

James A. Dunnigan proposes the following substitute bill:

**House Rules Resolution - Amendments to House Rules**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan**

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**LONG TITLE**

**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;
  - removes the requirement that the House Rules Committee, when meeting to refer or sift legislation, prepare minutes of the committee's meeting;
  - 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**

**HR3-1-102**

**HR3-1-104**

**HR3-2-101**

**HR3-2-313**

**HR3-2-314**

**HR5-1-101**

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*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. **HR3-1-102** is amended to read:

**HR3-1-102 . House Rules Committee -- Assignment duties.**

- (1) The presiding officer shall submit all legislation introduced in the House of Representatives to the House Rules Committee.
- (2) For all legislation not specified in HR3-1-103 that is referred to the House Rules Committee, the committee shall examine the legislation for proper form, including fiscal note and committee note, if any, and either:
- (a) refer the legislation to the House with a recommendation that the legislation be:
    - (i) referred to a standing committee for consideration; or
    - (ii) read the second time and placed on the third reading calendar if the legislation:
      - (A) has received a favorable recommendation from a House standing committee;
      - (B) is exempted from the House standing committee review requirements under HR3-2-401; or
      - (C) has received a favorable recommendation from the House Rules Committee meeting as a standing committee as permitted under HR3-1-101; or
  - (b) hold the legislation.
- (3) In carrying out the House Rules Committee's functions and responsibilities under this rule, the committee may not:
- (a) table legislation without the written consent of the sponsor;
  - (b) report out any legislation that has been tabled by a standing committee;
  - (c) amend legislation without the written consent of the sponsor; or
  - (d) substitute legislation without the written consent of the sponsor.
- (4) The House Rules Committee may recommend a time certain for floor consideration of any legislation when the legislation is reported out of the House Rules Committee, or at any other time.
- (5) When the House Rules Committee is carrying out the committee's functions and responsibilities under this rule, the committee shall:
- (a) when the Legislature is in session, give notice of the committee's meetings according to the requirements of HR3-1-106;
  - (b) when the Legislature is not in session, post a notice of meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting convenes; and
  - (c) have as the committee's agenda all legislation in the committee's possession for assignment to committee or to the House calendars[; and] .  
~~[(d) prepare minutes that include a record, by individual representative, of votes taken.]~~
- (6) House Rules Committee meetings are open to the public, but comments and discussion are limited to members of the committee and [the committee's] committee staff.

Section 4. **HR3-1-104** is amended to read:

**HR3-1-104 . Rules committee duties during sifting.**

- (1) Upon motion from the floor, the House Rules Committee shall prioritize legislation for floor action and review and update this priority as necessary for the calendars.
- (2) The House Rules Committee may recommend a time certain for floor consideration of any legislation when it is reported out of the House Rules Committee, or at any other time.
- (3) When the House Rules Committee is carrying out ~~[its]~~ the committee's functions and responsibilities under this rule, the committee shall:
  - (a) during a legislative session, give notice of ~~[its]~~ the committee's meetings by either:
    - (i) providing oral notice from the floor of the time and place of ~~[its]~~ the committee's next meeting; or
    - (ii) when oral notice is impractical, post written notice of ~~[its]~~ the committee's next meeting;
  - (b) when the Legislature is not in session, post a notice of meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting convenes; and
  - (c) have as ~~[its]~~ the committee's agenda all legislation in ~~[its]~~ the committee's possession~~;~~ and ] .
  - ~~[(d) prepare minutes that include a record, by individual representative, of votes taken.]~~
- (4) Anyone may attend a meeting of the rules committee, but comments and discussion are limited to members of the committee and committee staff.

Section 5. **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" or "favorably recommend" 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 6. **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) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [ehief] legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to respond to the original motion;

(b) committee members to debate the original motion;

(c) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to respond to the debate; and

~~[(e)]~~ (d) 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) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative 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;
  - (d) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to respond to the debate; and
  - ~~[(d)]~~ (e) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to have the final word on the motion.

- (3) For a motion or substitute motion to favorably recommend, permitting the legislative sponsor to respond under Subsections (1)(a) and (2)(b) is at the chair's discretion.

Section 7. **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 8. **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.
- (3) "Minority leader" means the same as that term is defined in HR3-2-101.
- (4) "Minority party" means the same as that term is defined in HR3-2-101.
- ~~[(3)]~~ (5)(a) "Volunteer lobbyist" means a person not registered as a lobbyist who engages

201 in lobbying within the meaning of Utah Code [~~Subsection 36-11-102(10)~~] Section  
202 36-11-102.  
203 (b) "Volunteer lobbyist" does not mean an individual who appears on the individual's  
204 own behalf to engage in lobbying within the meaning of Utah Code [~~Subsection~~  
205 ~~36-11-102(10)~~] Section 36-11-102.  
206 Section 9. **Effective Date.**  
207 This resolution takes effect upon a successful vote for final passage.