

James A. Dunnigan proposes the following substitute bill:

House Rules Modifications

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This rules resolution modifies House Rules.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- modifies the process by which a standing committee chair allows a response to motions;
- amends the definition of "nonbinding resolution";
- clarifies that reinstating a word or words does not count toward the word limit under a verbal amendment;
- allows legislation assigned to the consent calendar to be reassigned to the third reading calendar, under certain circumstances;
- modifies the prohibited references on the floor; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

HR3-2-313

HR3-2-314

HR3-2-405

HR3-2-406

HR4-4-301

HR4-6-105.5

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

Section 1. **HR3-2-313** is amended to read:

31 **HR3-2-313 . Chair to allow response to motions before placing motions for a vote.**

- 32 (1) After the chair accepts an original motion, and before the chair places the original
 33 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
 34 (a) the committee member who placed the original motion to speak to the original
 35 motion;
 36 (b) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the legislation
 37 that is affected by the original motion to respond to the original motion;
 38 [~~(b)~~] (c) committee members to debate the original motion;
 39 (d) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the original motion to
 40 respond to the debate; and
 41 [~~(e)~~] (e) the committee member who placed the original motion to have the final word on
 42 the motion.
- 43 (2) After a chair accepts a substitute motion, and before the chair places the substitute
 44 motion for a vote, the chair shall permit, in the following order:
 45 (a) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to speak to the substitute
 46 motion;
 47 (b) the committee member who placed the original motion to respond to the substitute
 48 motion;
 49 [~~(b)~~] (c) except as provided in Subsection (3), the [chief] legislative sponsor of the
 50 legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to respond to the substitute
 51 motion;
 52 [~~(e)~~] (d) committee members to debate the substitute motion;
 53 (e) the legislative sponsor of the legislation that is affected by the substitute motion to
 54 respond to the debate; and
 55 [~~(d)~~] (f) the committee member who placed the substitute motion to have the final word
 56 on the motion.
- 57 (3) For a motion or substitute motion to favorably recommend, permitting the legislative
 58 sponsor to respond under Subsection (1)(b) or (2)(c) is at the chair's discretion.

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

60 **HR3-2-314 . Chair to place motion for vote.**

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

64 Section 3. **HR3-2-405** is amended to read:

65 **HR3-2-405 . Consent calendar -- Nonbinding resolutions -- Committee**
 66 **recommendations.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

88 (b) immediately subsequent to that action, the committee approves a separate motion, by
 89 a unanimous vote of those present, to recommend that the legislation be placed on the
 90 consent calendar; and

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

93 Section 4. **HR3-2-406** is amended to read:

94 **HR3-2-406 . Amending legislation -- Verbal amendments -- Amendments must**
 95 **be germane.**

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

- 99 (b)(i) A committee member may propose a verbal amendment to the legislation under
100 consideration if the amendment contains 15 or fewer words.
- 101 (ii) Unless the amendment contains 15 or fewer words, before proposing a motion to
102 amend, a committee member shall ensure that a copy of the proposed amendment
103 is available online.
- 104 (iii) Each word inserted shall count as one of the 15 words permitted under a verbal
105 amendment, except that:
- 106 (A) numbering shall not be counted as a word;
- 107 (B) [~~instructions to delete-~~] deleting or reinstating a word or words shall not count
108 as a word; and
- 109 (C) a word or an exact phrase that is inserted in multiple locations shall only be
110 counted for the first insertion.
- 111 (2)(a) A committee member may only make a motion to amend that is germane to the
112 subject of the legislation under consideration.
- 113 (b) A committee member who believes that an amendment is not germane to the subject
114 of the legislation may make a point of order or appeal as described in [~~HR3-2-506~~]
115 HR3-2-507.
- 116 (3)(a) A committee member may not propose an amendment to legislation that:
- 117 (i) adds or removes an entire section from the legislation; or
- 118 (ii) modifies the legislation's effective date.
- 119 (b) To change legislation as described in Subsection (3)(a), a committee member may,
120 subject to HR3-2-407, make a motion to substitute the legislation.
- 121 Section 5. **HR4-4-301** is amended to read:
- 122 **HR4-4-301 . Consent calendar.**
- 123 (1) The presiding officer shall place legislation on the consent calendar if:
- 124 (a) a standing committee report recommends that the legislation be placed on the
125 consent calendar and the standing committee report is adopted by the House; or
- 126 (b) the legislation is a nonbinding resolution as provided in HR3-2-405.
- 127 (2) If the chief clerk receives written objections to [~~a piece of~~] legislation from six or more
128 representatives, the chief clerk shall:
- 129 (a) remove the legislation from the consent calendar;
- 130 (b) inform the sponsor that the legislation has been removed from the consent calendar;
131 and
- 132 (c) place the legislation at the bottom of the third reading calendar.

133 (3) Legislation that has been assigned to the consent calendar may be reassigned to the third
 134 reading calendar by ~~H~~ → [:]

135 [~~a~~] ~~the presiding officer; or~~

136 [~~b~~] ← ~~H~~ the House by majority vote upon motion from the floor.

137 [~~3~~] (4) When legislation is removed from the consent calendar under this rule, the
 138 presiding officer shall inform the House of its removal.

139 [~~4~~] (5)(a) If, after two calendar days, no more than five members have registered
 140 written objections to the legislation with the chief clerk:

141 (i) the legislation shall be read the third time;

142 (ii) the presiding officer shall grant the sponsor of the legislation two minutes to
 143 introduce and explain the legislation; and

144 (iii) the presiding officer shall pose the question and take the final vote on the
 145 legislation.

146 (b) The presiding officer may not allow debate on legislation on the consent calendar.

147 [~~5~~] (6)(a) If the representative sponsoring the legislation on the consent calendar is
 148 absent from the floor when the legislation is ready to be read for the third time and
 149 considered for passage, a representative may make a motion to circle the legislation.

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

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

154 **HR4-6-105.5 . Prohibited references on the floor.**

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

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

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

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

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

166 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), when raising a matter of personal

167 privilege on the House floor, a representative may not:
168 (i) use a display, exhibit, demonstration, or prop to illustrate the representative's
169 remarks or to emphasize the representative's position; or
170 (ii) read from a written, prepared speech.
171 (b) A representative may engage in an act prohibited under Subsection (3)(a) if the
172 representative receives permission from the presiding officer immediately after
173 raising the matter of personal privilege.
174 [~~3~~] (4) Nothing in this rule affects a representative's ability to seek approval in accordance
175 with [~~HR1-4-302(14)~~] HR1-4-302(13) to have material placed on the representatives'
176 desks.
177 Section 7. **Effective Date.**
178 This resolution takes effect upon a successful vote for final passage.