

Norman K Thurston proposes the following substitute bill:

House Rules Modifications

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This rules resolution modifies House Rules.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- defines "sponsor's supporting information";
- allows a chief sponsor of legislation to provide the sponsor's supporting information, subject to certain requirements;
- 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:

This resolution provides a special effective date.

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

HR3-2-313 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-314 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-405 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-406 (Effective upon final passage)

HR4-3-301 (Effective upon final passage)

HR4-4-301 (Effective upon final passage)

31 **HR4-6-105.5 (Effective upon final passage)**

32 ENACTS:

33 **HR1-10-102 (Effective 03/07/26)**

34

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

36 Section 1. **HR1-10-102** is enacted to read:

37 **HR1-10-102 (Effective 03/07/26). Sponsor's supporting information.**

38 (1) As used in this rule, "sponsor's supporting information" means a document that contains
39 information in support of legislation, including:

40 (a) the chief sponsor's policy objective;

41 (b) the chief sponsor's description of the legislation's anticipated impact; or

42 (c) any other information related to the legislation that the chief sponsor wishes to
43 convey.

44 (2) A sponsor's supporting information is not part of the legislation.

45 (3) Subject to Subsections (4) and (5), a chief sponsor may provide sponsor's supporting
46 information:

47 (a) to the chief clerk of the House; and

48 (b) anytime after the chief sponsor's legislation is numbered and before the Legislature
49 adjourns sine die the legislative session during which the legislation is introduced.

50 (4) A chief sponsor shall ensure that the sponsor's supporting information:

51 (a) is a portable document format file;

52 (b) does not exceed the equivalent of two standard letter-size pages;

53 (c) includes:

54 (i) the chief sponsor's name;

55 (ii) the legislation's number and, if the supporting information relates to substitute
56 legislation, the substitute number; and

57 (iii) the following statement at the bottom of the first page: "DISCLAIMER: The
58 supporting information contained in this document is provided by the legislation's
59 chief sponsor and has not been reviewed for accuracy. This supporting
60 information is not an official part of the legislation and may not be used as
61 evidence of the Legislature's intent."

62 (5) A chief sponsor may replace the sponsor's supporting information provided under this
63 rule only if the replacement:

64 (a) updates the sponsor's supporting information because the legislation is amended or

65 substituted; or

66 (b) corrects a factual error.

67 (6) The chief clerk of the House or the chief clerk's designee shall ensure that a sponsor's
 68 supporting information, if provided, is publicly accessible on the chief sponsor's
 69 webpage through the House's website.

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

71 **HR3-2-313 (Effective upon final passage). Chair to allow response to motions**
 72 **before placing motions for a vote.**

73 (1) After the chair accepts an original motion, and before the chair places the original
 74 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:

75 (a) the committee member who placed the original motion to speak to the original
 76 motion;

77 (b) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the legislation
 78 that is affected by the original motion to respond to the original motion;

79 ~~[(b)] (c)~~ committee members to debate the original motion;

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

82 ~~[(e)] (e)~~ the committee member who placed the original motion to have the final word on
 83 the motion.

84 (2) After a chair accepts a substitute motion, and before the chair places the substitute
 85 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:

86 (a) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to speak to the substitute
 87 motion;

88 (b) the committee member who placed the original motion to respond to the substitute
 89 motion;

90 ~~[(b)] (c)~~ except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the
 91 legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to respond to the substitute
 92 motion;

93 ~~[(e)] (d)~~ committee members to debate the substitute motion;

94 (e) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to
 95 respond to the debate; and

96 ~~[(d)] (f)~~ the committee member who placed the substitute motion to have the final word
 97 on the motion.

98 (3) For a motion or substitute motion to favorably recommend, permitting the legislative

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

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

101 **HR3-2-314 (Effective upon final passage). Chair to place motion for vote.**

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

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

106 **HR3-2-405 (Effective upon final passage). Consent calendar -- Nonbinding**
107 **resolutions -- Committee recommendations.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

133 defined in JR4-4-101.

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

135 **HR3-2-406 (Effective upon final passage). Amending legislation -- Verbal**
136 **amendments -- Amendments must be germane.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

162 Section 6. **HR4-3-301** is amended to read:

163 **HR4-3-301 (Effective upon final passage). Amendments in order on third**
164 **reading -- 15 word rule -- Passage of amendments by a majority vote.**

165 (1) Subject to Subsections (2) and (3), a motion to amend a piece of legislation is in order
166 on third reading.

- 167 (2)(a) A representative may verbally propose an amendment to legislation if the
168 amendment contains 15 or fewer words.
- 169 (b) Unless the amendment contains 15 or fewer words, before a representative makes a
170 motion to amend, the representative shall ensure that a copy of the proposed
171 amendment is available online.
- 172 (c) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal
173 amendment, except that:
- 174 (i) numbering shall not be counted as a word;
- 175 (ii) ~~[instructions to delete]~~ deleting or reinstating a word or words shall not count as a
176 word; and
- 177 (iii) a word or an exact phrase that is inserted in multiple locations shall only be
178 counted for the first insertion.
- 179 (3)(a) A representative may not propose an amendment to legislation that:
- 180 (i) adds or removes an entire section from the legislation; or
- 181 (ii) modifies the legislation's effective date.
- 182 (b) To change legislation as described in Subsection (3)(a), a representative may, subject
183 to Part 2, Substitute Legislation, make a motion to substitute the legislation.
- 184 (4) A constitutional amendment, resolution, or bill requiring a constitutional two-thirds vote
185 for final passage, may be amended by a majority vote.
- 186 (5) When legislation is amended by the House, the chief clerk shall:
- 187 (a) for each page of the legislation modified by a House amendment, cause a new page
188 to be printed that clearly identifies each House amendment to that page; and
- 189 (b) print that new page on lilac-colored paper.
- 190 Section 7. **HR4-4-301** is amended to read:
- 191 **HR4-4-301 (Effective upon final passage). Consent calendar.**
- 192 (1) The presiding officer shall place legislation on the consent calendar if:
- 193 (a) a standing committee report recommends that the legislation be placed on the
194 consent calendar and the standing committee report is adopted by the House; or
- 195 (b) the legislation is a nonbinding resolution as provided in HR3-2-405.
- 196 (2) If the chief clerk receives written objections to ~~[a piece of]~~ legislation from six or more
197 representatives, the chief clerk shall:
- 198 (a) remove the legislation from the consent calendar;
- 199 (b) inform the sponsor that the legislation has been removed from the consent calendar;
- 200 and

- 201 (c) place the legislation at the bottom of the third reading calendar.
- 202 (3) Legislation that has been assigned to the consent calendar may be reassigned to the third
- 203 reading calendar by the House by majority vote upon motion from the floor.
- 204 [~~3~~] (4) When legislation is removed from the consent calendar under this rule, the
- 205 presiding officer shall inform the House of its removal.
- 206 [~~4~~] (5)(a) If, after two calendar days, no more than five members have registered
- 207 written objections to the legislation with the chief clerk:
- 208 (i) the legislation shall be read the third time;
- 209 (ii) the presiding officer shall grant the sponsor of the legislation two minutes to
- 210 introduce and explain the legislation; and
- 211 (iii) the presiding officer shall pose the question and take the final vote on the
- 212 legislation.
- 213 (b) The presiding officer may not allow debate on legislation on the consent calendar.
- 214 [~~5~~] (6)(a) If the representative sponsoring the legislation on the consent calendar is
- 215 absent from the floor when the legislation is ready to be read for the third time and
- 216 considered for passage, a representative may make a motion to circle the legislation.
- 217 (b) If the motion to circle is successful and the representative sponsoring the legislation
- 218 has not moved to uncircle the legislation before floor time is recessed or adjourned,
- 219 the bill shall be placed on the bottom of the third reading calendar.
- 220 Section 8. **HR4-6-105.5** is amended to read:
- 221 **HR4-6-105.5 (Effective upon final passage). Prohibited references on the floor.**
- 222 (1) During debate on the House floor, a representative may not:
- 223 (a) allude to or discuss what was done or said in committee in relation to the legislation
- 224 under debate, except that a representative may allude to or discuss information
- 225 contained on a House or Senate committee report;
- 226 (b) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop, including an individual who is present
- 227 on the House floor, to illustrate the representative's remarks or to emphasize the
- 228 representative's position; or
- 229 (c) read from a written, prepared speech unless the representative, during the debate,
- 230 receives permission from the presiding officer.
- 231 (2) During debate on the House floor, a representative may use notes when delivering a
- 232 speech.
- 233 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), when raising a matter of personal
- 234 privilege on the House floor, a representative may not:

235 (i) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop to illustrate the representative's
236 remarks or to emphasize the representative's position; or

237 (ii) read from a written, prepared speech.

238 (b) A representative may engage in an act prohibited under Subsection (3)(a) if the
239 representative receives permission from the presiding officer immediately after
240 raising the matter of personal privilege.

241 [~~3~~] (4) Nothing in this rule affects a representative's ability to seek approval in accordance
242 with [~~HR1-4-302(14)~~] HR1-4-302(13) to have material placed on the representatives'
243 desks.

244 Section 9. **Effective Date.**

245 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this resolution takes effect upon a successful vote
246 for final passage.

247 (2) The actions affecting HR1-10-102 take effect on March 7, 2026.