

House Rules Resolution - Amendments to House Rules
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Legislative Process Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 8 voting for 0 voting against 0 absent

General Description:

This resolution modifies House rules.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- defines "minority leader" and "minority party";
- clarifies the dates on which the House convenes;
- modifies the process by which a standing committee chair allows a response to motions;
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

HR1-3-102

HR1-5-101

HR3-2-101

HR3-2-313

HR3-2-314

HR5-1-101

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

Section 1. **HR1-3-102** is amended to read:

HR1-3-102 . Duties of the speaker.

32 (1) The general duties of the speaker are to:

33 (a) call the House to order at the time scheduled for convening, and proceed with the
34 daily order of business;

35 (b) announce the business before the House in the order that it is to be acted upon;

36 (c) receive and submit in the proper manner all motions and proposals presented by
37 representatives;

38 (d) put to a vote all questions that arise in the course of proceedings, and announce the
39 results of the vote;

40 (e) enforce the House Rules governing debates;

41 (f) enforce observance of order and decorum;

42 (g) inform the House on any point of order or practice;

43 (h) receive and announce to the House any official messages and communications;

44 (i) sign all acts, orders, and proceedings of the House;

45 (j) appoint the members of committees;

46 (k) assign responsibilities to, and supervise the officers and employees of, the House;

47 (l) assign places and determine access for news media representatives; and

48 (m) represent the House, declaring its will and obeying its commands.

49 (2) The speaker shall:

50 (a) sign, or authorize a designee to sign, all requisitions on the Division of Finance to
51 pay House expenses; and

52 (b) give final approval of all expenditure requests as authorized by the majority leader
53 and the minority [leaders of the House] leader, as defined in HR3-2-101, including
54 compensation and reimbursement for expenses for in-state and out-of-state travel on
55 legislative business.

56 Section 2. **HR1-5-101** is amended to read:

57 **HR1-5-101 . Convening -- Hour of meeting.**

58 (1) In addition to the dates provided in JR1-2-101, the House shall convene on the date set
59 by proclamation of the speaker that convenes the House into an extraordinary session.

60 (2) During the regular general session, the House shall meet at 10:00 a.m. daily except
61 Saturdays and Sundays, unless otherwise announced by the presiding officer.

62 Section 3. **HR3-2-101** is amended to read:

63 **HR3-2-101 . Definitions.**

64 As used in this chapter:

65 (1) "Chair" means:

66 (a) the chair of a standing committee; or
67 (b) a standing committee member who is authorized to act as chair under HR3-2-202.

68 (2) "Committee" means a standing committee created under HR3-2-201.
69 (3) "Dispose of legislation" refers to a committee action that transfers ownership of
70 legislation to the House Rules Committee, to another standing committee, or to the
71 House floor.

72 (4) "Favorable recommendation" refers to a committee action that transfers ownership of
73 legislation to the House second reading calendar.

74 (5) "Legislation" means a Senate bill, House bill, Senate resolution, House resolution, joint
75 resolution, or concurrent resolution.

76 (6) "Legislative sponsor" means:

77 (a) the chief sponsor; or
78 (b) the legislator designated by the chief sponsor to be the opposite chamber floor
79 sponsor.

80 (7) "Majority vote" means a majority of a quorum as provided in HR3-2-203.

81 (8) "Minority leader" means the highest ranking individual elected to lead the minority
82 party.

83 (9) "Minority party" means the political party in the Legislature with the second most
84 members.

85 [(8)] (10) "Original motion" means a non-privileged motion that is accepted by the chair
86 when no other motion is pending.

87 [(9)] (11) "Pending motion" refers to a motion starting when a chair accepts a motion and
88 ending when the motion is withdrawn or when the chair calls for a vote on the motion.

89 [(10)] (12)(a) "Privileged motion" means a procedural motion to adjourn, set a time to
90 adjourn, recess, end debate, extend debate, or limit debate.

91 (b) Privileged motions are not substitute motions.

92 [(11)] (13) "Substitute motion" means a non-privileged motion that is made when an
93 original motion is pending.

94 [(12)] (14) "Under consideration" means the time starting when a chair opens a discussion
95 on a subject or piece of legislation that is listed on a committee agenda and ending when
96 the committee disposes of the legislation, moves on to another item on the agenda, or
97 adjourns.

98 Section 4. **HR3-2-313** is amended to read:

99 **HR3-2-313 . Chair to allow response to motions before placing motions for a vote.**

100 (1) After the chair accepts an original motion, and before the chair places the original
101 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
102 (a) the chief sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to respond
103 to the original motion, unless the original motion is a motion to favorably recommend;
104 (b) committee members to debate the original motion; and
105 (c) the committee member who placed the original motion to have the final word on the
106 motion.

107 (2) After a chair accepts a substitute motion, and before the chair places the substitute
108 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
109 (a) the committee member who placed the original motion to respond to the substitute
110 motion;
111 (b) the chief sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to
112 respond to the substitute motion;
113 (c) committee members to debate the substitute motion; and
114 (d) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to have the final word on
115 the motion.

116 Section 5. **HR3-2-314** is amended to read:

117 **HR3-2-314 . Chair to place motion for vote.**

118 After the chair has permitted a committee member to sum on have the final word on a
119 motion as required under [HR3-2-313(4)] HR3-1-313, the chair shall place the motion for a
120 vote unless the motion is withdrawn subject to the requirements of HR3-2-511.

121 Section 6. **HR5-1-101** is amended to read:

122 **HR5-1-101 . Definitions.**

123 As used in this [House Rule] title:

124 (1)(a) "Government official" means:
125 (i) an individual elected to a position in state or local government when acting within
126 the individual's official capacity; and
127 (ii) an individual appointed to or employed in a full-time or part-time position by
128 state or local government when acting within the scope of employment or within
129 the individual's official capacity.

130 (b) "Government official" does not mean a member of the legislative branch of state
131 government.

132 (2) "Lobbyist" has the meaning identified in Utah Code [Subsections] [36-11-102(11)(a)
133 and (b)] Section 36-11-102.

134 (3) "Minority leader" means the same as that term is defined in HR3-2-101.

135 (4) "Minority party" means the same as that term is defined in HR3-2-101.

136 [(3)] (5)(a) "Volunteer lobbyist" means a person not registered as a lobbyist who engages
137 in lobbying within the meaning of Utah Code [~~Subsektion~~ 36-11-102(10)] Section
138 36-11-102.

139 (b) "Volunteer lobbyist" does not mean an individual who appears on the individual's
140 own behalf to engage in lobbying within the meaning of Utah Code [~~Subsektion~~
141 36-11-102(10)] Section 36-11-102.

142 **Section 7. Effective Date.**

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