
4 during each of its meetings, unless excused or necessarily  
5 prevented, and shall vote on each question, except that a  
6 member desiring to be excused from voting in committee due to  
7 a direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest shall seek  
8 a ruling from the Chair pursuant to Rule 20(c).

9 (2) The Chair may excuse any Senator for just cause from  
10 attendance during the meetings of the committee for any  
11 stated period.

12 (3) Any member of a committee who is otherwise engaged  
13 in legislative duties may have the member's vote recorded on  
14 bills, resolutions or other matters pending before the  
15 committee by communicating in writing to the Chair the  
16 inability to attend and the manner in which the member  
17 desires to be voted on bills, resolutions or other matters  
18 pending before the committee.

19 Rule 17. Committee voting.

20 Taking the vote shall be as follows:

21 (1) The Chair shall announce the results of all votes to  
22 report a bill or resolution or a vote regarding an executive  
23 nomination. All votes shall be open to the public and shall  
24 be posted on the Internet website maintained by the Senate  
25 within 24 hours.

26 (2) In all cases where the committee vote shall be  
27 equally divided, the question falls.

28 Rule 18. Motions in committees.

29 All motions made in committee shall be governed and take the  
30 same precedence as those set forth in these Rules.

1 Rule 19. Conference Committees.

2 (a) Composition.--The President Pro Tempore shall appoint  
3 three Senators to comprise a Committee of Conference. Two shall  
4 be from the Majority Party and one from the Minority Party.

5 (b) Deliberations.--The deliberations of the committee shall  
6 be confined to the subject of difference between the two Houses,  
7 unless both Houses shall direct a free conference.

8 (c) Report of Conference Committee.--

9 (1) The report of a Committee of Conference shall be  
10 prepared in triplicate by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
11 and shall be signed by the members or a majority of the  
12 members of each committee comprising the Committee of  
13 Conference. Every report of a Committee of Conference shall  
14 be printed together with the bill as amended by the  
15 committee, shall be made available to the Senators, including  
16 being available on the Senate Virtual Session Desk  
17 application or its successor applications, and shall be  
18 particularly referred to on their calendars before action  
19 shall be taken on such report. No report of a Committee of  
20 Conference may be adopted by the Senate until at least 10  
21 hours have elapsed from the time of adoption of the report by  
22 the Committee of Conference.

23 (2) A report of a Committee of Conference which requires  
24 the expenditure of Commonwealth funds or funds of a political  
25 subdivision or causes a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth  
26 or a political subdivision shall have a fiscal note attached  
27 before the report is finally adopted by the Senate.

28 (d) Adoption of Conference Committee report.--Reports of  
29 committees of conference shall be adopted only by the vote of a  
30 majority of the members elected to the Senate, taken by yeas and

1 nays. (Const. Art. III, Sec. 5)

2 Rule 20. Voting.

3 (a) Senators must be present.--Every Senator shall be  
4 present within the Senate Chamber during the sessions of the  
5 Senate and shall be recorded as voting on each question stated  
6 from the Chair which requires a roll call vote unless the  
7 Senator is on leave, is duly excused or is unavoidably prevented  
8 from attending session. The refusal of any Senator to vote as  
9 provided by this Rule shall be deemed a contempt of the Senate.

10 (b) Voting required.--Except as may be otherwise provided by  
11 this Rule, no Senator shall be permitted to vote on any question  
12 unless the Senator is present in the Senate Chamber at the time  
13 the roll is being called, or prior to the announcement of the  
14 vote, unless the following applies:

15 (1) Capitol leave.--A Senator who is performing a  
16 legislative duty in the Harrisburg area, which is defined in  
17 the Financial Operating Rules of the Senate as within Dauphin  
18 County or otherwise within a 10 mile radius of the Capitol,  
19 may, upon request during session, be granted a Capitol Leave  
20 by the Senate and may be voted by the Senator's respective  
21 Floor Leader. A specific reason for the Capitol Leave must be  
22 given in writing by the Senator. The Capitol Leave request  
23 shall be communicated to the Senator's respective Whip for  
24 transmission to the respective Floor Leader prior to the  
25 beginning of a roll call vote. All written Capitol Leave  
26 requests shall be transmitted by the respective Whips to the  
27 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for retention in  
28 accordance with Rule 6(c) (3) within 24 hours of the  
29 conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
30 requested. The respective Floor Leaders shall be copied on

1 the transmission of Capitol Leave requests submitted to the  
2 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate.

3 (2) Legislative leave.--A Senator who is performing a  
4 legislative duty outside of the Harrisburg area may, upon  
5 request during session, be granted a Legislative Leave by the  
6 Senate and may be voted by the Senator's respective Floor  
7 Leader. A specific reason for the Legislative Leave must be  
8 given in writing by the Senator. The Legislative Leave  
9 request shall be communicated to the Senator's respective  
10 Whip for transmission to the respective Floor Leader prior to  
11 the beginning of a roll call vote. All written Legislative  
12 Leave requests shall be transmitted by the respective Whips  
13 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for retention  
14 in accordance with Rule 6(c) (3) within 24 hours of the  
15 conclusion of the legislative day in which leave was  
16 requested. The respective Floor Leaders shall be copied on  
17 the transmission of Legislative Leave requests submitted to  
18 the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate.

19 (3) Military leave.--A Senator who is on active duty or  
20 in training with a reserve component of the armed forces of  
21 the United States or the Pennsylvania National Guard or Air  
22 National Guard may be granted a military leave. A Senator  
23 requesting military leave shall submit a leave request to the  
24 Senator's respective Whips who shall transmit the request to  
25 the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate on behalf of the  
26 Senator requesting leave within 24 hours of the conclusion of  
27 the legislative day in which leave was requested. The  
28 respective Floor Leaders shall be copied on the transmission  
29 of military leave requests submitted to the Secretary-  
30 Parliamentarian of the Senate.

1           (4) Personal leave.--A Senator who is absent for any  
2 purpose other than those set forth in these Rules may be  
3 granted a personal leave. A Senator on personal leave shall  
4 not be voted on any question before the Senate or on any  
5 question before any committee of the Senate. A Senator  
6 requesting personal leave shall submit a leave request to the  
7 Senator's respective Whips who shall transmit the request to  
8 the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate on behalf of the  
9 Senator requesting leave within 24 hours of the conclusion of  
10 the legislative day in which leave was requested. The  
11 respective Floor Leaders shall be copied on the transmission  
12 of personal leave requests submitted to the Secretary-  
13 Parliamentarian of the Senate.

14       (c) Excused from voting.--

15           (1) A Senator desiring to be excused from voting due to  
16 a direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest in any  
17 question or bill proposed or pending before the Senate shall  
18 seek a ruling from the presiding officer.

19           (2) Senators who seek a ruling on whether they have a  
20 direct, personal, private or pecuniary interest in any  
21 question or bill proposed or pending before the Senate shall,  
22 after the Senator is recognized by the presiding officer,  
23 make a brief statement of the reasons for making the request  
24 and ask the presiding officer to decide whether or not the  
25 Senator must vote. The question shall be decided by the  
26 presiding officer without debate.

27       (d) Changing vote.--No Senator may vote or change a vote  
28 after the result is announced by the Chair. Before the  
29 announcement of the final result, however, a Senator may change  
30 a vote, or may vote, if previously absent from the Chamber.

1 Should a Senator be erroneously recorded on any vote, the  
2 Senator may at any time, with the permission of the Senate, make  
3 a statement to that effect which shall be entered in the  
4 Journal. Similarly, should the Senator be absent when a vote is  
5 taken on any question, the Senator may later, with the  
6 permission of the Senate, make a statement for entry upon the  
7 Journal, indicating how the Senator would have voted had the  
8 Senator been present when the roll was taken and the reasons  
9 therefor shall be submitted in writing or delivered orally not  
10 to exceed five minutes.

11 (e) Persons allowed at desk during roll call.--No Senator or  
12 other person, except the Majority or Minority Leader or other  
13 persons designated by them, shall be permitted at the Reading  
14 Clerk's desk during the recording, counting or verification of a  
15 roll call vote.

16 (f) Two-thirds vote.--When bills or other matters which  
17 require a two-thirds vote are under consideration, the  
18 concurrence of two-thirds of all the Senators elected shall not  
19 be requisite to decide any question or amendment short of the  
20 final question and, on any question short of the final one, a  
21 majority of Senators voting shall be sufficient to pass the  
22 same.

23 (g) Majority vote defined.--A majority of the Senators  
24 elected shall mean a majority of the Senators elected, living,  
25 sworn and seated.

26 (h) Majority vote.--When bills or other matters which  
27 require a vote of the majority of Senators elected are under  
28 consideration, the concurrence of a majority of all the Senators  
29 elected shall not be requisite to decide any question or  
30 amendment short of the final question; and, on any question

1 short of a final one, a majority of Senators voting shall be  
2 sufficient to pass the same.

3 (i) Announcement of vote.--Upon completion of a roll call  
4 vote or a voice vote, the result shall be announced immediately  
5 unless the Majority or Minority Leader requests a delay.

6 (j) Explanation of vote.--Any Senator may, with the consent  
7 of the Senate, make an explanation of a vote on any question and  
8 have the explanation printed in the Journal.

9 (k) Tie vote.--In the case of a tie vote, the President of  
10 the Senate may cast a vote to break the tie as long as, by doing  
11 so, it does not violate any provisions of the Constitution of  
12 Pennsylvania. In the event that there is a tie vote on a  
13 question requiring a constitutional majority, the question  
14 falls.

15 (l) Verifying vote.--Any Senator may demand a verification  
16 of a vote immediately upon the completion of a roll call or  
17 after the announcement of the vote by the presiding officer. In  
18 verifying a vote, the Clerk shall first read the affirmative  
19 roll at which time any additions or corrections shall be made.  
20 Upon the completion and verification of the affirmative roll  
21 call, the Clerk shall proceed with the reading of the negative  
22 roll at which time any additions or corrections shall be made.  
23 Upon the completion and verification of the negative roll call,  
24 the roll call shall be declared verified. It shall not be in  
25 order for a Senator to change a vote after the verified roll  
26 call is announced. A demand for a verification shall not be in  
27 order when all Senators vote one way. The demand for a  
28 verification of a vote is not debatable.

29 (m) Voice vote.--Unless otherwise ordered, demanded or  
30 required, a voice vote may be taken. Any Senator who doubts the

1 accuracy of a voice vote may demand a roll call vote. Such  
2 request must be made immediately upon the announcement of the  
3 vote by the presiding officer and shall not be in order after  
4 other business has intervened. The demand for a verification of  
5 a voice vote shall not be in order.

6 Rule 21. Correspondents.

7 (a) Admission to Senate Press Gallery.--Admission to the  
8 Senate Press Gallery shall be limited to members in good  
9 standing of the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents'  
10 Association and to other members of the press as determined by  
11 the President Pro Tempore. Seating shall be available on a  
12 first-come basis.

13 (b) Photographs in Senate Chamber.--

14 (1) Photographers may be authorized by the President Pro  
15 Tempore to take still photographs in the Senate.

16 (2) No still photographs shall be taken in the Senate  
17 during sessions without prior notice to the Senators. When  
18 possible, such notice shall be given at the beginning of the  
19 session during which the still photographs are scheduled to  
20 be taken.

21 (c) Order and decorum of press.--

22 (1) Persons seated in the Senate Press Gallery shall be  
23 dressed appropriately and shall, at all times, refrain from  
24 loud talking or causing any disturbance which tends to  
25 interrupt the proceedings of the Senate.

26 (2) Persons seated in the Senate Press Gallery shall not  
27 walk onto the Floor of the Senate nor approach the rostrum or  
28 the Reading Clerk's desk during session or while being at  
29 ease.

30 Rule 22. Radio and television.



1 (a) Filming, videotaping, televising and broadcasting.--  
2 Filming, videotaping, televising or broadcasting of Senate  
3 sessions shall be permitted as provided in these Rules.

4 (b) Broadcasting session.--Nothing in this Rule shall be  
5 construed to prohibit any licensed radio station or television  
6 station from broadcasting a session from the Senate or any part  
7 thereof; Provided, That the signal originates from the Senate-  
8 operated audio-visual system which transmits Senate session  
9 activity to the offices in the Main Capitol and environs.

10 Rule 23. Video feed and audio feed.

11 (a) Responsibilities of the Chief Clerk of the Senate.--

12 (1) The Chief Clerk, in consultation with the Secretary-  
13 Parliamentarian of the Senate, shall provide a video feed and  
14 audio feed of Senate Floor activity.

15 (2) The Chief Clerk shall be responsible for the  
16 acquisition, installation and maintenance of equipment  
17 required to provide the video feed and audio feed, and for  
18 the continued development and operation of the feeds,  
19 including the hiring of the necessary personnel.

20 (3) All equipment required to produce the video feed and  
21 audio feed shall be operated by Senate personnel. Nothing in  
22 any contract entered into by the Office of the Chief Clerk  
23 regarding installation or maintenance of equipment shall  
24 permit any control over the video cameras and microphones in  
25 the Senate Chamber to be exercised by anyone but the  
26 appropriate Senate officers and employees.

27 (b) Sessions provided free of charge.--

28 (1) Continuous broadcast of Senate sessions shall be  
29 provided free of charge to any licensed television station,  
30 radio station or cable television outlet and shall further be

1 available through the Senate's Internet website.

2 (2) The Senate Committee on Management Operations may  
3 authorize providing the video feed and audio feed free of  
4 charge to other entities.

5 (c) Funding.--Funding for the implementation and operation  
6 of the broadcasting system shall be provided through Senate  
7 appropriations.

8 (d) Scope of video and audio feeds.--

9 (1) The video feed and audio feed shall provide a  
10 complete, unedited record of what is said on the Floor of the  
11 Senate and shall be free from commentary.

12 (2) To the extent possible, only the presiding officer  
13 and the persons actually speaking shall be covered by the  
14 video cameras and microphones.

15 (3) During roll call votes and other votes, the video  
16 cameras shall be focused on the presiding officer or the  
17 appropriate clerks until the announcement of the vote  
18 tabulation by the presiding officer.

19 (4) During recesses of the Senate or when the Senate is  
20 at ease, the video feed and audio feed shall be turned off.

21 (5) During guest introductions, video feed of guests  
22 seated in the Senate Gallery or on the floor of the Senate is  
23 permissible.

24 (e) Restrictions on video and audio feeds.--

25 (1) The video feed and audio feed, and any television or  
26 radio coverage thereof, shall not be made available or used  
27 for political or campaign purposes, whether in paid political  
28 advertisements or otherwise. Use of the video feed and audio  
29 feed shall be subject to all Federal and State laws relating  
30 to elections and campaign practices.

1           (2) The video feed and audio feed, and any television or  
2 radio coverage thereof, shall not be used in any commercial  
3 advertisement.

4           (3) Any live coverage of the Senate shall be without and  
5 presented without any commercial sponsorship, except when it  
6 is part of a bona fide news program or public affairs  
7 program.

8           (4) The President Pro Tempore or any other presiding  
9 officer shall be prohibited from ordering, without consent of  
10 the Senate, that any segment of a Floor session not be  
11 broadcast or recorded.

12           (5) Except as provided in this Rule, the President Pro  
13 Tempore, any other presiding officer and any Senator, officer  
14 or employee of the Senate shall be prohibited from editing  
15 any portion of the video feed and audio feed described in  
16 this Rule.

17           (6) Official Senate video feed of Senate session shall  
18 be broadcast on the official Senate Internet website by the  
19 Legislative Data Processing Committee. All caucuses may  
20 broadcast and post unedited session videos on their  
21 respective Senate caucus websites and social media platforms  
22 using the official Senate feed.

23           (7) A Senator may post an unedited video clip or audio  
24 clip of Senate session on his or her Senate social media  
25 platforms or provide an unedited video clip or audio clip of  
26 Senate session for any television broadcast as long as the  
27 video clip or audio clip exclusively features the Senator who  
28 is posting or providing the video clip or audio clip.

29           (f) Other recording prohibited.--

30           (1) Except as provided in this Rule, any recording,

1       filming, videotaping, broadcasting or distribution of any  
2       session of the Senate, or any part thereof, in any form  
3       whatsoever is prohibited.

4           (2) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed to prohibit  
5       any licensed radio or television station or other licensed  
6       entity from broadcasting a session from the Senate or any  
7       part thereof; Provided, That the signal originates from the  
8       Senate-operated sound and video system which transmits Senate  
9       session activity to the offices in the Main Capitol and  
10       environs.

11       (g) Violations.--Any violation of this Rule shall be dealt  
12       with as directed by the Committee on Rules and Executive  
13       Nominations.

14       (h) Official record.--The video feed and audio feed provided  
15       by the Senate shall not constitute an official record of Senate  
16       actions. The official record of Senate actions shall be  
17       contained in the Journals prepared by the Secretary-  
18       Parliamentarian of the Senate and approved by the Senate or  
19       posted on the Senate Internet website pursuant to Rule 6(c)(9).  
20       Rule 24. Who privileged to the Floor of the Senate.

21       (a) Admission during session.--With the exception of the  
22       Senate Gallery and Senate Press Gallery, no person shall be  
23       admitted within the Senate Chamber during Senate sessions,  
24       unless invited by the President Pro Tempore or the Majority  
25       Leader or Minority Leader. Prior to the start of each Senate  
26       session day, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader shall  
27       provide notice to the President Pro Tempore listing the guests  
28       they have invited to the Floor of the Senate. During session,  
29       authorized staff with access to the Senate Chamber shall be  
30       limited and shall be restricted to the area immediately adjacent

1 to the Majority Leader's and Minority Leader's desks. Advice to  
2 Senators during debate shall be allowed only when the Senator is  
3 using the microphones at the Majority Leader's and Minority  
4 Leader's desks.

5 (b) Rear entrance closed during session.--No person shall,  
6 during a session, be permitted to enter through the front or  
7 rear door of the Senate Chamber nor be present in the rooms  
8 immediately to the rear of the Senate Chamber except for  
9 Senators, officers and employees expressly authorized.

10 (c) Telephone facilities.--No person other than Senators,  
11 Senate Officers or their staff shall, at any time, be permitted  
12 to use the telephone facilities in or adjacent to the Senate  
13 Chamber.

14 Rule 25. Rules.

15 (a) Force and effect.--These Rules shall be in full force  
16 and effect until altered, changed, amended or repealed as  
17 provided in subsection (d).

18 (b) Dispensing with Rules.--The consent of a majority of the  
19 Senators elected shall be necessary to suspend any Rule.

20 (c) Voting for altering, changing or amending Rules.--The  
21 consent of a majority of the Senators elected shall be necessary  
22 to alter, change or amend these Rules.

23 (d) Alteration, change or amendment of Rules by  
24 resolution.--All alterations, changes or amendments to Senate  
25 Rules shall be by resolution which shall not be considered  
26 unless first referred to and reported from the Rules and  
27 Executive Nominations Committee.

28 Rule 26. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure to govern  
29 Senate.

30 The Rules of Parliamentary Practice comprised in Mason's

1 Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Senate in all  
2 cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not  
3 inconsistent with the Standing Rules, Prior Decisions and Orders  
4 of the Senate.

5 Rule 27. Quorum.

6 (a) Majority constitutes a quorum.--A majority of Senators  
7 elected shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may  
8 adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent  
9 members. (Const. Art. II, Sec. 10)

10 (b) When less than a quorum is present.--When, upon a call,  
11 which may be demanded by not less than four Senators, it is  
12 found that less than a quorum is present, it shall be the duty  
13 of the presiding officer to order the doors of the Senate to be  
14 closed, and to direct the Reading Clerk to call the roll of the  
15 Senate and note the absentees after which the names of the  
16 absentees shall be again called. A Senator whose absence is not  
17 excused, or for whom an insufficient excuse is made, may by  
18 order of a majority of the Senators present be sent for and  
19 taken into custody by the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, or assistant  
20 sergeants-at-arms appointed for the purpose. Any unexcused  
21 Senator shall be brought before the bar of the Senate, where the  
22 Senator, unless excused by a majority of the Senators present,  
23 shall be publicly reprimanded by the presiding officer for  
24 neglect of duty.

25 (c) When less than a quorum vote but are present.--When less  
26 than a quorum vote upon any subject under the consideration of  
27 the Senate, not less than four Senators may demand a call of the  
28 Senate, when it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to  
29 order the doors of the Senate to be closed and the roll of the  
30 Senators to be called. If it is ascertained that a quorum is

1 present, either by answering to their names, or by their  
2 presence in the Senate, the presiding officer shall again order  
3 the yeas and nays; and, if any Senator present refuses to vote,  
4 the name or names of such Senator shall be entered on the  
5 Journal as "Present but not voting." Such refusal to vote shall  
6 be deemed a contempt; and, unless purged, the presiding officer  
7 shall direct the Chief Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the Senator  
8 before the bar of the Senate, where the Senator shall be  
9 publicly reprimanded by the presiding officer.

10 Rule 28. Executive nominations.

11 (a) Presentation and reference.--

12 (1) All nominations by the Governor or the Attorney  
13 General shall be submitted to the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
14 of the Senate. All nominees shall file the financial  
15 statements required pursuant to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating  
16 to ethics standards and financial disclosure) with the  
17 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate. Copies of the  
18 nominations and financial statements shall be furnished by  
19 the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate to the Majority  
20 Caucus Secretary and Minority Caucus Secretary or their  
21 designees.

22 (2) Nominations shall, after being read, without a  
23 motion, be referred by the presiding officer to the Committee  
24 on Rules and Executive Nominations. After having been  
25 reported by the committee, the final question on every  
26 nomination shall be: "Will the Senate advise and consent to  
27 this nomination?"

28 (3) The Chair of the Committee on Rules and Executive  
29 Nominations shall designate an appropriate standing committee  
30 of the Senate to conduct a public hearing for nominees that

1 have Statewide jurisdiction and to which salaries are  
2 attached. The Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations  
3 shall refer those nominees to the designated committee for  
4 the purpose of holding a public hearing to scrutinize the  
5 qualifications of nominees and to report its recommendations.  
6 Public hearings may be held for nominees for any other  
7 office.

8 (b) Information concerning nominations.--All information,  
9 communication or remarks made by a Senator when acting upon  
10 nominations in committee, concerning the character or  
11 qualifications of the person nominated, may be kept  
12 confidential. If, however, charges shall be made against a  
13 person nominated, the committee may, in its discretion, notify  
14 the nominee, but the name of the person making such charges  
15 shall not be disclosed.

16 (c) Consideration.--When the consideration of executive  
17 nominations is reached in the order of business, a Senator may  
18 make a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of  
19 confirming the nominations which have been reported from  
20 committee; and on the motion being agreed to, the nomination or  
21 nominations shall be considered until finally disposed of,  
22 unless the same shall be postponed by a majority of the Senate.

23 (d) Executive session.--When in executive session, no  
24 communication shall be received from the Governor, unless it be  
25 relative to the nomination under consideration, nor from the  
26 House of Representatives, nor shall any other business be  
27 considered.

28 (e) Reconsideration.--When a nomination is confirmed or  
29 rejected by the Senate, any Senator may move for a  
30 reconsideration on the same day on which the vote was taken, or



1 on either of the next two days of voting session of the Senate;  
2 but if a notification of the confirmation or rejection of a  
3 nomination shall have been sent to the Governor before the  
4 expiration of the time within which a motion to reconsider may  
5 be made, the motion to reconsider shall be accompanied by a  
6 motion to request the Governor to return such notification to  
7 the Senate. A motion to reconsider the vote on a nomination may  
8 be laid on the table without prejudice to the nomination.

9 Rule 29. Resolutions.

10 (a) Introduction.--All resolutions, Senate and concurrent,  
11 shall be introduced by presenting four copies of the Resolution,  
12 with the sponsor identified, to the presiding officer.

13 (b) Consideration.--The following resolutions, after being  
14 read, shall be referred to an appropriate committee without  
15 debate unless by unanimous consent the Senate shall otherwise  
16 direct and, if favorably reported by the committee, shall lie  
17 over one day for consideration, after which the resolutions may  
18 be called up under the appropriate order of business:

19 (1) All Senate concurrent resolutions and House  
20 concurrent resolutions, excepting resolutions in reference to  
21 adjournment sine die, recesses and resolutions recalling  
22 bills from the Governor, which shall be regarded as  
23 privileged.

24 (2) Resolutions containing calls for information from  
25 the heads of departments or to alter the Rules.

26 (3) Resolutions giving rise to debate, except those that  
27 relate to the disposition of matters immediately before the  
28 Senate, those that relate to the business of the day on which  
29 they were offered, and those that relate to adjournment sine  
30 die or a recess.

1 (c) Printing in Senate History.--

2 (1) (Reserved).

3 (2) All resolutions shall be adopted by a majority vote  
4 of the Senators present except as specifically provided for  
5 in these Rules.

6 (d) Joint Resolutions.--

7 (1) Joint resolutions shall be limited to constitutional  
8 amendments and shall be adopted by a vote of a majority of  
9 the Senators elected to the Senate.

10 (2) A joint resolution when passed by both Houses shall  
11 not be transmitted to the Governor for approval or  
12 disapproval but shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary  
13 of the Commonwealth in accordance with Article XI, section 1  
14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

15 Rule 29.1. Citations.

16 (a) Preparation.--A member making a request that a Senate  
17 Citation be issued to a particular person or on a specified  
18 occasion shall provide the Legislative Reference Bureau with the  
19 facts necessary for the preparation of the citation on a  
20 suitable form.

21 (b) Filing.--The citation request shall be filed with the  
22 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate and automatically  
23 referred to the President Pro Tempore, who may approve and sign  
24 the citation on behalf of the Senate.

25 (c) Issuance.--One original citation shall be issued by the  
26 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate.

27 Rule 30. General access to the Senate Floor prohibited.

28 The Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate shall cause the  
29 doors to the Senate Floor to be closed to all persons except  
30 those who are entitled to access pursuant to the Rules of the

1 Senate. On days when the Senate is not in session, access to the  
2 Senate Floor by any person not connected with the Senate is  
3 prohibited. Other than the Senator, no person shall be permitted  
4 to occupy the seat of a Senator at any time.

5 Rule 31. Veto.

6 (a) Passing over veto.--When any bill is not approved by the  
7 Governor, he shall return it with his objection to the House in  
8 which such bill originated. Thereupon such House shall enter the  
9 objections upon their Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If,  
10 after such reconsideration, two-thirds of all the Members  
11 elected to that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be  
12 sent with the objections to the other House by which likewise it  
13 shall be reconsidered and, if approved by two-thirds of all the  
14 members elected to that House, it shall become a law. (Const.  
15 Art. IV, Sec. 15)

16 (b) Consideration during second regular session.--A bill  
17 vetoed in a first regular session and not finally acted upon may  
18 be brought up for consideration in a second regular session.

19 Rule 32. Division of a question.

20 Any Senator may call for a division of a question by the  
21 Senate if the question includes points so distinct and separate  
22 that, one of them being taken away, the other will stand as a  
23 complete proposition. The motion to strike out and insert is  
24 indivisible.

25 Rule 33. Coordination with other Senate Rules.

26 Any use of Senate resources or time shall be governed by the  
27 Financial Operating Rules and the Ethical Conduct Rules of the  
28 Senate.

29 Rule 34. Committee on Ethics.

30 (a) Composition.--In addition to the committees created by

1 Rule 14, there shall be a Senate Committee on Ethics which shall  
2 be composed of six members appointed by the President Pro  
3 Tempore. Three members shall be of the Majority Party and three  
4 members shall be of the Minority Party. The Minority Party  
5 members will be appointed on the recommendation of the Minority  
6 Leader.

7 (b) Organization.--The Senate Committee on Ethics shall be  
8 organized as follows:

9 (1) The President Pro Tempore shall appoint one of the  
10 Majority Party members as Chair and, on the recommendation of  
11 the Minority Leader, one of the Minority Party members as  
12 Vice Chair. A quorum for this committee shall be four  
13 members, and the committee shall have such duties, powers,  
14 procedure and jurisdiction as are prescribed and authorized  
15 in this Rule.

16 (2) The chair shall provide each member of the committee  
17 with written notice of committee meetings, which may be done  
18 electronically, at least 24 hours in advance of the date,  
19 time and place of a meeting. Whenever the chair shall refuse  
20 to call a meeting, a majority of the committee may call a  
21 meeting by giving two days' written notice to the Majority  
22 Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate setting forth  
23 the time and place for such meeting. A meeting commenced in  
24 this manner shall be held at the time and place specified in  
25 the notice.

26 (3) Except as provided in subsection (j), all meetings  
27 of the committee shall be open to the public and notice of  
28 such meetings shall be given as generally provided in these  
29 Rules for the convening of committees.

30 (4) The committee may adopt rules of procedure for the

1 orderly conduct of its affairs, investigations, hearings and  
2 meetings, which rules are not inconsistent with this Rule.

3 (c) Receipt of complaint.--The committee shall receive  
4 complaints against any Senator alleging unethical conduct in  
5 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
6 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator. Any complaint filed  
7 with the committee shall:

8 (1) be submitted in writing;

9 (2) be sworn or affirmed by the person filing the  
10 complaint; and

11 (3) detail the alleged unethical conduct in question and  
12 specify the Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
13 allegedly violated.

14 (d) Review of complaint.--Upon receipt of a complaint that  
15 conforms with all the requirements of this Rule, the Senate  
16 Committee on Ethics shall review the complaint and determine  
17 whether or not a preliminary investigation is warranted within  
18 30 days of receiving the complaint. For good cause, a majority  
19 of the members of the committee may vote to grant an additional  
20 30 days to complete the committee's review. A frivolous or de  
21 minimis complaint may be dismissed by a majority of the members  
22 of the committee, with prejudice. The chair shall notify the  
23 complainant and the subject Senator of the disposition of a  
24 dismissed complaint.

25 (e) Disposition of complaints.--If it is determined by a  
26 majority of the members of the Senate Committee on Ethics that  
27 an ethical conduct violation may have occurred, the Senator  
28 against whom the complaint has been brought shall be notified in  
29 writing and given a copy of the complaint. Within 15 days after  
30 receipt of the complaint, the Senator may file a written answer

1 to the complaint with the committee. If no answer is filed, the  
2 complaint shall be deemed denied by the subject Senator. The  
3 lack of an answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or  
4 create an inference or presumption that the complaint is true.  
5 The lack of an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the  
6 members of the committee from either proceeding with a formal  
7 investigation or dismissing the complaint.

8 (f) Preliminary investigation.--The committee shall have 30  
9 days from the date that receipt of the answer to the complaint  
10 is to be provided to complete its preliminary investigation. For  
11 good cause, a majority of the members of the committee may vote  
12 to grant an additional 30 days to complete the committee's  
13 review. The committee may employ an independent counsel to  
14 conduct a preliminary investigation. Upon conclusion of the  
15 preliminary investigation, by vote of a majority of the members  
16 of the committee, the committee shall determine whether to  
17 proceed with a formal investigation, which may include hearings.  
18 In the event that the committee vote is equally divided, the  
19 question falls. If the committee does not decide to proceed to a  
20 formal investigation, the Chair shall notify the complainant and  
21 the subject Senator of the disposition of the complaint and  
22 shall summarize the committee's rationale for its conclusion.

23 (g) Confidentiality.--Prior to the commencement of a formal  
24 investigation, the fact that a preliminary investigation is  
25 being conducted or is to be conducted shall be confidential  
26 information. If, however, the filing of a complaint or a  
27 preliminary investigation is made public by the complainant, the  
28 committee may publicly confirm the receipt of a complaint.

29 (h) Indictment.--When an indictment is returned against a  
30 member of the Senate, and the gravamen of the indictment is

1 directly related to the ethical conduct of a Senator in  
2 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
3 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator, the Senate Committee  
4 on Ethics shall not initiate any new investigation and shall  
5 suspend any ongoing investigation initiated pursuant to this  
6 Rule until the subject matter of the indictment that relates to  
7 the Senator's alleged unethical conduct is resolved.

8 (i) Alternative procedure.--In addition to action on formal  
9 complaints as provided in subsection (c), a majority of the  
10 members of the Senate Committee on Ethics may initiate a  
11 preliminary investigation of suspected unethical conduct in  
12 violation of a Senate Rule, statute or constitutional provision  
13 governing the ethical conduct of a Senator. If it is determined  
14 by a majority of the members of the committee that a violation  
15 may have occurred, the Senator in question shall be notified in  
16 writing of the alleged unethical conduct in question and the  
17 Rule, statute or constitutional provision allegedly violated.  
18 Within 15 days of the receipt of this information, the Senator  
19 may file a written answer with the committee. The lack of an  
20 answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or create an  
21 inference or presumption that the complaint is true. The lack of  
22 an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the members of the  
23 committee from either proceeding with a formal investigation or  
24 dismissing the complaint. The committee shall have 30 days from  
25 the date that receipt of the answer to the complaint is to be  
26 provided to complete its preliminary investigation. For good  
27 cause, a majority of the members of the committee may vote to  
28 grant an additional 30 days to complete the committee's review.  
29 Upon conclusion of the preliminary investigation, by vote of a  
30 majority of the members of the committee, the committee shall

1 determine whether to proceed with a formal investigation, which  
2 may include hearings. In the event that the committee vote is  
3 equally divided, the question falls.

4 (j) Closed session.--The committee shall conduct its  
5 preliminary investigations, hearings and meetings related to a  
6 specific investigation or a specific Senator in closed session  
7 unless the Senator subject to investigation advises the  
8 committee in writing that the Senator wants such meetings or  
9 hearings to be held publicly. In the event that the Senator in  
10 question makes such a request, the committee shall furnish the  
11 Senator with a public meeting or hearing.

12 (k) Formal investigation.--In the event that the Senate  
13 Committee on Ethics shall elect to proceed with a formal  
14 investigation of alleged unethical conduct by a Senator, the  
15 committee may employ an independent counsel to conduct a formal  
16 investigation. The committee and any independent counsel  
17 employed by the committee shall comply with the following  
18 procedural requirements at all stages of the investigation:

19 (1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics may  
20 continue any hearing for reasonable cause. Upon the vote of a  
21 majority of the members of the committee, or upon the request  
22 of the Senator subject to investigation, the Chair shall  
23 issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses  
24 and the production of documentary evidence relating to any  
25 matter under formal investigation by the committee. The Chair  
26 of the committee may administer oaths or affirmations,  
27 examine and receive evidence, or rule on any objections  
28 raised during the course of a hearing.

29 (2) All testimony, documents, records, data, statements  
30 or information received by the committee in the course of any



1 preliminary or formal investigation shall be private and  
2 confidential except in the case of public meetings or  
3 hearings or in a report to the Senate.

4 (3) All constitutional rights of any Senator under  
5 investigation shall be preserved, and the Senator shall be  
6 entitled to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, face  
7 the accuser and be represented by counsel.

8 (4) An oath or affirmation shall be executed in writing  
9 before any member of the committee, any independent counsel  
10 employed by the committee to conduct a preliminary or formal  
11 investigation, or any employee of the Senate related to the  
12 investigation may have access to information that is  
13 confidential pursuant to the rules of the committee as  
14 follows:

15 "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will not disclose,  
16 to any person or entity outside of the Senate Committee on  
17 Ethics, any information received in the course of my service  
18 with the committee, except as authorized by the committee or  
19 in accordance with the Rules of the Senate."

20 Copies of the executed oath or affirmation shall be provided  
21 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate as part of the  
22 records of the Senate. Any Senator or other person who  
23 violates the confidentiality requirements of this subsection  
24 shall be removed immediately from the committee and replaced  
25 by another Senator, counsel or employee of the Senate  
26 appointed in like manner as the person's original appointment  
27 or selection.

28 (1) Report.--No report regarding unethical conduct by a  
29 Senator shall be made to the Senate unless a majority of the  
30 members of the Senate Committee on Ethics determines that a

1 finding of unethical conduct in violation of a Senate Rule,  
2 statute or constitutional provision governing the ethical  
3 conduct of a Senator has occurred. No finding of unethical  
4 conduct by a Senator in violation of a Senate Rule, statute or  
5 constitutional provision governing the ethical conduct of a  
6 Senator adopted by the Senate Committee on Ethics shall be valid  
7 unless signed by at least a majority of the members of the  
8 committee. Any such report may include a minority report. A  
9 report adopted by the committee that contains findings of  
10 unethical conduct by a Senator in violation of a Senate Rule,  
11 statute or constitutional provision governing the ethical  
12 conduct of a Senator shall not be filed with the Secretary-  
13 Parliamentarian of the Senate or released to the public until at  
14 least seven days after a copy of the report is sent by certified  
15 mail to the Senator under investigation.

16 (m) Distribution of report.--After the expiration of the  
17 seven-day notice requirement contained in subsection (l), the  
18 Senate Committee on Ethics shall file its report with the  
19 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate, who shall cause a copy  
20 of the report of the committee to be distributed to the members  
21 of the Senate. The report of the Senate Committee on Ethics  
22 shall be placed on the Senate Calendar and shall be acted upon  
23 by the Senate within 10 legislative days of the adoption of a  
24 temporary rule setting forth rules of procedure for the orderly  
25 disposition of the report by the full Senate. A vote by a  
26 majority of the members elected to the Senate shall be necessary  
27 to adopt each finding set forth in the Ethics Committee Report.

28 (n) Sanction.--Should the full Senate vote to adopt an  
29 unethical conduct finding against a Senator as set forth in the  
30 Ethics Committee Report, that Senator may be subject to sanction

1 by the full Senate. A sanction may include any of the following  
2 depending on the circumstances of the violation:

- 3 (1) a warning;
- 4 (2) a written reprimand;
- 5 (3) restitution for damages; or
- 6 (4) any other sanction provided for pursuant to the  
7 Rules of the Senate or the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

8 (o) Advisory opinion.--The Senate Committee on Ethics, at  
9 the request of a Senator or officer who has an ethical question  
10 or concern regarding the Senate Rules individually or in  
11 conjunction with others, may issue an advisory opinion seeking  
12 to clarify the ethical requirements of the Senate Rules. These  
13 advisory opinions, with such deletions and changes as shall be  
14 necessary to protect the identity of the persons involved or  
15 seeking the advisory opinions, may be published and shall be  
16 distributed to all members, officers and employees of the  
17 Senate. No action regarding unethical conduct may be taken  
18 against a Senator, officer or employee who has relied on a  
19 written advisory opinion, whether directly addressed to that  
20 person or not, which is reasonably construed as being applicable  
21 to the conduct in question.

22 (p) Committee member under investigation.--In the event that  
23 a member of the Senate Committee on Ethics shall be under  
24 investigation, that Senator shall be temporarily replaced on the  
25 committee in a like manner to the Senator's original  
26 appointment.

27 (q) Costs and expenses.--Whenever the committee shall employ  
28 independent counsel to conduct a preliminary or formal  
29 investigation or shall incur other expenses pursuant to its  
30 duties pursuant to this Rule, payment of costs of such

1 independent counsel or other expenses incurred by the committee  
2 pursuant to this Rule shall be paid by the Chief Clerk of the  
3 Senate upon submission of vouchers and necessary documentation.  
4 The vouchers shall be signed by both the Chair and Vice Chair of  
5 the committee. Included in such allowable expense items shall be  
6 travel and per diem for the members of the committee. The Chief  
7 Clerk shall pay such expenses out of funds appropriated to the  
8 Chief Clerk for incidental expenses.

9 Rule 35. Status of members indicted or convicted of a crime.

10 (a) Status generally.--When an indictment is returned  
11 against a member of the Senate, and the gravamen of the  
12 indictment is directly related to the Senator's conduct as a  
13 committee chair, ranking minority committee member or in a  
14 position of leadership, the Senator shall be relieved of such  
15 committee chairmanship, ranking minority committee member  
16 status, or leadership position until the indictment is disposed  
17 of, but the member shall otherwise continue to function as a  
18 Senator, including voting, and shall continue to be paid.

19 (b) Restoration.--If, during the same legislative session,  
20 the indictment is quashed, or the court finds that the Senator  
21 is not guilty of the offense alleged, the Senator shall  
22 immediately be restored to the committee chairmanship, ranking  
23 minority committee member status, or leadership position  
24 retroactively from which that Senator was suspended.

25 (c) Resolution of expulsion.--Upon a finding or verdict of  
26 guilt by a judge or jury, a plea or admission of guilt or plea  
27 of nolo contendere of a crime by a member of the Senate, the  
28 gravamen of which relates to the member's conduct as a Senator,  
29 and upon imposition of sentence, the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
30 of the Senate shall prepare a resolution of expulsion under

1 session, which shall appear on the Calendar on the next  
2 legislative session day following an imposition of sentence  
3 based upon a determination or admission of guilt or a plea of  
4 nolo contendere.

5 Rule 36. Status of officers or employees indicted or convicted  
6 of a crime.

7 (a) Suspension.--Whenever any officer or employee of the  
8 Senate is indicted or otherwise charged before a court of record  
9 with the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor, the gravamen  
10 of which relates to the officer's or employee's conduct or  
11 status as an officer or employee of the Commonwealth or the  
12 disposition of public funds, the officer or employee shall be  
13 suspended immediately without pay and benefits by the Chief  
14 Clerk of the Senate. After a finding or a verdict of guilt by a  
15 judge or jury, plea or admission of guilt, or plea of nolo  
16 contendere, and upon imposition of sentence, the employment  
17 shall be terminated.

18 (b) Termination of suspension.--If the indictment is  
19 quashed, or the court finds that the officer or employee is not  
20 guilty of the offense alleged, the suspension without pay shall  
21 be terminated, and the officer or employee shall receive  
22 compensation for the period of time during which the officer or  
23 employee was suspended, which compensation shall be reduced by  
24 the amount of any compensation the officer or employee earned  
25 from other employment during the period of suspension.

26 (c) Appeal.--If the officer or employee or the supervising  
27 Senator of such employee disagrees with the decision of the  
28 Chief Clerk of the Senate as to whether an indictment for  
29 particular conduct shall be a crime requiring suspension or  
30 dismissal, the officer or employee in question or the

1 supervising Senator of the employee may appeal the suspension to  
2 the Senate Committee on Ethics, which shall determine whether  
3 the conduct charged is an offense requiring suspension. Whenever  
4 an appeal of a suspension shall be taken to the committee, the  
5 suspension shall remain effective pending a decision by the  
6 committee.

7 Rule 37. Affiliation with nonprofit entities.

8 (a) Requirements.--In order for a Senator or Senate  
9 employee, including a family member of the Senator or Senate  
10 employee, to be affiliated with a nonprofit entity, the  
11 nonprofit entity must meet all of the following:

12 (1) Be a legal entity formed under the laws of this  
13 Commonwealth or another state that is qualified for nonprofit  
14 status.

15 (2) Have a formally established board of directors with  
16 at least four members that is fully accountable for the  
17 nonprofit entity's overall operation.

18 (3) Have a written set of bylaws or rules, approved by  
19 its board of directors, that establishes its composition and  
20 governance process.

21 (4) Require official action of the board of directors to  
22 be approved and executed in a manner consistent with its  
23 bylaws or rules.

24 (5) Not receive grant funding directly from the  
25 Commonwealth that comprises its sole source of operational  
26 funding.

27 (b) Prohibitions.--A Senator or Senate employee, including a  
28 family member of that Senator or Senate employee, who is  
29 affiliated with a nonprofit entity may not do any of the  
30 following with regard to a nonprofit entity with which that

1 Senator or Senate employee, including a family member of that  
2 Senator or Senate employee, is affiliated:

3 (1) Exercise sole and unilateral control of a final  
4 action of the nonprofit entity regarding allocation or  
5 disbursement of grant funding that the nonprofit entity  
6 receives directly from the Commonwealth.

7 (2) Direct a Senate employee to staff or provide  
8 services to the nonprofit entity as a condition of  
9 employment.

10 (3) Direct the personnel or other resources of the  
11 nonprofit entity for the benefit of a Senator's campaign.

12 (4) Commingle funds from any Senate expense account with  
13 the funds of the nonprofit entity with the knowledge and  
14 intent that those funds are to be used for the direct  
15 reimbursement of expenses incurred by that nonprofit entity.

16 (5) Maintain a Senate district office within or  
17 contiguous to the same office as the nonprofit entity.

18 (c) Applicability.--A Senator or Senate employee, including  
19 a family member of that Senator or Senate employee, shall not be  
20 subject to the requirements of this Rule if the affiliated  
21 nonprofit entity receives no grant funding directly from the  
22 Commonwealth.

23 (d) Training.--To assure compliance with this Rule by  
24 Senators and Senate employees, appropriate training measures  
25 shall be implemented by the Senate. Training shall be provided  
26 annually for all Senators and Senate employees.

27 (e) Definitions.--As used in this Rule, the following words  
28 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
29 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Affiliated." Serving:

- 1 (1) as an officer of a nonprofit entity;
- 2 (2) on the board of directors of a nonprofit entity;
- 3 (3) as a paid employee of a nonprofit entity; or
- 4 (4) as a contractor of a nonprofit entity.

5 "Family member." A spouse or child.

6 "Nonprofit entity." An entity that is qualified by the  
7 Internal Revenue Service as meeting the requirements of section  
8 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514,  
9 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)).