

House Rules Resolution - Amendments to House Rules

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Legislative Process Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 6 voting for 0 voting against 2 absent

General Description:

This resolution modifies House rules.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- updates outdated language;
- changes the name of the House Business and Labor Standing Committee to the House Business, Labor, and Commerce Standing Committee;
- requires certain changes to legislation to be made by a motion to substitute the legislation rather than a motion to amend the legislation;
- prohibits a committee member from requesting a personal privilege during a committee meeting; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

HR2-4-101

HR3-2-201

HR3-2-406

HR3-2-510

HR4-3-301

HR5-2-101

32 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

33 Section 1. **HR2-4-101** is amended to read:

34 **HR2-4-101 . Definitions.**

35 As used in this chapter:

- 36 (1) "Department head" means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code Section
37 63A-17-807 or a department head's designee.
- 38 (2) "Former legislator" means a person who is not a current member of the Legislature, but
39 who served in the Utah House or Utah Senate at one time.
- 40 (3)(a) "Guest" means an individual who is afforded access to the House space under a
41 provision of this chapter, who is not an individual described in Subsection (3)(c) or a
42 special guest as described under HR2-4-101.2(5).
- 43 (b) "Guest" includes:
- 44 (i) the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state attorney general, the state treasurer,
45 the state auditor, and governor's staff; and
- 46 (ii) a former legislator who is an individual described in Subsection (3)(b)(i).
- 47 (c) "Guest" does not mean a legislator, a member of House or Senate staff, a member of
48 professional legislative staff, a House intern, or a lobbyist.
- 49 (4) "House conference rooms" means one of the conference rooms adjacent to the House
50 lounge, speaker's office, or the majority caucus room.
- 51 (5) "House halls" means the passageways that allow access to:
- 52 (a) the House chamber;
- 53 (b) the House lounge;
- 54 (c) the House offices; or
- 55 (d) any other nonpublic areas adjoining the House chamber.
- 56 (6) "House intern" means an individual who is:
- 57 (a) an official participant in the student intern program sponsored by the Utah
58 Legislature and administered by the Office of Legislative [~~Research and General~~
59 ~~Counsel~~] Services; and
- 60 (b) is assigned to a representative.
- 61 (7) "House offices" means:
- 62 (a) Representatives' offices adjacent to the House chamber;
- 63 (b) Representatives' offices on the third and fourth floors of the capitol building;
- 64 (c) Representatives' offices in the House building; and
- 65 (d) kitchens, restrooms, elevators, and any auxiliary rooms in the nonpublic areas

66 connected with the offices listed above.

67 (8) "House or Senate staff" means an individual who is employed directly by the House or
68 Senate.

69 (9)(a) "House space" means the House chamber, House lounge, House offices, House
70 halls, and House conference rooms.

71 (b) "House space" does not mean the common public space outside the House chamber.

72 (10) "Immediate family" means any parent, spouse, child, grandparent, grandchild,
73 great-grandparent, great-grandchild, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew of a member
74 of the House, provided that the individual is not a lobbyist.

75 (11) "Lobbying" means communicating with a legislator for the purpose of influencing the
76 passage, defeat, amendment, or postponement of legislative action.

77 (12) "Lobbyist" means an individual who is required to register as a lobbyist by Utah Code
78 Section 36-11-103.

79 (13) "Professional legislative staff" means an individual employed by one of the
80 Legislature's profession-based staff offices, namely the Office of Legislative Research
81 and General Counsel, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Office of the
82 Legislative Auditor General, or the Office of Legislative [Printing] Services.

83 Section 2. **HR3-2-201** is amended to read:

84 **HR3-2-201 . Standing committees -- Creation.**

85 There are created the following standing committees to consider legislation during an
86 annual general or special session:

87 (1) Business[~~and~~] , Labor, and Commerce;

88 (2) Economic Development and Workforce Services;

89 (3) Education;

90 (4) Government Operations;

91 (5) Health and Human Services;

92 (6) House Rules;

93 (7) Judiciary;

94 (8) Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice;

95 (9) Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment;

96 (10) Political Subdivisions;

97 (11) Public Utilities and Energy;

98 (12) Revenue and Taxation; and

99 (13) Transportation.

100 Section 3. **HR3-2-406** is amended to read:

101 **HR3-2-406 . Amending legislation -- Verbal amendments -- Amendments must**
102 **be germane.**

103 (1)(a) Subject to [~~Subsection (2)~~] the provisions of this rule and HR3-2-306, and if
104 recognized by the chair during the presentation phase or the committee action phase,
105 a committee member may make a motion to amend the legislation that is under
106 consideration.

107 (b)(i) A committee member may propose a verbal amendment to the legislation
108 under consideration if the amendment contains 15 or fewer words.

109 (ii) Unless the amendment contains 15 or fewer words, before proposing a motion to
110 amend, a committee member shall ensure that a copy of the proposed amendment
111 is available online.

112 (iii) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal
113 amendment, except that:

114 (A) numbering shall not be counted as a word;

115 (B) instructions to delete a word or words shall not count as a word; and

116 (C) a word or an exact phrase that is inserted in multiple locations shall only be
117 counted for the first insertion.

118 (2)(a) A committee member may only make a motion to amend that is germane to the
119 subject of the legislation under consideration.

120 (b) A committee member who believes that an amendment is not germane to the subject
121 of the legislation may make a point of order or appeal as described in HR3-2-506.

122 (3)(a) A committee member may not propose an amendment to legislation that:

123 (i) adds or removes an entire section from the legislation; or

124 (ii) modifies the legislation's effective date.

125 (b) To change legislation as described in Subsection (3)(a), a committee member may,
126 subject to HR3-2-407, make a motion to substitute the legislation.

127 Section 4. **HR3-2-510** is amended to read:

128 **HR3-2-510 . Prohibited motions.**

129 (1)(a) Except for a motion to adjourn or a motion to recess, a committee member may
130 not make a motion unless a quorum of the standing committee is present.

131 (b) When a quorum is not present, a motion to adjourn or a motion to recess is passed
132 with a majority vote of those present.

133 (2) No motion is in order during a vote.

134 (3) A point of order is not in order during a vote.

135 (4) A committee member may not make a motion to:

136 (a) strike the enacting clause of legislation;

137 (b) strike the resolving clause of a resolution;

138 (c) circle legislation;

139 (d) place legislation on a time certain calendar;

140 (e) postpone legislation to a day certain; or

141 (f) postpone legislation indefinitely.

142 (5)(a) A personal privilege is not a motion.

143 (b) A committee member may not request a personal privilege during a committee
144 meeting.

145 Section 5. **HR4-3-301** is amended to read:

146 **HR4-3-301 . Amendments in order on third reading -- 15 word rule -- Passage of**
147 **amendments by a majority vote.**

148 (1) [A] Subject to Subsections (2) and (3), a motion to amend a piece of legislation is in
149 order on third reading.

150 (2)(a) A representative may verbally propose an amendment to legislation if the
151 amendment contains 15 or fewer words[-].

152 (b) Unless the amendment contains 15 or fewer words, before a representative makes a
153 motion to amend, the representative shall ensure that a copy of the proposed
154 amendment is available online.

155 (c) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal
156 amendment, except that:

157 (i) numbering shall not be counted as a word;

158 (ii) instructions to delete a word or words shall not count as a word; and

159 (iii) a word or an exact phrase that is inserted in multiple locations shall only be
160 counted for the first insertion.

161 (3)(a) A representative may not propose an amendment to legislation that:

162 (i) adds or removes an entire section from the legislation; or

163 (ii) modifies the legislation's effective date.

164 (b) To change legislation as described in Subsection (3)(a), a representative may, subject
165 to Part 2, Substitute Legislation, make a motion to substitute the legislation.

166 (4) A constitutional amendment, resolution, or bill requiring a constitutional two-thirds vote
167 for final passage, may be amended by a majority vote.

168 [(4)] (5) When legislation is amended by the House, the chief clerk shall:

169 (a) for each page of the legislation modified by a House amendment, cause a new page
170 to be printed that clearly identifies each House amendment to that page; and

171 (b) print that new page on lilac-colored paper.

172 Section 6. **HR5-2-101** is amended to read:

173 **HR5-2-101 . Lobbyist code of ethics.**

174 A lobbyist, volunteer lobbyist, or government official may not:

- 175 (1) attempt to influence a representative, elected or appointed state official, state employee,
176 or legislative employee by means of deceit or by threat of violence or economic or
177 political reprisal against any person or property, with intent by doing so to alter or affect
178 the representative's, elected or appointed state official's, state employee's, or legislative
179 employee's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning any matter that is to be
180 considered or performed by the representative, official, or employee or the agency or
181 body of which the representative, official, or employee is a member;
- 182 (2) knowingly provide false information to a representative, elected or appointed state
183 official, state employee, or legislative employee as to any material fact pertaining to any
184 legislation;
- 185 (3) knowingly omit, conceal, or falsify in any manner information required by the lobbyist
186 registration and lobbyist disclosure reports;
- 187 (4) participate in committee assignments or leadership races of the House of
188 Representatives;
- 189 (5) cause or influence the introduction of any piece of legislation, substitute, or amendment
190 for the purpose of afterwards becoming employed to secure its passage or defeat;
- 191 (6) misappropriate or misuse legislative office supplies;
- 192 (7) use legislative reproduction or facsimile machines without paying for that use;
- 193 (8) enter or use a representative's, elected or appointed state official's, state employee's, or
194 legislative employee's office, phone, computer, or parking space without explicit
195 permission;
- 196 (9) attempt to remove or remove any document from any representative's or legislative
197 employee's office, desk, file cabinet, reproduction machine, facsimile machine, or any
198 other place without explicit permission;
- 199 (10) [~~engage in sexually harassing behavior or behavior violating the state's sexual~~
200 ~~harassment policy toward representatives or employees of the Legislature~~] engage in
201 discriminatory conduct, as defined in Legislative Management Committee Policy E --

202 Legislative Workplace Discrimination Prevention, toward a representative or legislative
203 employee;

204 (11) offer employment to a representative or legislative employee that impairs the
205 representative's or legislative employee's independence of judgement as to their official
206 duties;

207 (12) offer employment that would require or induce a representative or legislative employee
208 to disclose records classified as private, protected, or controlled;

209 (13) use or disclose for personal financial gain any records classified as private, protected,
210 or controlled that were obtained from a representative or legislative employee or
211 conspire with any person for that purpose; or

212 (14) induce or seek to induce a representative or legislative employee to commit a violation
213 of any provision of this House rule.

214 Section 7. **Effective Date.**

215 This resolution takes effect upon a successful vote for final passage.