

James A. Dunnigan 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;
- requires a legislative sponsor to sit at the presenter's table while a standing committee considers the legislative sponsor's legislation, with exceptions;
- 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:

HR3-2-305 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-313 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-314 (Effective upon final passage)

HR3-2-405 (Effective upon final passage)

31 **HR3-2-406 (Effective upon final passage)**
 32 **HR4-3-301 (Effective upon final passage)**
 33 **HR4-4-301 (Effective upon final passage)**
 34 **HR4-6-105.5 (Effective upon final passage)**

35 ENACTS:

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

37

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 (a) is a portable document format file;

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

56 (c) includes:

57 (i) the chief sponsor's name;

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

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

- 65 (5) A chief sponsor may replace the sponsor's supporting information provided under this
 66 rule only if the replacement:
 67 (a) updates the sponsor's supporting information because the legislation is amended or
 68 substituted; or
 69 (b) corrects a factual error.
 70 (6) The chief clerk of the House or the chief clerk's designee shall ensure that a sponsor's
 71 supporting information, if provided, is publicly accessible on the chief sponsor's
 72 webpage through the House's website.

73 Section 2. **HR3-2-305** is amended to read:

74 **HR3-2-305 (Effective upon final passage). Four phases when considering**
 75 **legislation.**

- 76 (1) Legislation under consideration by a standing committee is subject to four distinct
 77 phases during a committee meeting:
 78 (a) the sponsor's presentation as provided in HR3-2-306;
 79 (b) clarifying questions as provided in HR3-2-307;
 80 (c) public comment as provided in HR3-2-308; and
 81 (d) committee action as provided in HR3-2-309.
 82 (2) A standing committee may not consider legislation unless the legislative sponsor is
 83 present.
 84 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), a legislative sponsor shall sit at the
 85 presenter's table while a standing committee considers the legislative sponsor's
 86 legislation.
 87 (b) Subsection (3)(a) applies regardless of whether the legislative sponsor is a member
 88 of the standing committee.
 89 (c) A legislative sponsor may sit with the audience during the public comment phase, at
 90 the chair's discretion.

91 Section 3. **HR3-2-313** is amended to read:

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

- 94 (1) After [the] a chair accepts an original motion, and before the chair places the original
 95 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
 96 (a) the committee member who placed the original motion to speak to the original
 97 motion;
 98 (b) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the legislation

99 that is affected by the original motion to respond to the original motion;
 100 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) committee members to debate the original motion;
 101 (d) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to
 102 respond to the debate; and
 103 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) the committee member who placed the original motion to have the final word on
 104 the motion.

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

107 (a) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to speak to the substitute
 108 motion;

109 (b) the committee member who placed the original motion to respond to the substitute
 110 motion;

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

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

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

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

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

121 Section 4. **HR3-2-314** is amended to read:

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

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

126 Section 5. **HR3-2-405** is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

- 133 ~~[(ii) requests, rather than compels, action or awareness by an individual or group; or]~~
 134 ~~[(iii) is informational or promotional in nature; and]~~
 135 ~~[(b) does not mean:]~~
 136 ~~[(i) a rules resolution;]~~
 137 ~~[(ii) a resolution for a constitutional amendment; or]~~
 138 ~~[(iii) any resolution that approves or authorizes any action, requires any substantive~~
 139 ~~action to be taken, or results in a change in law, policy, or funding.]~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

153 (c) for Senate legislation, the Senate legislation is not a fiscal note bill, as that term is
 154 defined in JR4-4-101.

155 Section 6. **HR3-2-406** is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

166 (iii) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal

167 amendment, except that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

183 Section 7. **HR4-3-301** is amended to read:

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

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

188 (2)(a) A representative may verbally propose an amendment to legislation if the
189 amendment contains 15 or fewer words.

190 (b) Unless the amendment contains 15 or fewer words, before a representative makes a
191 motion to amend, the representative shall ensure that a copy of the proposed
192 amendment is available online.

193 (c) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal
194 amendment, except that:

195 (i) numbering shall not be counted as a word;

196 (ii) [~~instructions to delete~~] deleting or reinstating a word or words shall not count as a
197 word; and

198 (iii) a word or an exact phrase that is inserted in multiple locations shall only be
199 counted for the first insertion.

200 (3)(a) A representative may not propose an amendment to legislation that:

- 201 (i) adds or removes an entire section from the legislation; or
 202 (ii) modifies the legislation's effective date.
- 203 (b) To change legislation as described in Subsection (3)(a), a representative may, subject
 204 to Part 2, Substitute Legislation, make a motion to substitute the legislation.
- 205 (4) A constitutional amendment, resolution, or bill requiring a constitutional two-thirds vote
 206 for final passage, may be amended by a majority vote.
- 207 (5) When legislation is amended by the House, the chief clerk shall:
- 208 (a) for each page of the legislation modified by a House amendment, cause a new page
 209 to be printed that clearly identifies each House amendment to that page; and
 210 (b) print that new page on lilac-colored paper.
- 211 Section 8. **HR4-4-301** is amended to read:
- 212 **HR4-4-301 (Effective upon final passage). Consent calendar.**
- 213 (1) The presiding officer shall place legislation on the consent calendar if:
- 214 (a) a standing committee report recommends that the legislation be placed on the
 215 consent calendar and the standing committee report is adopted by the House; or
 216 (b) the legislation is a nonbinding resolution as provided in HR3-2-405.
- 217 (2) If the chief clerk receives written objections to [~~a piece of~~]legislation from six or more
 218 representatives, the chief clerk shall:
- 219 (a) remove the legislation from the consent calendar;
 220 (b) inform the sponsor that the legislation has been removed from the consent calendar;
 221 and
 222 (c) place the legislation at the bottom of the third reading calendar.
- 223 (3) Legislation that has been assigned to the consent calendar may be reassigned to the third
 224 reading calendar by the House by majority vote upon motion from the floor.
- 225 [~~(3)~~] (4) When legislation is removed from the consent calendar under this rule, the
 226 presiding officer shall inform the House of its removal.
- 227 [~~(4)~~] (5)(a) If, after two calendar days, no more than five members have registered
 228 written objections to the legislation with the chief clerk:
- 229 (i) the legislation shall be read the third time;
 230 (ii) the presiding officer shall grant the sponsor of the legislation two minutes to
 231 introduce and explain the legislation; and
 232 (iii) the presiding officer shall pose the question and take the final vote on the
 233 legislation.
- 234 (b) The presiding officer may not allow debate on legislation on the consent calendar.

235 [~~5~~] (6)(a) If the representative sponsoring the legislation on the consent calendar is
236 absent from the floor when the legislation is ready to be read for the third time and
237 considered for passage, a representative may make a motion to circle the legislation.

238 (b) If the motion to circle is successful and the representative sponsoring the legislation
239 has not moved to uncircle the legislation before floor time is recessed or adjourned,
240 the bill shall be placed on the bottom of the third reading calendar.

241 Section 9. **HR4-6-105.5** is amended to read:

242 **HR4-6-105.5 (Effective upon final passage). Prohibited references on the floor.**

243 (1) During debate on the House floor, a representative may not:

244 (a) allude to or discuss what was done or said in committee in relation to the legislation
245 under debate, except that a representative may allude to or discuss information
246 contained on a House or Senate committee report;

247 (b) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop, including an individual who is present
248 on the House floor, to illustrate the representative's remarks or to emphasize the
249 representative's position; or

250 (c) read from a written, prepared speech unless the representative, during the debate,
251 receives permission from the presiding officer.

252 (2) During debate on the House floor, a representative may use notes when delivering a
253 speech.

254 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), when raising a matter of personal
255 privilege on the House floor, a representative may not:

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

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

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

262 [~~3~~] (4) Nothing in this rule affects a representative's ability to seek approval in accordance
263 with [~~HR1-4-302(14)~~] HR1-4-302(13) to have material placed on the representatives'
264 desks.

265 Section 10. **Effective Date.**

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

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