

**House Rules Modifications**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan**

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This rules resolution modifies House Rules.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ authorizes the presiding officer, on the first day of the annual general session, to direct legislation directly to a standing committee or to one of the House calendars;
- ▶ modifies the process by which a standing committee chair allows a response to motions;
- ▶ amends the definition of "nonbinding resolution";
- ▶ clarifies that reinstating a word or words does not count toward the word limit under a verbal amendment;
- ▶ allows legislation assigned to the consent calendar to be reassigned to the third reading calendar, under certain circumstances;
- ▶ modifies the prohibited references on the floor; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Legislative Rules Affected:**

AMENDS:

**HR3-1-102**

**HR3-2-313**

**HR3-2-314**

**HR3-2-405**

**HR3-2-406**

**HR4-4-301**

**HR4-6-105.5**

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

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

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

35 (1)(a) [The] Subject to Subsection (1)(b), the presiding officer shall submit all legislation  
36 introduced in the House of Representatives to the House Rules Committee.

37 (b) On the first day of the annual general session, the presiding officer may direct  
38 legislation to be sent directly to a standing committee or to one of the House  
39 calendars.

40 (2) For all legislation not specified in HR3-1-103 that is referred to the House Rules  
41 Committee, the committee shall examine the legislation for proper form, including fiscal  
42 note and committee note, if any, and either:

43 (a) refer the legislation to the House with a recommendation that the legislation be:

44 (i) referred to a standing committee for consideration; or

45 (ii) read the second time and placed on the third reading calendar if the legislation:

46 (A) has received a favorable recommendation from a House standing committee;

47 (B) is exempted from the House standing committee review requirements under  
48 HR3-2-401; or

49 (C) has received a favorable recommendation from the House Rules Committee  
50 meeting as a standing committee as permitted under HR3-1-101; or

51 (b) hold the legislation.

52 (3) In carrying out the House Rules Committee's functions and responsibilities under this  
53 rule, the committee may not:

54 (a) table legislation without the written consent of the sponsor;

55 (b) report out any legislation that has been tabled by a standing committee;

56 (c) amend legislation without the written consent of the sponsor; or

57 (d) substitute legislation without the written consent of the sponsor.

58 (4) The House Rules Committee may recommend a time certain for floor consideration of  
59 any legislation when the legislation is reported out of the House Rules Committee, or at  
60 any other time.

61 (5) When the House Rules Committee is carrying out the committee's functions and  
62 responsibilities under this rule, the committee shall:

63 (a) when the Legislature is in session, give notice of the committee's meetings according  
64 to the requirements of HR3-1-106;

65 (b) when the Legislature is not in session, post a notice of meeting at least 24 hours

- 66 before the meeting convenes;
- 67 (c) have as the committee's agenda all legislation in the committee's possession for  
68 assignment to committee or to the House calendars; and
- 69 (d) prepare minutes that include a record, by individual representative, of votes taken.
- 70 (6) House Rules Committee meetings are open to the public, but comments and discussion  
71 are limited to members of the committee and the committee's staff.

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

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

- 74 (1) After the chair accepts an original motion, and before the chair places the original  
75 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
- 76 (a) the committee member who placed the original motion to speak to the original  
77 motion;
- 78 (b) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the legislation  
79 that is affected by the original motion to respond to the original motion;
- 80 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) committee members to debate the original motion;
- 81 (d) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to  
82 respond to the debate; and
- 83 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) the committee member who placed the original motion to have the final word on  
84 the motion.
- 85 (2) After a chair accepts a substitute motion, and before the chair places the substitute  
86 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
- 87 (a) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to speak to the substitute  
88 motion;
- 89 (b) the committee member who placed the original motion to respond to the substitute  
90 motion;
- 91 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the  
92 legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to respond to the substitute  
93 motion;
- 94 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) committee members to debate the substitute motion;
- 95 (e) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to  
96 respond to the debate; and
- 97 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to have the final word  
98 on the motion.
- 99 (3) For a motion or substitute motion to favorably recommend, permitting the legislative

100 sponsor to respond under Subsection (1)(b) or (2)(c) is at the chair's discretion.

101 Section 3. **HR3-2-314** is amended to read:

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

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

106 Section 4. **HR3-2-405** is amended to read:

107 **HR3-2-405 . Consent calendar -- Nonbinding resolutions -- Committee**  
108 **recommendations.**

109 [~~(1) As used in this rule, "nonbinding resolution":~~]

110 [~~(a) means a resolution that:~~]

111 [~~(i) is primarily for the purpose of recognizing, honoring, or memorializing an~~  
112 ~~individual, group, or event;~~]

113 [~~(ii) requests, rather than compels, action or awareness by an individual or group; or~~]

114 [~~(iii) is informational or promotional in nature; and~~]

115 [~~(b) does not mean:~~]

116 [~~(i) a rules resolution;~~]

117 [~~(ii) a resolution for a constitutional amendment; or~~]

118 [~~(iii) any resolution that approves or authorizes any action, requires any substantive~~  
119 ~~action to be taken, or results in a change in law, policy, or funding.~~]

120 (1) As used in this rule, "nonbinding resolution" means the same as that term is defined in  
121 JR4-1-204.

122 (2)(a) A nonbinding resolution shall be placed on the consent calendar.

123 (b) A nonbinding resolution may be moved to the time certain calendar or other calendar  
124 by a majority vote of those present.

125 (3) On or before the 41st day of an annual general session, a standing committee may  
126 recommend that legislation in the standing committee's possession be placed on the  
127 consent calendar if:

128 (a) the committee approves a motion, by a unanimous vote of those present, to give the  
129 legislation a favorable recommendation;

130 (b) immediately subsequent to that action, the committee approves a separate motion, by  
131 a unanimous vote of those present, to recommend that the legislation be placed on the  
132 consent calendar; and

133 (c) for Senate legislation, the Senate legislation is not a fiscal note bill, as that term is

134 defined in JR4-4-101.

135 Section 5. **HR3-2-406** is amended to read:

136 **HR3-2-406 . Amending legislation -- Verbal amendments -- Amendments must**  
137 **be germane.**

138 (1)(a) Subject to the provisions of this rule and HR3-2-306, and if recognized by the  
139 chair during the presentation phase or the committee action phase, a committee  
140 member may make a motion to amend the legislation that is under consideration.

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

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

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

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

149 (B) [~~instructions to delete-~~] deleting or reinstating a word or words shall not count  
150 as a word; and

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

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

155 (b) A committee member who believes that an amendment is not germane to the subject  
156 of the legislation may make a point of order or appeal as described in [HR3-2-506]  
157 HR3-2-507.

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

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

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

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

163 Section 6. **HR4-4-301** is amended to read:

164 **HR4-4-301 . Consent calendar.**

165 (1) The presiding officer shall place legislation on the consent calendar if:

166 (a) a standing committee report recommends that the legislation be placed on the  
167 consent calendar and the standing committee report is adopted by the House; or

- 168 (b) the legislation is a nonbinding resolution as provided in HR3-2-405.
- 169 (2) If the chief clerk receives written objections to [~~a piece of~~]legislation from six or more  
170 representatives, the chief clerk shall:
- 171 (a) remove the legislation from the consent calendar;
- 172 (b) inform the sponsor that the legislation has been removed from the consent calendar;
- 173 and
- 174 (c) place the legislation at the bottom of the third reading calendar.
- 175 (3) Legislation that has been assigned to the consent calendar may be reassigned to the third  
176 reading calendar by:
- 177 (a) the presiding officer; or
- 178 (b) the House by majority vote upon motion from the floor.
- 179 [~~(3)~~] (4) When legislation is removed from the consent calendar under this rule, the  
180 presiding officer shall inform the House of its removal.
- 181 [~~(4)~~] (5)(a) If, after two calendar days, no more than five members have registered  
182 written objections to the legislation with the chief clerk:
- 183 (i) the legislation shall be read the third time;
- 184 (ii) the presiding officer shall grant the sponsor of the legislation two minutes to  
185 introduce and explain the legislation; and
- 186 (iii) the presiding officer shall pose the question and take the final vote on the  
187 legislation.
- 188 (b) The presiding officer may not allow debate on legislation on the consent calendar.
- 189 [~~(5)~~] (6)(a) If the representative sponsoring the legislation on the consent calendar is  
190 absent from the floor when the legislation is ready to be read for the third time and  
191 considered for passage, a representative may make a motion to circle the legislation.
- 192 (b) If the motion to circle is successful and the representative sponsoring the legislation  
193 has not moved to uncircle the legislation before floor time is recessed or adjourned,  
194 the bill shall be placed on the bottom of the third reading calendar.
- 195 Section 7. **HR4-6-105.5** is amended to read:
- 196 **HR4-6-105.5 . Prohibited references on the floor.**
- 197 (1) During debate on the House floor, a representative may not:
- 198 (a) allude to or discuss what was done or said in committee in relation to the legislation  
199 under debate, except that a representative may allude to or discuss information  
200 contained on a House or Senate committee report;
- 201 (b) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop, including an individual who is present

- 202           on the House floor, to illustrate the representative's remarks or to emphasize the  
203           representative's position; or
- 204       (c) read from a written, prepared speech.
- 205       (2) During debate on the House floor, a representative may use notes when delivering a  
206       speech.
- 207       (3) When raising a matter of personal privilege on the House floor, a representative may not:
- 208           (a) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop to illustrate the representative's remarks  
209           or to emphasize the representative's position; or
- 210           (b) read from a written, prepared speech.
- 211       ~~(3)~~ (4) Nothing in this rule affects a representative's ability to seek approval in accordance  
212       with ~~[HR1-4-302(14)]~~ HR1-4-302(13) to have material placed on the representatives'  
213       desks.
- 214       (5) Notwithstanding Subsections (1)(c) and (3)(b), a representative may read from a brief  
215       prepared speech if the representative receives permission from the presiding officer.
- 216           Section 8. **Effective Date.**
- 217       This resolution takes effect upon a successful vote for final passage.