

**JOINT RULES  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE**

**Transmission of Messages.**

Rule 1. All messages necessary for conducting legislative business between the two houses shall be communicated in writing and electronically by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

**Amendments.**

Rule 2. It shall be in the power of either house to amend an amendment made by the other to any bill, resolution, or alternative measure as defined in Rule 29.

**Conference Committees.**

Rule 3. (a) The house not concurring in the amendments of the other house shall appoint conferees and notify the amending house of its action. The amending house shall request return of the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, or appoint conferees. The conference committee shall consist of three members from each house, to be appointed as each house may determine. The first named member of the house in which the bill, resolution, or alternative measure originated shall be chairperson of the conference committee. Upon appointment of conferees by both houses, the bill, resolution, or alternative measure shall be referred to the conference committee. When one house amends or substitutes a bill, resolution, or alternative measure that has been returned for concurrence from the other house, but then non-concurs in that bill, resolution, or alternative measure as amended or substituted, those amendments or that substitute shall not be referred to the conference committee. The conference committee shall serve until the conference report has been adopted by both houses or rejected by a house.

(b) The conference committee shall consist of committees of the two houses with those two committees voting separately while in conference. The adoption of a conference report shall require concurring majorities of the members of each house. The conference committees of the two houses shall vote separately while in conference. The majority of each committee shall constitute a quorum of each committee and shall determine the position to be taken toward the propositions of the conference committee. If the conferees agree, a report shall be made which shall be signed by at least a majority of the conferees of each house who were present and voted in the conference committee meeting to adopt the report. The bill, resolution, or alternative measure, including the original signed conference report and three copies, shall be filed in the house of origin where the question shall be on the adoption of the conference report. If the conference report is adopted in the house of origin, the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, including the original signed conference report, and two copies of the conference report shall be transmitted to the other house where the question shall be on the adoption of the conference report. If the conference report is adopted in the other house, the bill, resolution, or alternative measure and the original signed copy of the conference report shall be returned to the house of origin and referred for enrollment printing and presentation to the Governor, filing with the Secretary of State, or filing for record with the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives.

**Conference Committee Clerk.**

Rule 4. The conference committee clerk shall be from the house of origin, who shall notify the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of all scheduled meetings for public posting and shall deliver written notice to each member of the conference committee and the majority and minority leaders of each house indicating the time and place of all scheduled meetings. Conference

committees on appropriation bills may use fiscal agency personnel from the same house as the Chairperson for clerks.

### **Conference Report: Rejection.**

Rule 5. If the conference report is rejected by the house of origin, it shall appoint second conferees and notify the other house of its action. The procedure shall then be the same as for an original conference.

If the conference report is rejected by the other house, it shall appoint second conferees, notify the house of origin of its action, and transmit the bill, resolution, or alternative measure to the house of origin. Upon receipt of the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, the house of origin shall appoint second conferees and refer the bill, resolution, or alternative measure to the second conference committee. The procedure shall then be the same as for an original conference.

### **Disagreement of Conferees.**

Rule 6. If the conferees are unable to agree, a report of that fact shall be made to both houses. The report that the conferees were unable to agree shall be signed by at least a majority of the conferees of each house who were present and voted in the conference committee meeting to adopt the report. The bill, resolution, or alternative measure, including the original signed conference report that the conferees were unable to agree, and three copies shall be filed in the house of origin. Both houses shall appoint second conferees, and the house of origin shall refer the bill, resolution, or alternative measure to the second conference committee. The procedure shall then be the same as for an original conference.

### **Second Conference: Failure.**

Rule 7. When a second conference committee fails to reach agreement, or when a second conference report is rejected by either house, no further conference is in order.

### **Power of Conferees.**

Rule 8. The conference committee shall not consider any matters other than the matters of difference between the two houses.

For all bills making appropriations, adoption of a substitute by either house shall not open identical provisions contained in the other house-passed version of the bill as a matter of difference; nor shall the adoption of a substitute by either house open provisions not contained in either house version of the bill as a matter of difference.

When the conferees arrive at an agreement on the matters of difference that affects other parts of the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, the conferees may recommend amendments to conform with the agreement. In addition, the conferees may also recommend technical amendments to the other parts of the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, such as, necessary date revisions, adjusting totals, cross-references, misspelling and punctuation corrections, conflict amendments for bills enacted into law, additional anticipated federal or other flow through funding, and corrections to any errors in the bill, resolution, or alternative measure or the title.

### **Adoption of Conference Report.**

Rule 9. Conference reports shall not be subject to amendments or division. The vote on conference reports shall be taken by "yeas" and "nays" and shall require the same number of votes constitutionally required for passage of the bill or adoption of the resolution or alternative measure. Conference reports shall not be considered until they are made available to the public on the Internet; this requirement may, however, be suspended by a house by a majority vote in that house, provided that a copy of the conference report has been made available to each Member.

### **Conference Reports: Points of Order.**

Rule 10. Points of order regarding conference reports shall be decided by the presiding officer, subject to an appeal, which appeal shall be determined by a majority vote. When a conference report is ruled out of order, the conference report is returned to the originating conference committee with instructions to eliminate from the report such matters as have been declared not within the powers of the conferees to consider.

### **Either House May Recede.**

Rule 11. At any time while in possession of the bill, resolution, or alternative measure, either house may recede from its position in whole or in part, and the bill, resolution, or alternative measure upon request may be returned to the other house for that purpose. If this further action is agreed to by both houses, the bill, resolution, or alternative measure shall be referred for enrollment printing and presentation to the Governor, filing with the Secretary of State, or filing for record with the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### **Correction of Errors.**

Rule 12. If errors are found in a bill, resolution, or alternative measure which has been passed or adopted by both houses, the house in which the bill, resolution, or alternative measure originated may make amendments to correct the errors and shall notify the other house of its action. If the corrective amendments are agreed to by the other house, the corrected bill, resolution, or alternative measure shall be referred for enrollment printing and presentation to the Governor, filing with the Secretary of State, or filing for record with the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives.

In addition, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall correct obvious technical errors in the enrolled bill, resolution, or alternative measure, including adjusting totals, misspellings, the omission or redundancy of grammatical articles, cross-references, punctuation, updating bill, resolution, or alternative measure titles, capitalization, citation formats, and plural or singular word forms.

### **Bills and Joint Resolutions.**

Rule 13. Upon introduction, no bill shall include catch lines, a severing clause, or a general repealing clause, as distinguished from a specific or an express repealing clause. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall delete such catch lines and clauses from all bills.

The same joint resolution shall not propose an amendment to the Constitution on more than one subject matter. However, more than one section of the Constitution may be included in the same joint resolution if the subject matter of each section is germane to the proposed amendment.

### **Yeas and Nays.**

Rule 14. The yeas and nays shall be taken and printed in the Journal of the house taking action upon the passage or adoption of any bill, joint resolution, alternative measure, conference report, and amendments made by the other house to a bill, joint resolution, or alternative measure.

### **No Members Present.**

Rule 15. In the event the presiding officer and all members are absent on a day scheduled for meeting, the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall call that house to order at the designated time and announce the absence of a quorum. That house shall be declared adjourned until the succeeding legislative day and hour previously designated.

In any event where either or both houses of the Legislature adjourns to a date certain for more than two days, a committee composed of the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

Representatives may, by a unanimous vote of that committee, convene either or both houses of the Legislature at any time in case of emergency.

If a gubernatorial appointment that is subject to the advice and consent process is made at a time such that 60 days would lapse during an extended recess of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader may schedule a session of the Senate for the sole purpose of carrying out the Senate's constitutional duties to advise and consent on gubernatorial appointments. No other action shall be taken by the Senate during session convened under this provision. The Senate Majority Leader shall notify the Secretary of the Senate at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of the scheduled session, and the Secretary of the Senate shall take all reasonable steps to notify the members of the Senate of the scheduled session.

### **Passage, Adoption, and Enrollment Printing.**

Rule 16. Every bill passed or joint resolution or alternative measure adopted by both houses and returned to the house of origin shall forthwith be enrolled and signed by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Enrolled bills shall be presented to the Governor, and enrolled joint resolutions that propose an amendment to the Constitution and alternative measures that propose a different measure upon the same subject as a rejected law proposed by initiative petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State with a certificate attached to the effect that the joint resolution or alternative measure has been adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. If the house having last passed the bill or adopted the joint resolution or alternative measure requests its return and such request is granted or a motion is made in the house of origin to amend errors in the bill, joint resolution, or alternative measure, or to give the bill immediate effect, the enrollment printing shall not occur.

Every bill, joint resolution, alternative measure, or concurrent resolution passed or adopted by either house shall be transmitted to the other house unless a motion for reconsideration is pending.

### **Immediate Effect.**

Rule 17. Whenever both houses, by the constitutional vote, order that a bill take immediate effect, a statement shall be added at the enrollment of the bill in words to this effect: "This act is ordered to take immediate effect."

### **Joint Resolutions.**

Rule 18. Joint resolutions shall be used for the following purposes:

1. Amendments to the Constitution of Michigan.
2. Ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the United States submitted by the Congress.
3. Matters upon which power is solely vested in the Legislatures of the several states by the

Constitution of the United States.

Joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of Michigan shall require a 2/3 vote of the members elected and serving in each house for adoption. Other joint resolutions shall require a majority of the members elected and serving in each house for adoption. All joint resolutions shall require a record roll call vote.

### **Veto Override: Filing with Secretary of State.**

Rule 19. When a bill is passed by both houses over the objections of the Governor or a bill is not filed by the Governor with the Secretary of State within the constitutionally mandated 14-day period, and the Legislature continues in session, an official enrolled bill with a letter from the house of origin signed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall be filed with the Secretary of State for a public act number to be assigned. The letter shall certify that the Governor's veto has been overridden by both houses of the Legislature or that the bill has not been returned within the specified time, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### **Section Numbers of Compiled Laws - Amendments.**

Rule 20. The title of every bill or alternative measure to amend or repeal existing laws shall be clear and explicit so as to definitely fix what is proposed to be done. Such title shall refer to the act number and the year in which it was passed. If the bill was passed or alternative measure was adopted at an extra session of the Legislature, the title shall designate which extra session.

Such title shall contain the last title of the act it is proposed to amend. However, the short title (e.g., "This act shall be known and may be cited as "The revised judicature act of 1961,") shall be used in acts where it has been defined by legislative enactment. The title shall also contain the chapter, part numbers and compiler's section numbers, if any, and the year of the compilation containing the same.

Following the passage of a bill or adoption of an alternative measure with a short title, the house other than the house of origin shall replace the short title with the last full title of the act it is proposed to amend or repeal. Other corrective amendments to the title shall be made as may be necessary. The full title and amended title shall be agreed to by both houses.

When an amendment to a bill or alternative measure, or a bill or alternative measure to amend an existing law is printed, words proposed to be added to such law shall be printed in upper case bold type, and the words to be omitted shall be printed in stricken-through type. This style requirement also applies to joint resolutions that amend the Constitution of Michigan.

All bills, joint resolutions, and alternative measures introduced, amendments to joint resolutions and alternative measures, substitute bills, joint resolutions, and alternative measures, and conference committee reports shall be approved as to form and section numbers by the Legislative Service Bureau.

### **Tie-bars.**

Rule 21. A bill, resolution, or alternative measure that is tie-barred to a request number shall not be considered for passage or adoption unless that tie-barred request item has been introduced. No bill, resolution, or alternative measure shall be passed or adopted by either house until the tie-barred item has been designated in the appropriate blank space provided.

### **Elections in Joint Convention.**

Rule 22. Whenever there is an election of any officer in joint convention, the result shall be certified by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The results shall be announced by the presiding officers to their respective houses, printed in the Journal of each house, and communicated to the Governor by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### **Legislative Handbook.**

Rule 23. The initial appointment of the standing committee members of the two houses shall be printed in their respective Journals as soon as possible after the announcement. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall prepare and have printed a legislative handbook containing these appointments and other information they deem appropriate.

### **Compensation.**

Rule 24. Compensation for members, officers, and employees of the Legislature shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, and transmitted directly to the payee.

If the office of a member of the Legislature becomes vacant, the compensation for the elected successor shall begin on the date of his or her oath of office.

### **Committee Expenses.**

Rule 25. No committee created by concurrent resolution shall incur expenses in excess of \$2,500.00 unless authorized in the resolution creating that committee.

**Final Adjournment of Regular Sessions.**

Rule 26. In the regular session in each year, this rule for adjournment shall govern.

The Majority Floor Leader of the Senate and/or the Majority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives shall introduce a concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment schedule for the Legislature for that regular session.

**Daily Adjournment.**

Rule 27. Neither house shall remain in session on any legislative day beyond 12:00 midnight. If either house is in session at 12:00 midnight, the presiding officer shall declare that house adjourned until a fixed hour for meeting on the next legislative day. That house shall stand adjourned until the next fixed meeting time.

**Pending Business.**

Rule 28. Any business, bill, or joint resolution which has not been defeated by either house shall be considered pending under the provisions of Article 4, Section 13 of the Constitution.

It shall not be in order for either house, by suspension of rules or any other means, to reconsider in a subsequent year the vote by which any business, bill, joint resolution, or veto override was defeated in a previous year unless there is a pending motion to reconsider offered in the odd-numbered year.

**Alternative Measures.**

Rule 29. If the Legislature rejects a law proposed by initiative petition, the Legislature may propose a different (“alternative”) measure upon the same subject as provided in Article 2, Section 9, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. An alternative measure shall be labeled “Alternative Measure No. \_\_\_ to a law proposed by Initiative Petition”. An alternative measure shall not be considered for a second reading in either house unless a law proposed by initiative petition has been rejected by a house. An alternative measure shall require a majority vote of the members elected and serving in each house for adoption, and the vote shall be by record roll call.