

SENATE RESOLUTION

8600

By Senator Liias

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rules of the Senate for the 2019 Regular
2 Session of the 66th Legislature, as amended in the 2019 Regular
3 Session and the 2020 Regular Session, be adopted as amended as the
4 Rules of the Senate for the 2021 Regular Session of the 67th
5 Legislature, to read as follows:

6 **PERMANENT RULES**

7 **OF THE**

8 **SENATE**

9 **SIXTY- (~~SIXTH~~) SEVENTH LEGISLATURE**

10 **(~~2019~~) 2021**

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1 floor session and within a hearing room during a committee
2 hearing.

3 3. The president shall have charge of and see that all
4 officers and employees perform their respective duties, and
5 shall have general control of the senate chamber and wings. (See
6 also Art. 2, Sec. 10, State Constitution.)

7 4. The president may speak to points of order in preference
8 to members, arising from the president's seat for that purpose,
9 and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to
10 the senate by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak
11 more than once without leave of the senate.

12 5. The president shall, in open session, sign all acts,
13 addresses and joint resolutions. The president shall sign all
14 writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the senate, all
15 of which shall be attested by the secretary. (See also Art. 2,
16 Sec. 32, State Constitution.)

17 6. The president shall appoint all conference, special,
18 joint and hereinafter named standing committees on the part of
19 the senate. The appointment of the conference, special, joint
20 and standing committees shall be confirmed by the senate. In the
21 event the senate refuses to confirm any conference, special,
22 joint or standing committee or committees, such committee or
23 committees shall be elected by the senate.

24 7. The president shall, on each day, announce to the senate
25 the business in order, and no business shall be taken up or
26 considered until the order to which it belongs shall be
27 declared.

28 8. The president shall decide and announce the result of any
29 vote taken.

30 9. When a vote of the senate is equally divided, the
31 lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding
32 vote as provided for in the state Constitution. (See also Art.
33 2, Sec. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

34 **President Pro Tempore**

1 instructions and they may be dismissed at the secretary's
2 discretion.

3 3. The secretary of the senate, prior to the convening of
4 the next regular session, shall prepare the office to receive
5 bills which the holdover members and members-elect may desire to
6 prefile commencing with the first Monday in December preceding
7 any regular session or twenty days prior to any special session
8 of the legislature.

9 **Sergeant at Arms**

10 **Rule 4.** 1. The director of senate security shall perform the
11 functions of the sergeant at arms for the senate.

12 2. The sergeant at arms shall not admit to the floor of the
13 senate during the time the senate is not convened any person
14 other than specifically requested by a senator, the president,
15 or the secretary of the senate, in writing or when personally
16 accompanied by a senator.

17 **Subordinate Officers**

18 **Rule 5.** The subordinate officers of the senate shall perform
19 such duties as usually pertain to their respective positions in
20 legislative bodies under the direction of the president, and
21 such other duties as the senate may impose upon them. Under no
22 circumstances shall the compensation of any employee be
23 increased for past services. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 25, State
24 Constitution.)

25 **Employees**

26 **Rule 6.** 1. No senate employee shall lobby in favor of or
27 against any matter under consideration.

28 2. Senate employees are governed by joint rules and chapters
29 42.17 (the Public Disclosure Act) and 42.52 RCW (the Ethics in
30 Public Service Act).

31 **Conduct of Members and Officers**

32 **Rule 7.** 1. Indecorous conduct, boisterous or unbecoming
33 language will not be permitted in the senate at any time. Food
34 is prohibited within the senate chamber during floor session.

1 Cellular phone use within the senate chamber during floor
2 session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing
3 must be respectful to the members and the public and the phone
4 must be kept in silent mode within the senate chamber during
5 floor session and within a hearing room during a committee
6 hearing.

7 2. In cases of breach of decorum or propriety, any senator,
8 officer or other person shall be liable to such censure or
9 punishment as the senate may deem proper, and if any senator be
10 called to order for offensive or indecorous language or conduct,
11 the person calling the senator to order shall report the
12 language excepted to which shall be taken down or noted at the
13 secretary's desk. No member shall be held to answer for any
14 language used upon the floor of the senate if business has
15 intervened before exception to the language was thus taken and
16 noted.

17 3. If any senator in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses
18 the rules of the senate, the president shall, or any senator
19 may, call that senator to order, and a senator so called to
20 order shall resume the senator's seat and not proceed without
21 leave of the senate, which leave, if granted, shall be upon
22 motion "that the senator be allowed to proceed in order," when,
23 if carried, the senator shall speak to the question under
24 consideration.

25 4. No senator shall be absent from the senate without leave,
26 except in case of accident or sickness, and if any senator or
27 officer shall be absent the senator's per diem shall not be
28 allowed or paid, and no senator or officer shall obtain leave of
29 absence or be excused from attendance without the consent of a
30 majority of the members present.

31 5. Members of the senate are subject to the senate's policy
32 on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct in violation of the
33 policy may result in disciplinary action.

34 6. In the event of a motion or resolution to censure or
35 punish, or any procedural motion thereto involving a senator,
36 that senator shall not vote thereon. The senator shall be

1 allowed to answer to such motion or resolution. An election or
2 vote by the senate on a motion to censure or punish a senator
3 shall require the vote of a majority of all senators elected or
4 appointed to the senate. A vote to expel a member shall require
5 a two-thirds concurrence of all members elected or appointed to
6 the senate. All votes shall be taken by yeas and nays and the
7 votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec.
8 9, State Constitution.)

9 **SECTION II**

10 **OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

11 **Facilities and Operations**

12 **Rule 8.** 1. After the election of new caucus leadership at
13 the beginning of the first regular session during a legislative
14 biennium or anytime during the legislative biennium that a
15 different caucus becomes the majority caucus, the majority
16 caucus shall designate four members and the minority caucus
17 shall designate three members to serve on the facilities and
18 operations committee. Each caucus may also designate an
19 alternate. The chair of the (~~majority caucus shall be the chair~~
20 ~~of the~~) facilities and operations committee must be selected by
21 a majority vote of the members of the committee. If a different
22 caucus becomes the majority caucus anytime during the
23 legislative biennium, the operation of the senate shall transfer
24 to the newly designated members after the leadership of the new
25 majority caucus is determined.

26 2. All necessary expenses of the senate incurred during the
27 session shall be signed for by the secretary and approved by a
28 majority of the committee on facilities and operations. The
29 committee on facilities and operations shall carefully consider
30 all items of expenditure ordered or contracted on the part of
31 the senate, and report upon the same prior to the voucher being
32 signed by the secretary of the senate authorizing the payment
33 thereof. The committee on facilities and operations shall issue
34 postage only as follows:

1 (a) To elected or appointed members of the senate in an
2 amount sufficient to allow performance of their legislative
3 duties.

4 (b) To the secretary of the senate in an amount sufficient
5 to carry out the business of the senate.

6 3. The facilities and operations committee is authorized to
7 adopt respectful workplace policies.

8 **Use of Senate Chambers**

9 **Rule 9.** The senate chamber and its facilities shall not be
10 used for any but legislative business, except by permission of
11 the senate while in session, or by the facilities and operations
12 committee when not in session.

13 **Admission to the Senate**

14 **Rule 10.** The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following
15 individuals to the floor and adjacent areas of the senate for
16 the period of time beginning one-half hour before convening and
17 ending when the senate has adjourned or recessed for an hour or
18 more:

19 The governor and/or designees,
20 Members of the house of representatives,
21 State elected officials,
22 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature,
23 Honored guests being presented to the senate,
24 Former members of the senate who are not registered
25 lobbyists pursuant to chapter 42.17 RCW,
26 Representatives of the press,
27 Persons specifically requested by a senator to the president
28 in writing or only as long as accompanied by a senator.

29 **Printing of Bills**

30 **Rule 11.** The number of bills printed and reprinted shall be
31 at the discretion of the secretary of the senate, with the
32 approval of the facilities and operations committee.

33 **Furnishing Full File of Bills**

1 **Rule 12.** Persons, firms, corporations and organizations
2 within the state, desirous of receiving copies of all printed
3 senate bills, shall make application therefor to the secretary
4 of the senate. The bill clerk shall send copies of all printed
5 senate bills to such persons, firms, corporations and
6 organizations as may be ordered by the secretary of the senate.
7 The secretary of the senate is authorized to recoup costs.

8 **Regulation of Lobbyists**

9 **Rule 13.** All persons who engage in lobbying of any kind as
10 defined in chapter 42.17 RCW are subject to the senate's policy
11 on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct that constitutes
12 prohibited conduct under the policy may result in restrictions,
13 including, but not limited to, prohibitions on unaccompanied
14 movement within the senate.

15 Any person registered as a lobbyist pursuant to chapter
16 42.17 RCW who intervenes in or attempts to influence any
17 personnel decision of the senate regarding any employee may
18 suffer an immediate revocation of all privileges before the
19 senate or such other privileges and for such time as may be
20 deemed appropriate by the senate committee on rules. This
21 restriction shall not prohibit a registered lobbyist from making
22 written recommendations for staff positions.

23 **Security Management**

24 **Rule 14.** The sergeant at arms shall develop security
25 procedures to protect the senate, including its members, staff,
26 and the visiting public.

27 **SECTION III**

28 **RULES AND ORDER**

29 **Time of Convening**

30 **Rule 15.** The senate shall convene at 10:00 a.m. each working
31 day, unless adjourned to a different hour. The senate shall
32 adjourn not later than 10:00 p.m. of each working day. The
33 senate shall recess ninety minutes for lunch each working day.
34 When reconvening on the same day the senate shall recess ninety

1 minutes for dinner each working evening. This rule may be
2 suspended by a majority.

3 **Quorum**

4 **Rule 16.** A majority of all members elected or appointed to
5 the senate shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to do
6 business. Less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a
7 quorum can be had. (See Art. 2, Sec. 8, State Constitution.)

8 **Order of Business**

9 **Rule 17.** After the roll is called and journal read and
10 approved, business shall be disposed of in the following order:

- 11 FIRST. Reports of standing committees and standing subcommittees.
12 SECOND. Reports of select committees.
13 THIRD. Messages from the governor and other state officers.
14 FOURTH. Messages from the house of representatives.
15 FIFTH. Introduction, first reading and reference of bills, joint memorials, joint resolutions and concurrent
16 resolutions.
17 SIXTH. Second reading of bills.
18 SEVENTH. Third reading of bills.
19 EIGHTH. Presentation of petitions, memorials and floor resolutions.
20 NINTH. Presentation of motions.

21 The order of business established by this rule may be
22 changed and any order of business already dealt with may be
23 reverted or advanced to by a majority vote of those present.

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

26 Messages from the governor, other state officers, and from
27 the house of representatives may be considered at any time with
28 the consent of the senate.

29 **Special Order**

30 **Rule 18.** The president shall call the senate to order at the
31 hour fixed for the consideration of a special order, and
32 announce that the special order is before the senate, which
33 shall then be considered unless it is postponed by a majority

1 vote of the members present, and any business before the senate
2 at the time of the announcement of the special order shall take
3 its regular position in the order of business, except that if a
4 cutoff established by concurrent resolution occurs during the
5 special order, the senate may complete the measure that was
6 before the senate when consideration of the special order was
7 commenced.

8 **Unfinished Business**

9 **Rule 19.** The unfinished business at the preceding
10 adjournment shall have preference over all other matters,
11 excepting special orders, and no motion or any other business
12 shall be received without special leave of the senate until the
13 former is disposed of.

14 **Motions and Senate Floor Resolutions**

15 **(How Presented)**

16 **Rule 20.** 1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until
17 announced by the president and every motion shall be deemed to
18 have been seconded. It shall be reduced to writing and read by
19 the secretary, if desired by the president or any senator,
20 before it shall be debated, and by the consent of the senate may
21 be withdrawn before amendment or action.

22 2. The senate shall consider no more than one floor
23 resolution per day in session: Provided, That this rule shall
24 not apply to floor resolutions essential to the operation of the
25 senate; and further Provided, That there shall be no limit on
26 the number of floor resolutions considered on senate pro forma
27 session days. Senate floor resolutions shall be acted upon in
28 the same manner as motions. All senate floor resolutions shall
29 be on the secretary's desk at least twenty-four hours prior to
30 consideration. Members' names shall be added to the resolution
31 only if the member signs the resolution, except by unanimous
32 consent of the senate. Members shall have until thirty minutes
33 after the senate is convened the following day the senate is in
34 a regular or pro forma session to add or remove their names to
35 the floor resolution. A motion may be made to close the period
36 for signatures at an earlier time.

1 **Precedence of Motions**

2 **Rule 21.** When a motion has been made and stated by the chair
3 the following motions are in order, in the rank named:

4 PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

5 Adjourn, recess, or go at ease

6 Reconsider

7 Demand for call of the senate

8 Demand for roll call

9 Demand for division

10 Question of privilege

11 Orders of the day

12 INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

13 Points of order and appeal

14 Method of consideration

15 Suspend the rules

16 Reading papers

17 Withdraw a motion

18 Division of a question

19 SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

20 1st Rank: To lay on the table

21 2nd Rank: For the previous question

22 3rd Rank: To postpone to a day certain

23 To commit or recommit

24 To postpone indefinitely

25 4th Rank: To amend

26 No motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to
27 postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed on
28 the same day and at the same stage of the proceedings, and when
29 a question has been postponed indefinitely it shall not again be
30 introduced during the session.

31 A motion to lay an amendment on the table shall not carry
32 the main question with it unless so specified in the motion to
33 table.

1 At no time shall the senate entertain a Question of
2 Consideration.

3 **Voting**

4 **Rule 22.** 1. In all cases of election by the senate, the
5 votes shall be taken by yeas and nays, and no senator or other
6 person shall remain by the secretary's desk while the roll is
7 being called or the votes are being counted. No senator shall be
8 allowed to vote except when within the bar of the senate, or
9 upon any question upon which he or she is in any way personally
10 or directly interested, nor be allowed to explain a vote or
11 discuss the question while the yeas and nays are being called,
12 nor change a vote after the result has been announced. (See also
13 Art. 2, Secs. 27 and 30, State Constitution.)

14 2. A member not voting by reason of personal or direct
15 interest, or by reason of an excused absence, may explain the
16 reason for not voting by a brief statement not to exceed fifty
17 words in the journal.

18 3. The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-
19 sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within the
20 bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous
21 vote of the members present, except as provided for in Senate
22 Rule 7, subsection 4, and the votes shall be entered upon the
23 journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

24 When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any
25 purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also
26 Senate Rule 24.)

27 4. A senator having been absent during roll call may ask to
28 have his or her name called. Such a request must be made before
29 the result of the roll call has been announced by the president.

30 5. The passage of a bill or action on a question is lost by
31 a tie vote, but when a vote of the senate is equally divided,
32 the lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding
33 vote on questions as provided for in the state Constitution.
34 (See also Art. 2, Secs. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

1 6. The order of the names on the roll call shall be
2 alphabetical by last name.

3 7. All votes in a committee or subcommittee shall be
4 recorded, and the record shall be preserved as prescribed by the
5 secretary of the senate. One-sixth of the committee may demand
6 an oral roll call.

7 8. If a member of the majority is going to be absent due to
8 a health matter or other emergency, then a member of the
9 minority may publicly announce on the floor of the senate that
10 he or she will cast votes as he or she believes the absent
11 member would have voted in order to avoid results that would
12 only occur because of the unanticipated absence.

13 **Announcement of Vote**

14 **Rule 23.** The announcement of all votes shall be made by the
15 president.

16 **Call of the Senate**

17 **Rule 24.** Although a roll call is in progress, a call of the
18 senate may be moved by three senators, and if carried by a
19 majority of all present the secretary shall call the roll, after
20 which the names of the absentees shall again be called. The
21 doors shall then be locked and the sergeant at arms directed to
22 take into custody all who may be absent without leave, and all
23 the senators so taken into custody shall be presented at the bar
24 of the senate for such action as the senate may deem proper.

25 **One Subject in a Bill**

26 **Rule 25.** No bill shall embrace more than one subject and
27 that shall be expressed in the title. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 19,
28 State Constitution.)

29 **No Amendment by Mere Reference to Title of Act**

30 **Rule 26.** No act shall ever be revised or amended by mere
31 reference to its title, but the act revised or the section
32 amended shall be set forth at full length. (See also Art. 2,
33 Sec. 37, State Constitution.)

34 **Reading of Papers**

1 **Rule 27.** When the reading of any paper is called for, and is
2 objected to by any senator, it shall be determined by a vote of
3 the senate, without debate.

4 Any and all copies of reproductions of newspaper or magazine
5 editorials, articles or cartoons or publications or material of
6 any nature distributed to senators' desks must bear the name of
7 at least one senator granting permission for the distribution.
8 This shall not apply to materials normally distributed by the
9 secretary of the senate or the majority or minority caucuses.

10 **Comparing Enrolled and Engrossed Bills**

11 **Rule 28.** Any senator shall have the right to compare an
12 enrolled bill with the engrossed bill and may note any
13 objections in the Journal.

14 **SECTION IV**

15 **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

16 **Rules of Debate**

17 **Rule 29.** When any senator is about to speak in debate, or
18 submit any matter to the senate, the senator shall rise, and
19 standing in place, respectfully request recognition by the
20 President, and when recognized shall, in a courteous manner,
21 speak to the question under debate, avoiding personalities;
22 provided that a senator may refer to another member using the
23 title "Senator" and the surname of the other member. No senator
24 shall impeach the motives of any other member or speak more than
25 twice (except for explanation) during the consideration of any
26 one question, on the same day or a second time without leave,
27 when others who have not spoken desire the floor, but incidental
28 and subsidiary questions arising during the debate shall not be
29 considered the same question. A majority of the members present
30 may further limit the number of times a member may speak on any
31 question and may limit the length of time a member may speak
32 but, unless a demand for the previous question has been
33 sustained, a member shall not be denied the right to speak at
34 least once on each question, nor shall a member be limited to
35 less than two minutes on each question. In any event, the

1 senator who presents the motion may open and close debate on the
2 question.

3 **Recognition by the President**

4 **Rule 30.** When two or more senators rise at the same time to
5 address the chair, the president shall name the one who shall
6 speak first, giving preference, when practicable, to the mover
7 or introducer of the subject under consideration. (See also
8 Reed's Rule 214).

9 **Call for Division of a Question**

10 **Rule 31.** Any senator may call for a division of a question,
11 which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that
12 one being taken away a substantive proposition shall remain for
13 the decision of the senate; but a motion to strike out and
14 insert shall not be divided.

15 **Point of Order - Decision Appealable**

16 **Rule 32.** 1. Every decision of points of order by the
17 president shall be subject to appeal by any senator, and
18 discussion of a question of order shall be allowed. In all cases
19 of appeal the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the
20 president stand as the judgment of the senate?"

21 2. When a member appeals the decision of the presiding
22 officer, the presiding officer may not preside over the appeal.

23 3. An appeal from the decision of the presiding officer is
24 timely if brought before the body on the day the decision was
25 made unless the decision affected a measure that is no longer in
26 possession of the senate.

27 **Question of Privilege**

28 **Rule 33.** Any senator may rise to a question of privilege and
29 explain a personal matter by leave of the president, but shall
30 not discuss any pending question in such explanations, nor shall
31 any question of personal privilege permit any senator to
32 introduce any person or persons in the galleries. The president
33 upon notice received may acknowledge the presence of any
34 distinguished person or persons.

1 A question of privilege shall involve only subject matter
2 which affects the particular senator personally and in a manner
3 unique and peculiar to that senator.

4 **Protests**

5 **Rule 34.** Any senator or senators may protest against the
6 action of the senate upon any question. Such protest may be
7 entered upon the journal if it does not exceed 200 words. The
8 senator protesting shall file the protest with the secretary of
9 the senate within 48 hours following the action protested.

10 **Adoption and Suspension of Rules**

11 **Rule 35.** 1. The permanent senate rules adopted at the first
12 regular session during a legislative biennium shall govern any
13 session subsequently convened during the same legislative
14 biennium. Adoption of permanent rules may be by majority of the
15 senate without notice and a majority of the senate may change a
16 permanent rule without notice at the beginning of any session,
17 as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12 of the State
18 Constitution. No permanent rule or order of the senate shall be
19 rescinded or changed without a majority vote of the members of
20 the senate, and one day's notice of the motion.

21 2. A permanent rule or order may be temporarily suspended
22 for a special purpose by a vote of two-thirds of the members
23 present unless otherwise specified herein. When the suspension
24 of a rule is called, and after due notice from the president no
25 objection is offered, the president may announce the rule
26 suspended, and the senate may proceed accordingly. Motion for
27 suspension of the rules shall not be debatable, except, the
28 mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the
29 motion and at the discretion of the president a rebuttal may be
30 allowed.

31 3. For the purposes of this rule, one day's notice means
32 written notice is provided to all members of the Senate by 5:00
33 p.m. the day prior to the amendment to the permanent rules being
34 offered and the notice must include, at a minimum, a description
35 of the change to be offered.

1 **Previous Question**

2 **Rule 36.** The previous question shall not be put unless
3 demanded by three senators, and it shall then be in this form:
4 "Shall the main question be now put?" When sustained by a
5 majority of senators present it shall preclude all debate,
6 except the senator who presents the motion may open and close
7 debate on the question and the vote shall be immediately taken
8 on the question or questions pending before the senate, and all
9 incidental question or questions of order arising after the
10 motion is made shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise
11 without debate.

12 **Reconsideration**

13 **Rule 37.** 1. After the final vote on any measure, before the
14 adjournment of that day's session, any member who voted with the
15 prevailing side may give notice of reconsideration unless a
16 motion to immediately transmit the measure to the house has been
17 decided in the affirmative. Such motion to reconsider shall be
18 in order only under the order of motions of the day immediately
19 following the day upon which such notice of reconsideration is
20 given, and may be made by any member who voted with the
21 prevailing side.

22 2. A motion to reconsider shall have precedence over every
23 other motion, except a motion to adjourn; and when the senate
24 adjourns while a motion to reconsider is pending or before
25 passing the order of motions, the right to move a
26 reconsideration shall continue to the next day of sitting. On
27 and after the tenth day prior to adjournment sine die of any
28 session, as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12, or
29 concurrent resolution, or in the event that the measure is
30 subject to a senate rule or resolution or a joint rule or
31 concurrent resolution, which would preclude consideration on the
32 next day of sitting a motion to reconsider shall only be in
33 order on the same day upon which notice of reconsideration is
34 given and may be made at any time that day. Motions to
35 reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending question may be
36 made and decided at once.

1 **Motion to Adjourn**

2 **Rule 38.** Except when under call of the senate, a motion to
3 adjourn shall always be in order. The name of the senator moving
4 to adjourn and the time when the motion was made shall be
5 entered upon the journal.

6 **Yeas and Nays - When Must be Taken**

7 **Rule 39.** The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by
8 one-sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within
9 the bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous
10 vote of the members present, and the votes shall be entered upon
11 the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

12 When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any
13 purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also
14 Senate Rules 22 and 24.)

15 **Reed's Parliamentary Rules**

16 **Rule 40.** The rules of parliamentary practice as contained in
17 Reed's Parliamentary Rules shall govern the senate in all cases
18 to which they are applicable, and in which they are not
19 inconsistent with the rules and orders of this senate and the
20 joint rules of this senate and the house of representatives.

21 **SECTION V**

22 **COMMITTEES**

23 **Committees - Appointment and Confirmation**

24 **Rule 41.** The president shall appoint all conference,
25 special, joint and standing committees and standing
26 subcommittees on the part of the senate. The appointment of the
27 conference, special, joint and standing committees and standing
28 subcommittees shall be confirmed by the senate.

29 In the event the senate shall refuse to confirm any
30 conference, special, joint or standing committee or standing
31 subcommittee, such committee or standing subcommittee shall be
32 elected by the senate.

33 The following standing committees shall constitute the
34 standing committees of the senate:

35 **Standing Committee**

Total Membership

1	(1. Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.	7
2	2. Early Learning & K-12 Education.	11
3	3. Environment, Energy, & Technology.	15
4	4. Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade.	7
5	5. Health & Long-Term Care.	11
6	6. Higher Education & Workforce Development.	5
7	7. Housing Stability & Affordability.	7
8	8. Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.	7
9	9. Labor & Commerce.	9
10	10. Law & Justice.	7
11	11. Local Government.	5
12	12. Rules.	16 (plus the Lieutenant Governor)
13	13. State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.	7
14	14. Transportation.	15
15	15. Ways & Means.	24)
16	<u>1. Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Park.</u>	<u>7</u>
17	<u>2. Business, Financial Services & Trade.</u>	<u>7</u>
18	<u>3. Early Learning & K-12 Education.</u>	<u>9</u>
19	<u>4. Environment, Energy, & Technology.</u>	<u>13</u>
20	<u>5. Health & Long-Term Care.</u>	<u>12</u>
21	<u>6. Higher Education & Workforce Development.</u>	<u>5</u>
22	<u>7. Housing & Local Government.</u>	<u>9</u>
23	<u>8. Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.</u>	<u>7</u>
24	<u>9. Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs.</u>	<u>9</u>
25	<u>10. Law & Justice.</u>	<u>9</u>
26	<u>11. Rules.</u>	<u>16 (plus the Lieutenant Governor)</u>
27	<u>12. State Government & Elections.</u>	<u>5</u>
28	<u>13. Transportation.</u>	<u>15</u>
29	<u>14. Ways & Means.</u>	<u>25</u>

30 The following constitutes a standing subcommittee of the
31 senate:

- 32 1. Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long-Term Care
- 33 5

34 **Subcommittees**

35 **Rule 42.** 1. A standing subcommittee has authority to hold
36 work sessions and public hearings and take executive action on
37 measures referred to it by the relevant standing committee. The

1 committee requirements in Senate Rules 44 through 49 apply
2 equally to standing subcommittees created under Senate Rule 41.

3 2. In addition to standing subcommittees created under
4 Senate Rule 41, committee chairs may create subcommittees of the
5 standing committee and designate subcommittee chairs thereof to
6 study subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing
7 committee. These subcommittees do not have executive action
8 authority and are not considered standing subcommittees for
9 purposes of senate rules. The committee chair shall approve the
10 use of committee staff and equipment assigned to the
11 subcommittee. Subcommittee activities shall further be subject
12 to facilities and operations committee approval to the same
13 extent as are the actions of the standing committee from which
14 they derive their authority.

15 **Subpoena Power**

16 **Rule 43.** Any of the above referenced committees, including
17 subcommittees thereof, or any special committees created by the
18 senate, may have the powers of subpoena, the power to administer
19 oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the examination of
20 witnesses in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44.16
21 RCW. The committee chair shall file with the committee on rules,
22 prior to issuance of any process, a statement of purpose setting
23 forth the name or names of those subject to process. The rules
24 committee shall consider every proposed issuance of process at a
25 meeting of the rules committee immediately following the filing
26 of the statement with the committee. The process shall not be
27 issued prior to consideration by the rules committee. The
28 process shall be limited to the named individuals and the
29 committee on rules may overrule the service on an individual so
30 named.

31 **Duties of Committees**

32 **Rule 44.** The several committees shall fully consider
33 measures referred to them.

34 The committees shall acquaint themselves with the interest
35 of the state specially represented by the committee, and from
36 time to time present such bills and reports as in their judgment

1 will advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people
2 of the state: PROVIDED, That no executive action on bills may be
3 taken during an interim.

4 **Committee Rules**

5 **Rule 45.** 1. At least five days' notice shall be given of all
6 public hearings held by any committee other than the rules
7 committee. Such notice shall contain the date, time and place of
8 such hearing together with the title and number of each bill, or
9 identification of the subject matter, to be considered at such
10 hearing. By a majority vote of the committee members present at
11 any committee meeting such notice may be dispensed with. The
12 reason for such action shall be set forth in a written statement
13 preserved in the records of the meeting.

14 2. No committee may hold a public hearing during a regular
15 or extraordinary session on a proposal identified as a draft
16 unless the draft has been made available to the public at least
17 twenty-four hours prior to the hearing. This rule does not apply
18 during the five days prior to any cutoff established by
19 concurrent resolution nor does it apply to any measure exempted
20 from the resolution.

21 3. During its consideration of or vote on any bill,
22 resolution or memorial, the deliberations of any committee or
23 subcommittee of the senate shall be open to the public. In case
24 of any disturbance or disorderly conduct at any such
25 deliberations, the chair shall order the sergeant at arms to
26 suppress the same and may order the meeting closed to any person
27 or persons creating such disturbance.

28 4. No committee shall amend a measure, adopt a substitute
29 bill, or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A
30 committee may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of
31 any committee shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be
32 considered to have a quorum present unless the question is
33 raised. Any question as to quorum not raised at the time of the
34 committee action is deemed waived.

35 5. Bills reported to the senate from a standing committee
36 must have a majority report, which shall be prepared upon a

1 printed standing committee report form; shall be adopted at a
2 regularly or specially called meeting during a legislative
3 session and shall be signed by a majority of the committee; and
4 shall carry only one of the following recommendations:

- 5 a. Do pass;
- 6 b. Do pass as amended;
- 7 c. That a substitute bill be substituted therefor, and the
8 substitute bill do pass; or
- 9 d. Without recommendation.

10 In addition to one of the above-listed recommendations, a
11 report may also recommend that a bill be referred to another
12 committee.

13 6. A majority report of a committee must carry the
14 signatures of a majority of the members of the committee. In the
15 event a committee has a quorum pursuant to subsection 4 of this
16 rule, subject to the limitation of subsection 12 of this rule, a
17 majority of the members present may act on a measure, subject to
18 obtaining the signatures of a majority of the members of the
19 committee on the majority report.

20 7. Any measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment
21 still within a committee's possession before it has been
22 reported out to the full senate may be reconsidered to correct
23 an error, change language, or otherwise accurately reflect the
24 will of the committee in its majority and minority reports to
25 the full senate. Any such reconsideration may be made at any
26 time, by any member of the committee, provided that the
27 committee has not yet reported the measure, appointment,
28 substitute bill, or amendment out to the full senate. Any such
29 reconsideration made after a vote has been taken or signatures
30 obtained will require a new vote and signature sheet. Any
31 measure which does not receive a majority vote of the members
32 present may be reconsidered at that meeting and may again be
33 considered upon motion of any committee member if one day's
34 notice of said motion is provided to all committee members. For
35 purposes of this rule, a committee is deemed to have reported a
36 measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out when it

1 has delivered its majority and minority reports to the senate
2 workroom. After such delivery, the committee no longer has
3 possession of the measure, appointment, substitute bill, or
4 amendment and no further committee action, including
5 reconsideration, may be taken.

6 8. Any member of the committee not concurring in the
7 majority report may sign a minority report containing a
8 recommendation of "do not pass" or "without recommendation,"
9 which shall be signed by those members of the committee
10 subscribing thereto, and submitted with the majority report.
11 Unless the signatory of a minority report expressly indicates a
12 "do not pass" recommendation, the member's vote shall be deemed
13 to be "without recommendation." In every case where a majority
14 report form is circulated for signature, a minority report form
15 shall also be circulated.

16 9. When a committee reports a substitute for an original
17 bill with the recommendation that the substitute bill do pass,
18 it shall be in order to read the substitute bill the first time
19 and have the same ordered printed.

20 A motion for the substitution of the substitute bill for the
21 original bill shall not be in order until the committee on rules
22 places the original bill on the second reading calendar.

23 10. No vote in any committee shall be taken by secret ballot
24 nor shall any committee have a policy of secrecy as to any vote
25 on action taken in such committee.

26 11. All reports of standing committees must be on the
27 secretary's desk one hour prior to convening of the session in
28 order to be read at said session. During any special session of
29 the legislature or within three days of sine die, this rule may
30 be suspended by a majority vote of those present.

31 12. When a standing committee is operated by cochairs, the
32 committee may not vote upon any measure or appointment without
33 the consent of each cochair.

34 13. When a standing committee has a standing subcommittee
35 established under Senate Rule 41, the chair of the committee may

1 rerefer any measures referred to the committee to the standing
2 subcommittee with the consent of the ranking member of the
3 committee or, in the event of a dispute between the chair and
4 ranking member, referral may occur with a majority vote of the
5 committee.

6 **Committee Meetings During Sessions**

7 **Rule 46.** No committee shall sit during the daily session of
8 the senate unless by special leave.

9 No committee shall sit during any scheduled caucus.

10 **Reading of Reports**

11 **Rule 47.** The majority report, and minority report, if there
12 be one, together with the names of the signers thereof, shall be
13 read by the secretary, unless the reading be dispensed with by
14 the senate, and all committee reports shall be spread upon the
15 journal.

16 **Recalling Bills from Committees**

17 **Rule 48.** Any standing committee or standing subcommittee of
18 the senate may be relieved of further consideration of any bill,
19 regardless of prior action of the committee, by a majority vote
20 of the senators elected or appointed. The senate may then make
21 such orderly disposition of the bill as they may direct by a
22 majority vote of the members of the senate.

23 **Bills Referred to Rules Committee**

24 **Rule 49.** All bills reported by a committee or subcommittee
25 to the senate shall then be referred to the committee on rules
26 for second reading without action on the report unless otherwise
27 ordered by the senate. (See also Senate Rules 63 and 64.) A bill
28 may not be referred to the committee on rules for second reading
29 unless a standing committee or subcommittee has held a public
30 hearing on the bill. By a majority vote of the committee members
31 present at any executive session, the public hearing requirement
32 may be dispensed with when the committee is considering a bill
33 whose companion has already been heard.

34 **Rules Committee**

1 **Rule 50.** The lieutenant governor shall be a voting member
2 and the chair of the committee on rules. The president pro
3 tempore shall be a voting member and the vice chair of the
4 committee on rules. The committee on rules shall have charge of
5 the daily second and third reading calendar of the senate and
6 shall direct the secretary of the senate the order in which the
7 bills shall be considered by the senate and the committee on
8 rules shall have the authority to directly refer any bill before
9 them to any other standing committee. Such referral shall be
10 reported out to the senate on the next day's business.

11 The order of consideration of bills on the second or third
12 reading calendar will be set by the floor leader of the majority
13 caucus. A majority of members present may vote to change the
14 order.

15 The calendar, except in emergent situations, as determined
16 by the committee on rules, shall be on the desks and in the
17 offices of the senators each day and shall cover the bills for
18 consideration on the next following day.

19 **Employment Committee**

20 **Rule 51.** The employment committee for committee staff shall
21 consist of six members, three from the majority party and three
22 from the minority party. The chair shall be appointed by the
23 majority leader. All decisions shall be determined by majority
24 vote. The committee shall operate within staffing, budget levels
25 and guidelines as authorized and adopted by the facilities and
26 operations committee.

27 **Committee of the Whole**

28 **Rule 52.** At no time shall the senate sit as a committee of
29 the whole.

30 The senate may at any time, by the vote of the majority of
31 the members present, sit as a body for the purpose of taking
32 testimony on any measure before the senate.

33 **Appropriation Budget Bills**

1 day before the convening of the session at which said bill,
2 joint resolution, or joint memorial is to be introduced.

3 Provided that a vote has not been taken on final passage of
4 a bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial, a member may add
5 his or her name as a cosponsor until 2:00 p.m. of the day of its
6 introduction. For any bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial
7 that has been prefiled for a regular session, a member has until
8 2:00 p.m. of the day following introduction to add his or her
9 name as a cosponsor.

10 To be considered during a regular session, a bill must be
11 introduced at least ten days before final adjournment of the
12 legislature, unless the legislature directs otherwise by a vote
13 of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said
14 vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal.
15 The time limitation for introduction of bills shall not apply to
16 substitute bills reported by standing committees for bills
17 pending before such committees and general appropriation and
18 revenue bills. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 36, State Constitution.)

19 **Amendatory Bills**

20 **Rule 57.** Bills introduced in the senate intended to amend
21 existing statutes shall have the words which are amendatory to
22 such existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from
23 the existing statutes shall be indicated by setting such matter
24 forth in full, enclosed by double parentheses, and such deleted
25 matter shall be lined out with hyphens. No bill shall be printed
26 or acted upon until the provisions of this rule shall have been
27 complied with.

28 Sections added by amendatory bill to an existing act, or
29 chapter of the official code, need not be underlined but shall
30 be designated "NEW SECTION" in upper case type and such
31 designation shall be underlined. New enactments need not be
32 underlined.

33 When statutes are being repealed, the Revised Code of
34 Washington section number to be repealed, the section caption
35 and the session law history, from the most current to the
36 original, shall be cited.

1 consideration of bills, as determined pursuant to Article 2,
2 Section 12 of the Constitution or concurrent resolution, or
3 during any special session of the legislature, this rule may be
4 suspended by a majority vote. (See also Senate Rules 59 and 64).

5 **First Reading**

6 **Rule 63.** The first reading of a bill shall be by title only,
7 unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in
8 full.

9 After the first reading, bills shall be referred to an
10 appropriate committee pursuant to Senate Rule 61.

11 Upon being reported back by committee, pursuant to Senate
12 Rule 49, all bills shall be referred to the committee on rules
13 for second reading, unless otherwise ordered by the senate.

14 A bill shall be reported back by the committee chair upon
15 written petition therefor signed by a majority of its members.
16 The petition shall designate the recommendation as provided in
17 Senate Rule 45, Sub. 5.

18 No committee chair shall exercise a pocket veto of any bill.

19 Should there be a two-thirds majority report of the
20 committee membership against the bill, a vote shall be
21 immediately ordered for the indefinite postponement of the bill.

22 **Second Reading/Amendments**

23 **Rule 64.** Upon second reading, the bill shall be read section
24 by section, in full, and be subject to amendment.

25 Any member may, if sustained by three members, remove a bill
26 from the consent calendar as constituted by the committee on
27 rules. A bill removed from the consent calendar shall take its
28 place as the last bill on the second reading calendar.

29 No amendment shall be considered by the senate until it
30 shall have been sent to the secretary's desk in writing and read
31 by the secretary.

32 All amendments adopted on the second reading shall then be
33 securely fastened to the original bill.

1 All amendments rejected by the senate shall be spread upon
2 the journal, and the journal shall show the disposition of all
3 amendments.

4 When no further amendments shall be offered, the president
5 shall declare the bill has passed its second reading, and shall
6 be referred to the committee on rules for third reading.

7 **Third Reading**

8 **Rule 65.** Bills on third reading shall be read in full by
9 sections, and no amendment shall be entertained.

10 When a bill shall pass, it shall be certified to by the
11 secretary, together with the vote upon final passage, noting the
12 day of its passage thereon.

13 The vote must be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the
14 senators voting for and against the same to be entered upon the
15 journal and the majority of the members elected to the senate
16 must be recorded thereon as voting in its favor to secure its
17 passage by the senate.

18 **Scope and Object of Bill Not to be Changed**

19 **Rule 66.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which
20 shall change the scope and object of the bill. (See also Art. 2,
21 Sec. 38, State Constitution.) Substitute bills shall be
22 considered amendments for the purposes of this rule. A point of
23 order raising the question of scope and object may be raised at
24 any time during consideration of an amendment prior to voting on
25 the amendment. A proposed amendment to an unamended title-only
26 bill shall be within the scope and object of the bill if the
27 subject of the amendment fits within the language in the title.

28 **Matters Related to Disagreement Between the Senate and House**

29 **Rule 67.** When there is a disagreement between the senate and
30 house on a measure before the senate, the senate may act upon
31 the measure with the following motions which have priority in
32 the following order:

33 To concur

34 To non-concur

- 1 To recede
- 2 To insist
- 3 To adhere

4 These motions are in order as to any single amendment or to
5 a series of amendments. (See Reed's Rules 247 through 254.)

6 A senate bill, passed by the house with amendment or
7 amendments which shall change the scope and object of the bill,
8 upon being received in the senate, shall be referred to an
9 appropriate committee and shall take the same course as for
10 original bills, unless a motion to ask the house to recede, to
11 insist or to adhere is made prior to the measure being referred
12 to committee.

13 **Bills Committed for Special Amendment**

14 **Rule 68.** A bill may be committed with or without special
15 instructions to amend at any time before taking the final vote.

16 **Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointees**

17 **Rule 69.** When the names of appointees to state offices are
18 transmitted to the secretary of the senate for senate
19 confirmation, the communication from the governor shall be
20 recorded and referred to the appropriate standing committee.

21 The standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate
22 Rule 42, shall require each appointee referred to the committee
23 for consideration to complete the standard questionnaire to be
24 used to ascertain the appointee's general background and
25 qualifications. The committee may also require the appointee to
26 complete a supplemental questionnaire related specifically to
27 the qualifications for the position to which he has been
28 appointed.

29 Any hearing on a gubernatorial appointment, held by the
30 standing committee, or subcommittees, pursuant to Senate Rule
31 42, shall be a public hearing. The appointee may be required to
32 appear before the committee on request. When appearing, the
33 appointee shall be required to testify under oath or
34 affirmation. The chair of the committee or the presiding member

1 shall administer the oath or affirmation in accordance with RCW
2 44.16. (See also Article 2, Sec. 6 of the State Constitution.)

3 Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prevent a
4 standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate Rule 42,
5 upon a two-thirds vote of its members, from holding executive
6 sessions when considering an appointment.

7 When the committee on rules presents the report of the
8 standing committee before the senate, the question shall be the
9 confirmation of the name proposed, and the roll shall then be
10 called and the yeas and nays entered upon the journal. In the
11 event a message is received from the governor requesting return
12 of an appointment or appointments to the office of the governor
13 prior to confirmation, the senate shall vote upon the governor's
14 request and the appointment or appointments shall be returned to
15 the governor if the request is approved by a majority of the
16 members elected or appointed. (Article 13 of the State
17 Constitution.)

18 **Emergency Resolution Authorized**

19 **Rule 70.** 1. If the Facilities and Operations Committee
20 determines through a majority vote that physically convening all
21 members and staff in a single location presents a danger to the
22 health or safety of the participants or is impractical because
23 of a publicly declared statewide emergency or catastrophic
24 incident under RCW 43.06.010, the senate shall adopt a
25 resolution establishing the rules and procedures governing any
26 special or regular legislative session.

27 2. For purposes of adopting the senate resolution required
28 by this rule, some or all members may vote using a remote access
29 program established by the Secretary of the Senate. The remote
30 access program must provide a mechanism approved by the
31 President of the Senate by which the President can verify a
32 member's remote presence. Members are considered in attendance
33 within the bar of the senate when using the remote access
34 program, including for purposes of establishing quorum. To the
35 extent practicable, a member participating remotely under this

1 rule has the same privileges, rights, and responsibilities under
2 the Senate Rules as if the member were physically present.

3 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
4 do hereby certify that this is a true and
5 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8600,
6 adopted by the Senate
7 January 11, 2021

8 BRAD HENDRICKSON
9 Secretary of the Senate