



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 1

LCO No. 352

00352_____

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

Resolved by the Senate:

1 That the following are the Senate Rules for the 2009 and 2010
2 sessions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 7. Within one week after appointment, the President Pro Tempore
28 shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains, and if
29 such nominations are confirmed by the Senate by a majority vote, the
30 candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the 2009 and
31 2010 sessions.

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

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

47 received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
48 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files
49 and on the Calendar, with a file number for two session days and shall
50 be starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:
51 (A) A resolution may be acted on in accordance with joint rule 17(b),
52 (B) a bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the
53 general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and acted
54 upon first by the Senate with the consent of the speaker; and if filed in
55 the Senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the House
56 with the consent of the president pro tempore, (C) any bill or
57 resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the general
58 statutes, may be acted upon immediately in the first house, may be
59 transmitted immediately to the second house and may be acted upon
60 immediately when received by the second house, (D) if the Senate
61 rejects an amendment adopted by the House, the bill or resolution
62 after final action by the Senate may be transmitted immediately to the
63 House, or if the House rejects an amendment adopted by the Senate,
64 the bill or resolution when received from the House may be placed
65 immediately on the Calendar, (E) during the last five calendar days of
66 the session, if the Senate rejects an amendment adopted by the House,
67 or adopts a Senate amendment to a bill or resolution received from the
68 House, or takes any action on the bill or resolution requiring further
69 action by the House, the bill or resolution after final action in the
70 Senate, may be transmitted immediately to the House, or if the House
71 rejects an amendment adopted by the Senate or adopts a House
72 amendment to a bill or resolution received from the Senate, or takes
73 any action on the bill or resolution requiring further action by the
74 Senate, the bill or resolution when received from the House may be
75 placed immediately on the calendar and may be acted upon
76 immediately, (F) during the last five calendar days of the session, any
77 bill or resolution after final action by the senate may be transmitted
78 immediately to the house, or (G) during the last five calendar days of
79 the session, any bill or resolution received by the senate after final
80 action by the house may be placed on the calendar immediately. All

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

86 (b) On any day that is not scheduled as a session day, the President
87 Pro Tempore and the Minority Leader, or their designees, may call the
88 Senate into session for purposes of transacting business of a procedural
89 nature by filing with the clerk or the clerk's designee a written
90 instruction to conduct a pro forma Senate session with or without the
91 presence of a senator. Said direction shall include a written motion to
92 adopt the day's Senate agenda and act on all items as indicated and
93 incorporate the items by reference into the Senate journal and Senate
94 transcript. Said motion shall be read into the record and shall have the
95 same force and effect as if the Senate were convened with a presiding
96 officer and senator.

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

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

104 12. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform the
105 same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The bill
106 clerk and the journal clerk shall perform such duties as are assigned to
107 them by the clerk.

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

110 14. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question

111 without leave of the Senate, except to explain.

112 15. No member who is interested in the decision of any question in
113 such manner that he or she cannot vote thereon may stay in the Senate
114 when such question is discussed or decided.

115 16. If a member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and
116 order of the Senate, the president shall, or any member may, call such
117 member to order; and if speaking, such member shall sit down, unless
118 permitted to explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the
119 rules and orders, such member may be required by the Senate, on
120 motion, to make satisfaction therefor, and until satisfaction has been
121 made shall not be allowed to vote or speak except by way of excuse.

122 17. If a candidate for the Senate notifies the clerk on or before the
123 opening day of the session that such candidate contests the results of
124 the election for his or her district, a committee of three shall be
125 appointed by the President Pro Tempore within the first two days of
126 the session. If a candidate for the Senate in a special election notifies
127 the clerk no later than fourteen days following such election that such
128 candidate contests the results of the election for his or her district, a
129 committee of three shall be appointed by the president pro tempore no
130 later than sixteen days following such election. The committee shall
131 take into consideration such contested election and report the facts
132 with its opinion thereon.

133 18. The majority leader, other leaders of the majority party in the
134 Senate and the chairperson and vice chairpersons of each standing and
135 select committee shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of
136 the Senate. Chairpersons and vice chairpersons shall serve at the
137 pleasure of the president pro tempore and the majority leader. The
138 clerks of the standing and select committees and the chairpersons of
139 the subcommittees thereof shall be appointed by the chairpersons of
140 the respective committees with the approval of the president pro
141 tempore of the Senate. The minority leader shall be elected by the
142 members of the minority party in the Senate and the other leaders of

143 the minority party in the Senate shall be appointed by the minority
144 leader. The minority leader shall appoint ranking minority members to
145 each standing and select committee. Such ranking members shall serve
146 at the pleasure of the minority leader. All standing and select
147 committee members shall be appointed by the president pro tempore
148 by the fifth regular session day of the first year of the term, except to
149 fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity or resignation from the
150 Senate or from a committee; and except that the president pro tempore
151 may appoint any member elected after the fifth regular session day of
152 the first year of the term to any committee within five calendar days
153 after the member takes the oath of office. Not more than nine senators
154 shall be appointed to any standing committee, except that the joint
155 standing committees on Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and
156 Bonding shall consist of not more than eleven senators. The member
157 first named shall be chairperson. The chairperson of each committee
158 may appoint one of the members of the committee as clerk thereof. All
159 Senate leaders, standing committee assignments, chairpersons, vice
160 chairpersons and clerks and subcommittee chairpersons shall serve for
161 both the 2009 and the 2010 sessions.

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

- 163 1. Reception of petitions.
- 164 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary
165 of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee
166 reports and reports.
- 167 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.
- 168 4. Reports of committees.
- 169 5. Reception of business from the House.
- 170 6. Business on the calendar.
- 171 7. Introduction of guests.

- 172 8. Miscellaneous business.
- 173 9. Resolutions removed from consent calendar.
- 174 20. Before any petition or resolution is received, a brief statement of
175 its object shall be made by the introducer.
- 176 21. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the Senate by the
177 president before any debate is had thereon, and every motion shall be
178 reduced to writing if the president so directs or any member desires it.
- 179 22. When a motion is stated by the president, or read by the clerk, it
180 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Senate. It may be
181 withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment,
182 but not after amendment, unless the Senate gives leave.
- 183 23. If the question under debate consists of two or more
184 independent propositions any member may move to have the question
185 divided. The president shall rule on the order of voting on the
186 divisions of a question.
- 187 24. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all
188 final action on bills on the regular calendar and on all other questions
189 at the desire of one-fifth of the members present, expressed at any time
190 before a declaration of the vote.
- 191 25. Whenever the result of a vote as stated by the presiding officer is
192 doubted, it shall be taken again by rising.
- 193 26. When a vote has been taken, it shall be in order for any senator
194 on the prevailing side to move for a reconsideration thereof on the day
195 of the vote or on the next succeeding session day, if the bill is still in
196 the possession of the Senate; provided also that there shall be no
197 reconsideration of the following motions: To adjourn, for the previous
198 question or to reconsider, and no question shall be twice reconsidered.
- 199 27. Pairs may be made by senators whose votes if they were present

200 would be cast on opposite sides of any question, by filing with the
201 clerk of the Senate a memorandum, containing the names of the
202 senators, and their votes, who are thus paired and the subject matter or
203 matters to which such pairs apply. Senators making any such pairs
204 shall be excused from voting upon the merits of the matters involved
205 while the pair continues, but no pairs shall operate while both of the
206 senators paired are present.

207 28. Persons, other than members of the General Assembly, shall not
208 be permitted on the floor of the Senate while it is in session. Lobbyists
209 shall be prohibited from the floor of the Senate on any day during
210 which the Senate is in session except during a public hearing in the
211 Senate chamber. This rule shall not apply to the staff of the General
212 Assembly, to any state or municipal official or member of the media
213 who has been given permission to be on the Senate floor by the
214 president of the Senate, president pro tempore, majority leader or
215 minority leader, or to persons invited to the Senate for purposes of
216 recognition or ceremony. Other persons who desire to speak with a
217 member of the Senate while it is in session shall communicate such
218 desire through one of the messengers and shall not converse with such
219 member in the chamber while the Senate is in session.

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

- 222 1. To adjourn.
- 223 2. To recess.
- 224 3. For the previous question.
- 225 4. To close the debate at a specified time.
- 226 5. To pass temporarily.
- 227 6. To pass retain.

228 7. To postpone to a certain time.

229 8. To commit or recommit.

230 9. To divide the question.

231 10. To amend.

232 11. To refer to another committee.

233 12. To postpone indefinitely.

234 13. To place at foot of calendar.

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

240 30. Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the Senate before 12
241 noon on the day the bill is acted upon. Exceptions to this rule shall be
242 allowed (1) upon approval of any two of the following: The president
243 pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of
244 the Senate or (2) in the case of bills or resolutions not starred for action
245 or bills or resolutions reported in accordance with subparagraph (a) of
246 paragraph (d) of Rule 15 of the joint rules of the Senate and the House
247 of Representatives.

248 Any member who offers an amendment, originating in the Senate
249 which, if adopted, would reduce state revenues or increase state
250 expenditures by a specified amount or which would involve a
251 significant fiscal impact, shall make available to the president,
252 president pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate and the
253 minority leader of the Senate at the time the amendment is offered, in
254 addition to a fiscal note, a signed and typewritten explanation, of the
255 decrease in expenditures or the source of the increased revenues

256 required to balance the state budget.

257 Whenever a bill or resolution is substantively amended, it may be
258 referred to the legislative commissioners to be re-examined for the
259 purposes set forth in Rule 13 of the joint rules of the Senate and the
260 House of Representatives and to be reprinted as amended. The
261 legislative commissioners' office shall complete its examination of any
262 such bill within three calendar days of its receipt. It shall then be
263 printed in the files with a file number and marked on the calendar
264 starred for action on the session day on which it appears.

265 31. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such
266 bills and resolutions as the majority and minority leaders of the
267 respective house shall designate. All bills and resolutions starred for
268 action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion without
269 discussion unless, at any time before voting has commenced, a
270 member requests removal of a bill or resolution from the consent
271 calendar in which case such bill or resolution shall be so removed.

272 32. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2000
273 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the
274 Senate whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent
275 with the standing rules and order of the Senate or the joint rules of the
276 Senate and House of Representatives.

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

280 34. No person shall smoke in the Senate chamber or the gallery. No
281 person shall operate a wireless telephone or similar device in the
282 Senate chamber or gallery while the Senate is in session. No person
283 shall operate a laptop computer or similar device in the Senate gallery
284 while the Senate is in session. The presiding officer shall enforce this
285 rule.

286 35. These rules shall not be altered, amended or suspended except
287 by vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

288 Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session day.
289 Suspension of a rule shall be for a specified purpose; after the
290 accomplishment of such purpose, the rule shall remain in force as
291 before.

292 36. Every member present in the Senate Chamber when a question
293 is put by the presiding officer shall vote, unless excused under Rule 15.