

House Rules Resolution - Amendments to House Rules

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

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;

and

- 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.

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

- (a) call the House to order at the time scheduled for convening, and proceed with the daily order of business;
- (b) announce the business before the House in the order that it is to be acted upon;
- (c) receive and submit in the proper manner all motions and proposals presented by representatives;
- (d) put to a vote all questions that arise in the course of proceedings, and announce the results of the vote;
- (e) enforce the House Rules governing debates;
- (f) enforce observance of order and decorum;
- (g) inform the House on any point of order or practice;
- (h) receive and announce to the House any official messages and communications;
- (i) sign all acts, orders, and proceedings of the House;
- (j) appoint the members of committees;
- (k) assign responsibilities to, and supervise the officers and employees of, the House;
- (l) assign places and determine access for news media representatives; and
- (m) represent the House, declaring its will and obeying its commands.

(2) The speaker shall:

- (a) sign, or authorize a designee to sign, all requisitions on the Division of Finance to pay House expenses; and
- (b) give final approval of all expenditure requests as authorized by the majority leader and the minority [leaders of the House] leader, as defined in HR3-2-101, including compensation and reimbursement for expenses for in-state and out-of-state travel on legislative business.

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

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

- (1) In addition to the dates provided in JR1-2-101, the House shall convene on the date set by proclamation of the speaker that convenes the House into an extraordinary session.
- (2) During the regular general session, the House shall meet at 10:00 a.m. daily except Saturdays and Sundays, unless otherwise announced by the presiding officer.

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

HR3-2-101 . Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Chair" means:

(a) the chair of a standing committee; or

(b) a standing committee member who is authorized to act as chair under HR3-2-202.

(2) "Committee" means a standing committee created under HR3-2-201.

(3) "Dispose of legislation" refers to a committee action that transfers ownership of legislation to the House Rules Committee, to another standing committee, or to the House floor.

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

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

(6) "Legislative sponsor" means:

(a) the chief sponsor; or

(b) the legislator designated by the chief sponsor to be the opposite chamber floor sponsor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Privileged motions are not substitute motions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HR5-1-101 . Definitions.

As used in this ~~[House Rule]~~ title:

- (1)(a) "Government official" means:
- (i) an individual elected to a position in state or local government when acting within the individual's official capacity; and
 - (ii) an individual appointed to or employed in a full-time or part-time position by state or local government when acting within the scope of employment or within the individual's official capacity.
- (b) "Government official" does not mean a member of the legislative branch of state government.
- (2) "Lobbyist" has the meaning identified in Utah Code ~~[Subsections]~~ [36-11-102(11)(a) 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 [~~Subsection 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 [~~Subsection~~
- 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.