



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Senate Resolution No. 1

LCO No. 871



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

Resolved by the Senate:

1 That the following are the Senate Rules for the 2017 and 2018
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 2017 and
31 2018 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 Rule 17(b) of
52 the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 (c) Session days shall be scheduled by the President Pro Tempore,
91 except that, with respect to any resolution reported pursuant to Rule
92 31 or 32 of the joint rules of the Senate and the House of
93 Representatives, the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore may
94 submit a request in writing to the President Pro Tempore, a copy of
95 which shall be filed in the clerk's office at least seven days before such
96 resolution would be otherwise deemed approved by operation of law,
97 requesting that a session be scheduled for the purpose of allowing
98 motions to mark such resolution ready for action and to act on such
99 resolution immediately. Upon receipt of such request, the President
100 Pro Tempore shall promptly schedule a session for such purpose to be
101 held at least two days before such resolution would be otherwise
102 deemed approved by operation of law.

103 (d) On each session day, the Senate Majority Leader and Deputy
104 Senate Republican President Pro Tempore, or their designees, shall
105 jointly make available to the members a list of bills and resolutions

106 intended to be acted upon that session day. Such list shall indicate the
107 action intended to be taken on each bill or resolution so listed. Any bill
108 or resolution that is not on such list may be marked go and acted upon
109 that session day upon the passage of a motion of one of the following:
110 The President Pro Tempore, the Senate Republican President Pro
111 Tempore, the Senate Majority Leader or the Deputy Senate Republican
112 President Pro Tempore.

113 (e) The clerk shall immediately provide an electronic notice of the
114 filing, in either chamber, and number of any emergency certified bill
115 introduced by the President Pro Tempore and the speaker, certified in
116 accordance with section 2-26 of the general statutes, that is the biennial
117 budget bill or a bill that amends or implements the biennial budget bill
118 to the members of the Senate. No such emergency certified bill may be
119 marked ready for action or acted upon less than twelve hours
120 following the provision of such electronic notice.

121 (f) On any day that is not scheduled as a session day, the President
122 Pro Tempore and the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore, or
123 their designees, may call the Senate into session for purposes of
124 transacting business of a procedural nature by filing with the clerk or
125 the clerk's designee a written instruction to conduct a pro forma Senate
126 session with or without the presence of a senator. Said direction shall
127 include a written motion to adopt the day's Senate agenda and act on
128 all items as indicated and incorporate the items by reference into the
129 Senate journal and Senate transcript. Said motion shall be read into the
130 record and shall have the same force and effect as if the Senate were
131 convened with a presiding officer and senator.

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

135 11. The clerk shall also keep a record of all petitions, resolutions,
136 and bills for all acts which are presented for the consideration of the
137 Senate, and said record shall be so kept as to show by a single

138 reference the action of the Senate on each of them to that date.

139 12. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform the
140 same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The bill
141 clerk and the journal clerk shall perform such duties as are assigned to
142 them by the clerk.

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

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

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

150 16. If a member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and
151 order of the Senate, the president shall, or any member may, call such
152 member to order; and if speaking, such member shall sit down, unless
153 permitted to explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the
154 rules and orders, such member may be required by the Senate, on
155 motion, to make satisfaction therefor, and until satisfaction has been
156 made, shall not be allowed to vote or speak except by way of excuse.

157 17. If a candidate for the Senate notifies the clerk on or before the
158 opening day of the session that such candidate contests the results of
159 the election for his or her district, a committee of three shall be
160 appointed by the President Pro Tempore within the first two days of
161 the session. If a candidate for the Senate in a special election notifies
162 the clerk no later than fourteen days following such election that such
163 candidate contests the results of the election for his or her district, a
164 committee of three shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
165 no later than sixteen days following such election. The committee shall
166 take into consideration such contested election and report the facts
167 with its opinion thereon.

168 18. (a) The leaders of the Senate shall include the President Pro
169 Tempore, the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore, the Senate
170 Majority Leader and the Deputy Senate Republican President Pro
171 Tempore. For the purposes of the Constitution of the state of
172 Connecticut, the general statutes, the public and special acts and any
173 other provision of law, any reference to the minority leader of the
174 Senate means the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore.

175 (b) The Senate Majority Leader shall be elected by the members of
176 the democratic party. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint the
177 other leaders of the democratic party and the democratic chairperson
178 and vice chairperson of each standing committee. Each such
179 chairperson or vice chairperson shall serve at the pleasure of the
180 President Pro Tempore and the Senate Majority Leader. For the
181 purposes of the general statutes and the public and special acts and
182 any other provision of law, any reference to (1) the cochairpersons of a
183 standing committee means the chairperson appointed by the President
184 Pro Tempore and the chairperson appointed by the Speaker of the
185 House, (2) the senate chairperson of a standing committee means the
186 chairperson appointed by the President Pro Tempore, and (3) the
187 ranking Senate member of a standing committee means the
188 chairperson appointed by the Senate Republican President Pro
189 Tempore.

190 (c) The Senate Republican President Pro Tempore shall be elected by
191 the members of the republican party. The Senate Republican President
192 Pro Tempore shall appoint the other leaders of the republican party,
193 including the Deputy Senate Republican President Pro Tempore, and
194 the republican chairperson and vice chairperson of each standing
195 committee. Each such republican chairperson or vice chairperson shall
196 serve at the pleasure of the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore.

197 (d) The clerks of the standing committees and the chairpersons of
198 the subcommittees thereof shall be appointed by the chairpersons of
199 the respective committees, with the approval of the President Pro

200 Tempore and the Senate Republican President Pro Tempore.

201 (e) All standing committee members shall be appointed by the
202 President Pro Tempore and the Senate Republican President Pro
203 Tempore by the fifth regular session day of the first year of the term,
204 except to fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity or resignation
205 from the Senate or from a committee; and except that the President Pro
206 Tempore may appoint any member elected after the fifth regular
207 session day of the first year of the term to any committee within five
208 calendar days after the member takes the oath of office. There shall be
209 an equal number of republican and democratic senators appointed to
210 each standing committee by the President Pro Tempore or the Senate
211 Republican President Pro Tempore, as the case may be. Each standing
212 committee shall have a Senate democratic chairperson and a Senate
213 republican chairperson and a Senate democratic vice chairperson and a
214 Senate republican vice chairperson. Not more than nine senators shall
215 be appointed to any standing committee, except that the joint standing
216 committee on Judiciary shall consist of not more than eleven senators
217 and the joint standing committees on Appropriations and Finance,
218 Revenue and Bonding shall consist of not more than thirteen senators.
219 All Senate leaders, standing committee assignments, chairpersons, vice
220 chairpersons and subcommittee chairpersons shall serve for both the
221 2017 and the 2018 sessions.

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

- 223 1. Reception of petitions.
- 224 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary
225 of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee
226 reports and reports.
- 227 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.
- 228 4. Reports of committees.
- 229 5. Reception of business from the House.

230 6. Business on the Calendar.

231 7. Introduction of guests.

232 8. Miscellaneous business.

233 9. Resolutions removed from consent calendar.

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

236 21. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the Senate by the
237 president before any debate is had thereon, and every motion shall be
238 reduced to writing if the president so directs or any member desires it.

239 22. When a motion is stated by the president, or read by the clerk, it
240 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Senate. It may be
241 withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment,
242 but not after amendment, unless the Senate gives leave.

243 23. If the question under debate consists of two or more
244 independent propositions any member may move to have the question
245 divided. The president shall rule on the order of voting on the division
246 of a question.

247 24. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all
248 final action on bills on the regular calendar and on all other questions
249 at the desire of one-fifth of the members present, expressed at any time
250 before a declaration of the vote.

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

253 26. When a vote has been taken, it shall be in order for any senator
254 on the prevailing side to move for a reconsideration thereof on the day
255 of the vote or on the next succeeding session day, if the bill is still in
256 the possession of the Senate; provided also that there shall be no
257 reconsideration of the following motions: To adjourn, for the previous

258 question or to reconsider, and no question shall be twice reconsidered.

259 27. Pairs may be made by senators whose votes if they were present
260 would be cast on opposite sides of any question, by filing with the
261 clerk of the Senate a memorandum, containing the names of the
262 senators, and their votes, who are thus paired and the subject matter or
263 matters to which such pairs apply. Senators making any such pairs
264 shall be excused from voting upon the merits of the matters involved
265 while the pair continues, but no pairs shall operate while both of the
266 senators paired are present.

267 28. Persons, other than members of the General Assembly, shall not
268 be permitted on the floor of the Senate while it is in session. Lobbyists
269 shall be prohibited from the floor of the Senate on any day during
270 which the Senate is in session except during a public hearing in the
271 Senate chamber. This rule shall not apply to the staff of the General
272 Assembly, to any state or municipal official or member of the media
273 who has been given permission to be on the Senate floor by the
274 President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore, Senate Republican
275 President Pro Tempore, Senate Majority Leader or Deputy Senate
276 Republican President Pro Tempore, or to persons invited to the Senate
277 for purposes of recognition or ceremony. Other persons who desire to
278 speak with a member of the Senate while it is in session shall
279 communicate such desire through one of the messengers and shall not
280 converse with such member in the chamber while the Senate is in
281 session.

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

- 284 1. To adjourn.
- 285 2. To recess.
- 286 3. For the previous question.
- 287 4. To close the debate at a specified time.

- 288 5. To pass temporarily.
- 289 6. To pass retain.
- 290 7. To postpone to a certain time.
- 291 8. To commit or recommit.
- 292 9. To divide the question.
- 293 10. To amend.
- 294 11. To refer to another committee.
- 295 12. To postpone indefinitely.
- 296 13. To place at foot of calendar.

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

302 30. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the Senate before
303 12 noon on the day the bill is acted upon. Exceptions to this rule shall
304 be allowed:

305 (1) Upon approval of any two of the following four Senate leaders:
306 The President Pro Tempore, the Senate Republican President Pro
307 Tempore, the Senate Majority Leader or the Deputy Senate Republican
308 President Pro Tempore; or

309 (2) In the case of bills or resolutions not starred for action or bills or
310 resolutions reported in accordance with subparagraph (a) of paragraph
311 (d) of Rule 15 of the joint rules of the Senate and the House of
312 Representatives.

313 (b) Upon approval of an amendment pursuant to subdivision (1) of

314 subsection (a) of this section, the sponsor of the amendment shall cause
315 a copy of the signed approval to be provided electronically or by hand
316 to a designated leader or staff member of the other party.

317 (c) Any member who offers an amendment, originating in the
318 Senate which, if adopted, would reduce state revenues or increase state
319 expenditures by a specified amount or which would involve a
320 significant fiscal impact, shall make available to the President,
321 President Pro Tempore, Senate Republican President Pro Tempore,
322 Senate Majority Leader and the Deputy Senate Republican President
323 Pro Tempore at the time the amendment is offered, in addition to a
324 fiscal note, a signed and typewritten explanation of the decrease in
325 expenditures or the source of the increased revenues required to
326 balance the state budget.

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

335 31. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such
336 bills and resolutions as the Senate Majority Leader and Deputy Senate
337 Republican President Pro Tempore of the respective house shall
338 designate. All bills and resolutions starred for action on the consent
339 calendar shall be passed on motion without discussion unless, at any
340 time before voting has commenced, a member requests removal of a
341 bill or resolution from the consent calendar in which case such bill or
342 resolution shall be so removed.

343 32. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2010
344 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the
345 Senate whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent

346 with the standing rules and orders of the Senate or the joint rules of the
347 Senate and the House of Representatives.

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

351 34. No person shall smoke in the Senate chamber or the gallery. No
352 person shall operate a wireless telephone or similar device in the
353 Senate chamber or gallery or use any such device to take photographs
354 or to make video or sound recordings while the Senate is in session.
355 The presiding officer shall enforce this rule.

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

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

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