

RULE ONE

DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER

CHAPTER A. DUTIES AS PRESIDING OFFICER

1.1 - Convening

The Speaker of the House, as Presiding Officer, shall take the Chair each day at the hour to which the House has adjourned, call the House to order and, except in the absence of a quorum, proceed under the Order of Business set forth in these Rules; provided, however, the Speaker may designate any other member of the House as Presiding Officer, but such designation shall not last beyond that day's adjournment.

1.2 - Preservation of Order and Decorum

(a) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum. In case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct in the House Chamber, halls or rooms belonging to the House, the Speaker shall have the power to order the same to be cleared or direct any other action necessary to preserve order and decorum.

(b) Appearances or presentations by school or other groups shall not be permitted on the floor of the House during the four (4) legislative days immediately preceding sine die adjournment as the Speaker may designate.

1.3 - Referral of Proposed Legislation to Committee

(a) All proposed legislation, as governed by subsection (b) of Section 8.4, of these Rules, if not referred directly to General Order, shall be referred by the Speaker to an appropriate standing or special committee. A bill or resolution may not be referred simultaneously to more than one committee.

(b) Prior to the time a bill or resolution is taken up for consideration by a committee or subcommittee, the Speaker may reassign such bill or resolution.

1.4 - Speaker to Sign Bills, Resolutions and Papers

(a) The Speaker, or a Member designated by the Speaker, shall sign all bills and joint resolutions passed by the Legislature. Such certifications shall be made while the House is in session and shall be made a matter of record in the House Journal.

(b) The Speaker shall sign all subpoenas, warrants, writs, vouchers for expenditures chargeable to the House, contracts binding upon the House or other papers issued by the House. The Speaker may delegate the authority to sign papers authorizing payments and other papers of an administrative nature.

1.5 - Speaker May Authorize Counsel in Lawsuits Affecting the House

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The Speaker may authorize counsel to initiate, defend, intervene in, or otherwise participate in any lawsuit on behalf of the House, a committee of the House, a Member or former Member of the House in his or her legal capacity as a member, or an officer, employee or agent of the House in their official capacity when the Speaker determines that such lawsuit is of significant interest to the House and that the interest of the House would not otherwise be adequately represented. Expenses incurred for legal services in such proceedings may be paid upon approval of the Speaker.

1.6 - Appointment of Liaisons; Authorization of Communications

(a) The Speaker may at any time designate a Member or Members to serve as liaison on behalf of the Speaker.

(b) The Speaker may communicate with the Senate or the Governor on all such subjects the Speaker deems necessary or expedient.

1.7 - Voting Rights of the Presiding Officer

The Speaker shall have the same right as other members to vote. On all questions on which ayes and nays are taken, the Speaker shall vote under the title "Speaker".

CHAPTER B. ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

1.8 - Control of the House

(a) The Speaker shall have general control of the Chamber of the House and that part of the Capitol Building assigned to the House.

(b) The Speaker shall assign committee rooms to the various standing and special committees.

(c) The Speaker may reserve a portion of the gallery for former Members of the House, former members of the Senate and the families of Members of the House and their guests.

1.9 - Committees

(a) The Speaker shall create, abolish, and establish the jurisdiction of all committees and subcommittees, in accordance with applicable law. The Speaker shall appoint all committees, subcommittees, chairs, vice-chairs and members of the various committees to report on the subjects named and such other matters as may be referred to them. All chairs, vice-chairs, and members of committees and subcommittees serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.

(b) The Speaker shall appoint all special committees and conference committees as the Speaker determines to be necessary.

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(c) The Speaker shall be an ex officio voting member of all standing and special committees.

1.10 - House Employees

All House employees work for and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Speaker shall determine their qualifications, hours of work and compensation, including benefits. The Speaker has the right at any time to transfer employees to another department or discharge any employee of the House without cause.