

Senate Resolution No. 1—Senator Cannizzaro

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE RESOLUTION—Adopting the Rules of the Senate for the 32nd Special Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That the following Rules of the Senate for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature are hereby adopted:

**I. APPLICABILITY**

***Rule No. 1. Generally.***

*The Rules of the Senate for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature are applicable only during the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature.*

**II. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

**DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

***Rule No. 2. President.***

*The President shall take the chair and call the Senate to order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting. The President shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the Senate Chamber, shall order the Sergeant at Arms to suppress it, and may order the arrest of any person creating any disturbance within the Senate Chamber. The President may speak to points of order in preference to members, rising from the President's seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate by two members, on which appeal no member may speak more than once without leave of the Senate. The President shall sign all acts, addresses and joint resolutions, and all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate; all of which must be attested by the Secretary. The President has general direction of the Senate Chamber.*

***Rule No. 3. President pro Tempore and Other Presiding Officers.***

***1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:***

***(a) The President pro Tempore has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President during his or her absence or inability to discharge the duties of his or her office.***



*(b) If the President is unwilling to discharge the duties of his or her office, the Senate may, by majority vote of the Senate, call upon the President pro Tempore to serve as the President. Upon such call, the President pro Tempore has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President during his or her unwillingness to discharge the duties of his or her office.*

*(c) In the absence or inability of the President pro Tempore to discharge the duties of the President's office, the Senate shall elect one of its members as the presiding officer for that occasion. A member who is serving as the presiding officer has all the power and shall discharge all the duties of the President until the absence or inability which resulted in the member serving as the presiding officer has ended.*

*2. When the President pro Tempore or another member is serving as the presiding officer, the President pro Tempore or other member may vote on any question for which he or she is otherwise qualified to vote as a member. If the Senate is equally divided on the question, the President pro Tempore or other member may not give an additional deciding vote or casting vote pursuant to Senate Rule No. 14 of the 32nd Special Session or Section 17 of Article 5 of the Nevada Constitution.*

*Rule No. 4. Secretary.*

*1. The Secretary of the Senate is elected by the Senate, and shall:*

*(a) Recruit, interview, select, train and supervise all staff employed to assist with the work of the Senate.*

*(b) See that these employees perform their respective duties.*

*(c) Administer the daily business of the Senate, including the provision of staff as needed.*

*(d) Adopt such administrative policies as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the business of the Senate.*

*(e) Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, transmit as soon as practicable those bills and resolutions upon which the next action is to be taken by the Assembly.*

*2. The Secretary is responsible to the Majority Leader.*

*3. The President and the Secretary are authorized to make any necessary corrections and additions to the final Journal, Daily History and committee minutes of the Senate.*

*4. In the absence of the Secretary and subject to the direction of the Majority Leader, the Assistant Secretary shall attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and certify as to the passage of Senate bills and resolutions; and in the*



*absence of both officers, the Majority Leader shall designate a signatory.*

***Rule No. 5. Sergeant at Arms.***

*The Sergeant at Arms shall:*

- 1. Attend the Senate during its sittings, and execute its commands and all process issued by its authority.*
- 2. Keep the secrets of the Senate.*
- 3. Superintend the upkeep of the Senate's Chamber, private lounge and meeting rooms for committees.*

***Rule No. 6. Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms.***

*The Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms shall serve as doorkeepers and shall preserve order in the Senate Chamber and shall assist the Sergeant at Arms. The Deputy Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms shall keep the secrets of the Senate. In the event that the Sergeant at Arms is incapacitated or absent for any reason, the Deputy Sergeant at Arms shall serve as the Sergeant at Arms until the incapacity or absence has ended.*

**III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS**

***Rule No. 7. Call of Senate—Moved by Three Members.***

*1. A Call of the Senate may be moved by three Senators, and if carried by a majority of all present, the Secretary shall call the roll and note the absentees, after which the names of the absentees shall again be called over. The doors shall then be closed and the Sergeant at Arms directed to take into custody all who may be absent without leave, and all Senators so taken into custody shall be presented at the bar of the Senate for such action as the Senate may deem proper.*

*2. In the event an emergency occurs during a special session of the Legislature which requires a meeting of the Senate, the Majority Leader shall call the members back to order before the hour to which the Senate has adjourned.*

***Rule No. 8. Absence—Leave Required.***

*No Senator shall absent himself or herself from the service of the Senate without leave, except in case of accident or sickness, and if any Senator or officer shall so absent himself or herself, his or her per diem shall not be allowed.*



***Rule No. 9. Open Meetings.***

***1. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution of the State of Nevada and in subsection 2, all meetings of the Senate and the Committee of the Whole or a standing committee must be open to the public.***

***2. A meeting may be closed to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person.***

***IV. DECORUM AND DEBATE***

***Rule No. 10. Points of Order.***

***1. If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the Senate, the President shall, or any Senator may, call him or her to order. If a Senator is so called to order, he or she shall not proceed without leave of the Senate. If such leave is granted, it must be upon the motion, "That he or she be allowed to proceed in order," and the Senator shall confine himself or herself to the question under consideration and avoid personality.***

***2. Every decision of points of order made by the President is subject to appeal, and a discussion of a question of order may be allowed only upon the appeal of two Senators. In all cases of appeal, the question must be, "Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Senate?"***

***Rule No. 11. Breaches of Decorum.***

***1. In cases of breaches of decorum or propriety, any Senator, officer or other person is liable to such censure or punishment as the Senate may deem proper.***

***2. If any Senator is called to order for offensive or indecorous language or conduct, the person calling the Senator to order shall report the offensive or indecorous language or conduct to the presiding officer. No member may be held to answer for any language used on the floor of the Senate if business has intervened before exception to the language was taken.***

***3. Indecorous conduct or boisterous or unbecoming language is not permitted in the Senate Chamber.***

***Rule No. 11.5. Legislative Ethics.***

***1. Each Legislator is subject, at all times, to the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules and, in addition, must determine whether he or she has a conflict of interest upon any matter in question before the Legislator. In***



*determining whether the Legislator has such a conflict of interest, the Legislator should consider whether the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in his or her situation upon the matter in question would be materially affected by the Legislator's:*

- (a) Acceptance of a gift or loan;*
- (b) Private economic interest; or*
- (c) Commitment to a member of his or her household or his or her immediate family.*

*↪ In interpreting and applying the provisions of this subsection, it must be presumed that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the Legislator's situation would not be materially affected by the Legislator's private economic interest or the Legislator's commitment to a member of his or her household or immediate family where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the Legislator, or if the Legislator has a commitment to a member of his or her household or immediate family, accruing to those other persons, is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group that is affected by the matter.*

*2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a Legislator knows he or she has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 1, the Legislator shall make a general disclosure of the conflict of interest on the record in a meeting of a committee or on the floor of the Senate, as applicable. Such a disclosure must be entered:*

*(a) If the Legislator makes the disclosure in a meeting of a committee, in the minutes for that meeting.*

*(b) If the Legislator makes the disclosure on the floor of the Senate, in the Journal.*

*3. If, on one or more prior occasions during the current session of the Legislature, a Legislator has made a general disclosure of a conflict of interest on the record in a meeting of a committee or on the floor of the Senate, the Legislator is not required to make that general disclosure at length again regarding the same conflict of interest if, when the matter in question arises on subsequent occasions, the Legislator makes a reference on the record to the previous disclosure.*

*4. In determining whether to abstain from voting upon, advocating or opposing a matter concerning which a Legislator has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 1, the Legislator should consider whether:*



(a) *The conflict impedes his or her independence of judgment; and*

(b) *His or her interest is greater than the interests of an entire class of persons similarly situated.*

5. *The provisions of this Rule do not under any circumstances and regardless of any conflict of interest:*

(a) *Prohibit a Legislator from requesting or introducing a legislative measure; or*

(b) *Require a Legislator to take any particular action before or while requesting or introducing a legislative measure.*

6. *If a Legislator who is a member of a committee declares on the record when a vote is to be taken by the committee that he or she will abstain from voting because of the requirements of this Rule the necessary quorum to act upon and the number of votes necessary to act upon the matter is reduced as though the Legislator abstaining were not a member of the committee.*

7. *The standards and procedures set forth in this Rule which govern whether and to what extent a Senator has a conflict of interest, should disclose a conflict of interest or should abstain from voting upon, advocating or opposing a matter concerning which the Senator has a conflict of interest pursuant to subsection 1:*

(a) *Are exclusive and are the only standards and procedures that apply to Senators with regard to such matters; and*

(b) *Supersede and preempt all other standards and procedures with regard to such matters,*

↪ *except that this subsection does not exempt any Senators from the Legislative Code of Ethical Standards in the Joint Standing Rules.*

8. *For purposes of this Rule, “immediate family” means a person who is related to the Legislator by blood, adoption or marriage within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity.*

## **V. QUORUM, VOTING, ELECTIONS**

**Rule No. 12. Action Required to Be Taken in Senate Chamber.**

*Any action taken by the Senate must be taken in the Senate Chamber.*

**Rule No. 13. Recorded Vote—Three Required to Call For.**

1. *A recorded vote must be taken upon final passage of a bill or joint resolution, and in any other case when called for by three members. Every Senator within the bar of the Senate shall vote*



*“yea” or “nay” or record himself or herself as “not voting,” unless excused by unanimous vote of the Senate.*

*2. The votes and names of those absent or recorded as “not voting” and the names of Senators demanding the recorded vote must be entered in the Journal.*

***Rule No. 14. President to Decide—Tie Vote.***

*A question is lost by a tie vote, but when the Senate is equally divided on any question except the passage of a bill or joint resolution, the President may give the deciding vote.*

***Rule No. 15. Manner of Election—Voting.***

*1. In all cases of election by the Senate, the vote must be taken viva voce. In other cases, if a vote is to be recorded, it may be taken by oral roll-call or by electronic recording.*

*2. When a recorded vote is taken, no Senator may:*

*(a) Vote except when at his or her seat;*

*(b) Explain his or her vote or discuss the question while the voting is in progress; or*

*(c) Change his or her vote after the result is announced.*

*3. The announcement of the result of any vote must not be postponed.*

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE BODIES**

***Rule No. 16. Committee of the Whole.***

*1. All bills and resolutions may be referred only to the Committee of the Whole or to such standing committee as may be appointed pursuant to Senate Rule No. 16.5 of the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature.*

*2. The Majority Leader shall preside as Chair of the Committee of the Whole or name a Chair to preside.*

*3. Any meeting of the Committee of the Whole may be conducted outside the Senate Chamber, as designated by the Chair of the Committee.*

*4. A member of the Committee of the Whole may speak on an item listed on the Committee’s agenda, for a period of not more than 10 minutes, unless he or she is granted leave of the Chair to speak for a longer period. If a member is granted leave to speak for a longer period, the Chair may limit the length of additional time that the member may speak.*

*5. The Chair may require any vote of the Committee of the Whole to be recorded in the manner designated by the Chair.*



6. *All amendments proposed by the Committee of the Whole:*
  - (a) *Must first be approved by the Committee.*
  - (b) *Must be reported by the Chair to the Senate.*
7. *The minutes of the Committee's meetings must be entered in the final Journal.*

***Rule No. 16.5. Standing Committees.***

*In addition to the Committee of the Whole, such standing committees may be appointed by the Majority Leader as may be deemed necessary.*

***Rule No. 17. Rules Applicable to Standing Committees and Committee of the Whole.***

*The Rules of the Senate shall apply to proceedings in the Committee of the Whole and such standing committees as may be appointed, except that the previous question shall not be ordered nor the yeas and nays demanded, but the Chair may limit the number of times that any member may speak, at any stage of proceedings, during its sitting. Messages may be received by the President while the Committee is sitting; in which case the President shall resume the chair and receive the message. After receiving the message, the President shall vacate the chair in favor of the Chair of the Committee. The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern such committees in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules and orders of the Senate.*

***Rule No. 18. Motion to Rise Committee of the Whole.***

*A motion that the Committee of the Whole rise shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.*

## **VII. RULES GOVERNING MOTIONS**

### **A. MOTIONS GENERALLY**

***Rule No. 19. Entertaining.***

1. *No motion may be debated until it is announced by the President.*
2. *By consent of the Senate, a motion may be withdrawn before amendment or decision.*





**Rule No. 20. Precedence of Motions.**

*When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but the following, which shall have precedence in the order named:*

- 1. To adjourn.*
- 2. For a call of the Senate.*
- 3. To recess.*
- 4. To lay on the table.*
- 5. For the previous question.*
- 6. To postpone to a day certain.*
- 7. To refer to committee.*
- 8. To amend.*
- 9. To postpone indefinitely.*

*➔ The first three motions shall be decided without debate and a motion to lay on the table without question or debate.*

**Rule No. 21. When Not Entertained.**

*1. When a motion to postpone indefinitely has been decided, it must not be again entertained on the same day.*

*2. When a question has been postponed indefinitely, it must not again be introduced during the Special Session unless this Rule is suspended by a majority vote of the Senate.*

*3. There must be no reconsideration or rescission of a vote on a motion to postpone indefinitely.*

**B. PARTICULAR MOTIONS**

**Rule No. 22. To Adjourn.**

*A motion to adjourn shall always be in order unless a motion to reconsider a final vote on a bill or resolution or any other action is pending. The name of the Senator moving to adjourn, and the time when the motion was decided, shall be entered in the Journal.*

**Rule No. 23. Lay on the Table.**

*A motion to lay on or take from the table shall be carried by a majority vote.*

**Rule No. 24. To Strike Enacting Clause.**

*A motion to strike out the enacting clause of a bill has precedence over a motion to refer to committee or to amend. If a motion to strike out the enacting clause of a bill is carried, the bill is rejected.*



**Rule No. 25. Division of Question.**

1. Any Senator may call for a division of a question.
2. A question must be divided if the Senate determines it embraces subjects so distinct that if one subject is taken away, a substantive proposition remains for the decision of the Senate.
3. A motion to strike out and insert must not be divided.

**Rule No. 26. Explanation of Motion.**

Whenever a Senator moves to change the usual disposition of a bill or resolution, he or she shall describe the subject of the bill or resolution and state the reasons for requesting the change in the processing of the bill or resolution.

**VIII. DEBATE**

**Rule No. 27. Speaking on Question.**

1. Every Senator who speaks shall, seated in his or her place, address “Mr. or Madam President,” in a courteous manner, and shall confine himself or herself to the question before the Senate.
2. Except as otherwise provided in Senate Rules Nos. 10 and 45 of the 32nd Special Session, a Senator may speak only once on a question before the Senate, for a period of not more than 10 minutes, unless he or she is granted leave of the President to speak for a longer period or more than once. If a Senator is granted leave to speak for a longer period or more than once, the President may limit the length of additional time that the member may speak.
3. Incidental and subsidiary questions arising during debate shall not be considered the same question.

**Rule No. 28. Previous Question.**

The previous question shall not be put unless demanded by three Senators, and it shall be in this form: “Shall the main question be put?” When sustained by a majority of Senators present, it shall put an end to all debate and bring the Senate to a vote on the question or questions before it, and all incidental questions arising after the motion was made shall be decided without debate. A person who is speaking on a question shall not while he or she has the floor move to put that question.



## **IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

### **A. GENERALLY**

#### ***Rule No. 29. Mason's Manual.***

*The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Senate in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules and orders of the Senate for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature, and the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature.*

#### ***Rule No. 30. Suspension, Rescission or Change of Rule.***

*No rule or order of the Senate for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature shall be suspended, rescinded or changed without a majority vote of the Senate.*

#### ***Rule No. 31. Protest.***

*Any Senator, or Senators, may protest against the action of the Senate upon any question, and have such protest entered in the Journal.*

#### ***Rule No. 32. Privilege of the Floor.***

*1. To preserve decorum and facilitate the business of the Senate, only the following persons may be present on the floor of the Senate during formal sessions:*

- (a) State officers;*
- (b) Officers and members of the Senate;*
- (c) Employees of the Legislative Counsel Bureau;*
- (d) Staff of the Senate; and*
- (e) Members of the Assembly whose presence is required for the transaction of business.*

*2. A majority of Senators may authorize the President to have the Senate Chamber cleared of all persons except Senators and officers of the Senate.*

*3. The Senate Chamber may not be used for any business other than legislative business during a legislative session.*

#### ***Rule No. 33. Material Placed on Legislators' Desks.***

*1. Only the Sergeant at Arms and officers and employees of the Senate may place papers, letters, notes, pamphlets and other*



*written material upon a Senator's desk. Such material must contain the name of the Legislator requesting the placement of the material on the desk or a designation of the origin of the material.*

*2. This Rule does not apply to books containing the legislative bills and resolutions, the daily histories and daily journals of the Senate or Assembly, or Legislative Counsel Bureau material.*

***Rule No. 34. Petitions.***

*The contents of any petition shall be briefly stated by the President or any Senator presenting it. It shall then lie on the table or be referred, as the President or Senate may direct.*

***Rule No. 35. Objection to Reading of Paper.***

*Where the reading of any paper is called for, and is objected to by any Senator, it shall be determined by a vote of the Senate, and without debate.*

***Rule No. 36. Questions Relating to Priority of Business.***

*All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided without debate.*

***B. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS***

***Rule No. 37. Requests for the Drafting of Bills, Resolutions and Amendments.***

*Except as otherwise provided in this Rule, the Legislative Counsel shall not honor a request for the drafting of a bill, resolution or amendment to be introduced in the Senate unless it is submitted by the Committee of the Whole, a standing committee or a Conference Committee. The Majority Leader may:*

*1. Request the drafting of five legislative measures for the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature; and*

*2. Request the drafting of an amendment,  
↳ without seeking the approval of the Committee of the Whole or any other committee that may be appointed for the 32nd Special Session.*

***Rule No. 38. Skeleton Bill Prohibited.***

*Skeleton bills may not be introduced.*



***Rule No. 39. Reading of Bills.***

*1. Every bill must receive three readings before its passage, unless, in case of emergency, this Rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The reading of a bill is by number, sponsor and summary.*

*2. The first reading of a bill is for information, and if there is opposition to the bill, the question must be, "Shall this bill be rejected?" If there is no opposition to the bill, or if the question to reject is defeated, the bill must then take the usual course.*

*3. No bill may be referred to committee until once read, nor amended until twice read.*

*4. The third reading of every bill must be by sections.*

***Rule No. 40. Second Reading File—Consent Calendar.***

*1. All bills reported by the Committee of the Whole or a standing committee must be placed on a Second Reading File unless recommended for placement on the Consent Calendar.*

*2. All joint resolutions reported by the Committee of the Whole or a standing committee must be placed on the Second Reading File or other appropriate reading file unless recommended for placement on the Consent Calendar.*

*3. The Committee of the Whole or a standing committee shall not recommend a bill or joint resolution for placement on the Consent Calendar if:*

*(a) An amendment of the bill or joint resolution is recommended;*

*(b) It contains an appropriation;*

*(c) It requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate; or*

*(d) It is controversial in nature.*

*4. A bill must be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of any Senator, without question or debate. A bill so removed must be immediately placed on the Second Reading File for consideration in the usual order of business.*

*5. A joint resolution must be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of any Senator, without question or debate. A joint resolution so removed must be immediately placed on the Second Reading File or other appropriate reading file for consideration in the usual order of business.*

*6. When the Consent Calendar is called:*

*(a) The bills remaining on the Consent Calendar must be read by number and summary, and the vote must be taken on their final passage as a group.*



*(b) No remarks or questions are in order and the bills remaining on the Consent Calendar must be voted upon without debate.*

***Rule No. 41. Reading of Bills—General File.***

*1. Upon reading of bills on the Second Reading File, Senate and Assembly bills reported without amendments must be placed on the General File.*

*2. Only amendments proposed by the Majority Leader, Committee of the Whole, a standing committee or a conference committee may be considered.*

*3. Amendments proposed by the Committee of the Whole or a standing committee and reported with bills, or proposed by the Majority Leader, may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present. Bills so amended must be reprinted, engrossed or reengrossed, and placed on the General File. The File must be made available to members of the public each day by the Secretary.*

***Rule No. 42. Reconsideration of Vote on Bill.***

*No motion to reconsider a vote is in order.*

***Rule No. 42.5. Vetoed Bills.***

*Bills which have passed the Legislature, and forwarded by letter, to the Senate by the Governor and which are accompanied by a message of the Governor's disapproval, or veto of the same, shall become a special order and, at which time, the said message shall be read, together with the bill or bills so disposed or vetoed; and the message and the bill shall be read without interruption, consecutively, one following the other, and not upon separate occasions; and no such bill or message shall be referred to any committee, or otherwise acted upon, save as provided by rule, custom and law; that is to say, that immediately following such reading the only question (except as hereinafter stated) which shall be put by the Chair is, "Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?" It shall not be in order, at any time, to vote upon such vetoed bill without the same having first been read; the merits of the bill itself may be debated and the only motion entertained after the Chair has stated the question are a motion for "The previous question," or a motion for "No further consideration" of the vetoed bill.*



### **C. RESOLUTIONS**

#### ***Rule No. 43. Certain Resolutions Treated as Bills.***

*Joint resolutions addressed to Congress, or to either House thereof, or to the President of the United States, or the heads of any of the national departments, or proposing amendments to the State Constitution are subject, in all respects, to the foregoing rules governing the course of bills except that such joint resolutions may require only two readings and both readings may occur on the same day. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution must be entered in the Journal in its entirety.*

#### ***Rule No. 43.3. Memorial Resolutions.***

*Once the sponsor has moved for the adoption of a memorial resolution, not more than one member from each caucus, and, upon request of a member of the body and the approval of the Majority Leader, one additional member may speak on the resolution.*

#### ***Rule No. 44. Certain Resolutions Treated as Motions.***

*Resolutions, other than those referred to in Senate Rules Nos. 43 and 43.3 of the 32nd Special Session of the Legislature, must be treated as motions in all proceedings of the Senate.*

#### ***Rule No. 44.5. Return From the Secretary of State.***

*A Senate resolution may be used to request the return from the Secretary of State of an enrolled Senate resolution for further consideration.*

#### ***Rule No. 45. Order of Business, Special Orders and Other Matters.***

- 1. Roll Call.***
- 2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.***
- 3. Reading and Approval of the Journal.***
- 4. Reports of Committees.***
- 5. Messages from the Governor.***
- 6. Messages from the Assembly.***
- 7. Communications.***
- 8. [Reserved.]***
- 9. Motions, Resolutions and Notices.***
- 10. Introduction, First Reading and Reference.***



11. *Consent Calendar.*
12. *Second Reading and Amendment.*
13. *General File and Third Reading.*
14. *Unfinished Business.*
15. *Special Orders of the Day.*

16. *Remarks from the Floor; Introduction of Guests. A Senator may speak under this order of business for a period of not more than 5 minutes each day.*

***Rule No. 46. Privilege.***

*Any Senator may explain a matter personal to himself or herself by leave of the President, but the Senator shall not discuss any pending question in such explanation.*

***Rule No. 47. Preference to Speak.***

*When two or more Senators request to speak at the same time, the President shall name the one who may first speak—giving preference, when practicable, to the mover or introducer of the subject under consideration.*

***Rule No. 48. Special Order.***

*The President shall call the Senate to order on the arrival of the time fixed for the consideration of a special order, and announce that the special order is before the Senate, which shall be considered, unless it be postponed by a majority vote of the Senate, and any business before the Senate at the time of the announcement of the special order shall go to Unfinished Business.*

*The next rule is 50.*

***D. REMOTE-TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS***

***Rule No. 50. Short Title; Precedence of Rules; Applicability of Rules During the Interim Between Sessions.***

***1. Rules Nos. 50 to 54, inclusive, may be cited as the Remote-Technology Rules.***

***2. The Remote-Technology Rules supersede, take precedence and control over any other rule, provision or principle of law to the extent of any conflict with the Remote-Technology Rules.***





3. *The Remote-Technology Rules remain in full force and effect throughout the interim between regular sessions of the Legislature and until new Standing Rules are adopted as part of the organization of a newly-constituted Senate at the commencement of a session.*

**Rule No. 51. Public Purposes and Construction of Rules.**

1. *The Remote-Technology Rules are intended to serve the following public purposes:*

(a) *To protect the health, safety and welfare of Legislators, members of legislative staff and others who participate in the legislative process amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to authorize necessary protective and safety measures intended to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(b) *To enable the members of the Senate to represent their constituents and carry out their official powers, functions, duties and responsibilities in the legislative process amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to authorize members of the Senate, under certain circumstances, to use remote-technology systems to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in legislative proceedings when determined to be necessary as a protective or safety measure to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(c) *To safeguard the workings of the Legislative Department of Nevada's State Government and preserve and protect the continuity and efficacy of its legislative operations amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules are intended to ensure that the Senate may efficiently and effectively carry out its official powers, functions, duties and responsibilities which are expressly and exclusively assigned to the Senate by the Nevada Constitution and which cannot be exercised or performed by any other body or branch of Nevada's State Government.*

2. *Because of the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Remote-Technology Rules must be liberally construed to achieve their intended public purposes, and if there is any uncertainty or doubt*



*regarding the interpretation or application of the Remote-Technology Rules, that uncertainty or doubt must be resolved in favor of carrying out the intended public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules.*

***Rule No. 52. Definitions.***

*As used in the Remote-Technology Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, “remote-technology system” means any system or other means of communication that is:*

*1. Approved by the Majority Leader and uses any electronic, digital or other similar technology to enable a member of the Senate from a remote location to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the Senate or the Committee of the Whole even though the member is not physically present within the Senate Chambers or at a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.*

*2. Approved by the chair of a committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, and uses any electronic, digital or other similar technology to enable a member of the Senate from a remote location to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the committee even though the member is not physically present at a meeting of the committee.*

***Rule No. 53. Authorized Use of Remote-Technology Systems to Carry Out Public Purposes.***

*1. Upon request by a member of the Senate:*

*(a) The Majority Leader may authorize the member to use a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the Senate or the Committee of the Whole if the Majority Leader determines that such use by the member is necessary as a protective or safety measure to carry out the public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules. If the Majority Leader grants such authorization, it must be entered in the Journal of the Senate.*

*(b) The chair of a committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, may authorize the member to use a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings of the committee if the chair determines that such use by the member is necessary as a protective or safety measure to carry out the public purposes of the Remote-Technology Rules. If the chair grants such authorization, it must be entered in the records of the committee.*



2. *If a member of the Senate uses a remote-technology system to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in any proceedings pursuant to the Remote-Technology Rules, the member shall be deemed to be present and in attendance at the proceedings for all purposes.*

3. *For the purposes of voting in proceedings of:*

(a) *The Senate or the Committee of the Whole, the Secretary of the Senate, or an authorized assistant, shall call the roll of each member who is authorized to use a remote-technology system for the proceedings and, in accordance with the procedures of the Senate, cause the member's vote to be entered into the record for the purposes of the Journal of the Senate or the records of the Committee of the Whole, as applicable.*

(b) *A committee, other than the Committee of the Whole, the committee secretary shall call the roll of each member who is authorized to use a remote-technology system for the proceedings and, in accordance with the procedures of the committee, cause the member's vote to be entered into the record for the purposes of the records of the committee.*

**Rule No. 54. Authority to Adopt Rules.**

1. *The Senate hereby finds and declares that:*

(a) *The Nevada Constitution invests each House of the Legislature with certain plenary and exclusive constitutional powers which may be exercised only by that House and which cannot be usurped, infringed or impaired by the other House or by any other branch of Nevada's State Government. (Heller v. Legislature, 120 Nev. 456 (2004); Commission on Ethics v. Hardy, 125 Nev. 285 (2009); Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure §§ 2-3 & 560-564 (2010) (Mason's Manual))*

(b) *Section 6 of Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution invests each House with plenary and exclusive constitutional powers to determine the rules of its proceedings and to govern, control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management, expressly providing that: "Each House shall judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its own members, choose its own officers (except the President of the Senate), determine the rules of its proceedings and may punish its members for disorderly conduct, and with the concurrence of two thirds of all the members elected, expel a member."*

(c) *In addition to its plenary and exclusive constitutional powers, each House possesses certain inherent powers of institutional self-protection and self-preservation to govern,*



control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management. (In re Chapman, 166 U.S. 661, 668 (1897); Mason's Manual § 2; Luther S. Cushing, Elements of the Law & Practice of Legislative Assemblies § 533 (1856) (Cushing's Legislative Assemblies))

(d) *The inherent powers of each House are considered “so essential to the authority of a legislative assembly, that it cannot well exist without them; and they are consequently entitled to be regarded as belonging to every such assembly as a necessary incident.”* (Cushing's Legislative Assemblies § 533)

(e) *The inherent powers of each House authorize it to take all necessary and proper institutional actions that are “recognized by the common parliamentary law.”* (Cushing's Legislative Assemblies § 684)

(f) *Thus, it is well established that each House is “vested with all the powers and privileges which are necessary and incidental to a free and unobstructed exercise of its appropriate functions. These powers and privileges are derived not from the Constitution; on the contrary, they arise from the very creation of a legislative body, and are founded upon the principle of self-preservation.”* (Ex parte McCarthy, 29 Cal. 395, 403 (1866))

(g) *Under the Nevada Constitution, there are no constitutional provisions establishing a particular method for determining whether a member of either House is present at legislative proceedings.*

(h) *The United States Supreme Court has held that when there are no constitutional provisions establishing a particular method for determining whether a member of a legislative house is present at legislative proceedings, “it is therefore within the competency of the house to prescribe any method which shall be reasonably certain to ascertain the fact.”* (United States v. Ballin, 144 U.S. 1, 6 (1892))

(i) *The United States Supreme Court has also held that when a legislative house adopts a rule establishing a reasonable method for determining whether a member is present at legislative proceedings, that rule must be given great deference by the courts because:*

*Neither do the advantages or disadvantages, the wisdom or folly, of such a rule present any matters for judicial consideration. With the courts the question is only one of power. The constitution empowers each house to determine its rules of proceedings. It may not by its rules ignore constitutional restraints or violate fundamental rights, and*



*there should be a reasonable relation between the mode or method of proceeding established by the rule and the result which is sought to be attained. But within these limitations all matters of method are open to the determination of the house, and it is no impeachment of the rule to say that some other way would be better, more accurate, or even more just. It is no objection to the validity of a rule that a different one has been prescribed and in force for a length of time. The power to make rules is not one which once exercised is exhausted. It is a continuous power, always subject to be exercised by the house, and, within the limitations suggested, absolute and beyond the challenge of any other body or tribunal.*

*(United States v. Ballin, 144 U.S. 1, 5 (1892))*

*2. The Senate hereby exercises its constitutional and inherent powers and privileges and adopts the Remote-Technology Rules to:*

*(a) Govern, control and regulate its membership and its internal organization, affairs and management;*

*(b) Ensure its institutional self-protection and self-preservation; and*

*(c) Establish a reasonable method for determining whether a member of the Senate is present at legislative proceedings amid the ongoing and widespread public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to keep the legislative process as safe and free as reasonably possible from the extraordinary danger, risk, harm, injury and peril posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

