General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Senate Resolution No. 1

LCO No. **462**

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Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

Resolved by the Senate:

That the following are the Senate Rules for the 2011 and 2012 sessions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Within one week after appointment, the President Pro Tempore shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains, and if such nominations are confirmed by the Senate by a majority vote, the candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the 2011 and 2012 sessions.

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

9. (a) Upon acceptance of a Senate agenda, the clerk's office shall act upon the items listed as indicated and shall incorporate the items by reference in the Senate journal and Senate transcript. The clerk shall keep a Calendar on which he or she shall enter daily (1) all bills and joint resolutions received from the House for action except (a) bills and resolutions which do not have a favorable report of a joint committee which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be referred without further action to the appropriate committee, (b) all bills and joint resolutions received from the House for action by the Senate which have not been referred by the Senate to any committee, and (2) all bills and resolutions favorably reported to the Senate from any committee; and 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
53 the general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and
54 acted upon first by the Senate with the consent of the speaker; and if
55 filed in the Senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the
56 House with the consent of the president pro tempore,

57 (C) Any bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of
58 the general statutes, may be acted upon immediately in the first house,
59 may be transmitted immediately to the second house and may be acted
60 upon immediately when received by the second house,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

106 12. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform the

same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The bill clerk and the journal clerk shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the clerk.

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

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

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

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

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

18. The majority leader, other leaders of the majority party in the Senate and the chairperson and vice chairpersons of each standing and

137 select committee shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of
138 the Senate. Chairpersons and vice chairpersons shall serve at the
139 pleasure of the president pro tempore and the majority leader. The
140 clerks of the standing and select committees and the chairpersons of
141 the subcommittees thereof shall be appointed by the chairpersons of
142 the respective committees with the approval of the president pro
143 tempore of the Senate. The minority leader shall be elected by the
144 members of the minority party in the Senate and the other leaders of
145 the minority party in the Senate shall be appointed by the minority
146 leader. The minority leader shall appoint ranking minority members to
147 each standing and select committee. Such ranking members shall serve
148 at the pleasure of the minority leader. All standing and select
149 committee members shall be appointed by the president pro tempore
150 by the fifth regular session day of the first year of the term, except to
151 fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity or resignation from the
152 Senate or from a committee; and except that the president pro tempore
153 may appoint any member elected after the fifth regular session day of
154 the first year of the term to any committee within five calendar days
155 after the member takes the oath of office. Not more than nine senators
156 shall be appointed to any standing committee, except that the joint
157 standing committees on Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and
158 Bonding shall consist of not more than eleven senators. The member
159 first named shall be chairperson. The chairperson of each committee
160 may appoint one of the members of the committee as clerk thereof. All
161 Senate leaders, standing committee assignments, chairpersons, vice
162 chairpersons and clerks and subcommittee chairpersons shall serve for
163 both the 2011 and the 2012 sessions.

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

165 1. Reception of petitions.

166 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary
167 of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee
168 reports and reports.

3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

4. Reports of committees.

5. Reception of business from the House.

6. Business on the calendar.

7. Introduction of guests.

8. Miscellaneous business.

9. Resolutions removed from consent calendar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. To adjourn.

2. To recess.

3. For the previous question.

4. To close the debate at a specified time.

5. To pass temporarily.

6. To pass retain.

7. To postpone to a certain time.

8. To commit or recommit.

9. To divide the question.

10. To amend.

11. To refer to another committee.

12. To postpone indefinitely.

13. To place at foot of calendar.

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

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

Any member who offers an amendment, originating in the Senate

251 which, if adopted, would reduce state revenues or increase state
252 expenditures by a specified amount or which would involve a
253 significant fiscal impact, shall make available to the president,
254 president pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate and the
255 minority leader of the Senate at the time the amendment is offered, in
256 addition to a fiscal note, a signed and typewritten explanation, of the
257 decrease in expenditures or the source of the increased revenues
258 required to balance the state budget.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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