

Proposed House Rules change: Two parts: 1) Keep the 12 hour rule until adjournment of session. 2) Make it mandatory that the House Chair of a conference committee call a public hearing when they have the gavel.

House Rule 6.40 REPORTS OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES. (a) A conference committee may report at any time and may meet during a daily session of the House without leave. A conference committee report must be electronically available or printed.

(b) A conference committee report must include only subject matter contained in the House or Senate versions of the bill for which that conference committee was appointed, or like subject matter contained in a bill passed by the House or Senate. The member presenting the conference committee report to the House must disclose all substantive changes from the House version of the bill.

(c) The House Chair of a conference committee who hold the gavel must call a public hearing of the conference committee, with the exception of Sundays and holidays.

(d) A written or electronic copy of a report of a Conference Committee shall be placed on the desk of each member of the House, or delivered electronically, twelve hours before action on the report by the House. This paragraph may be waived by a majority vote of all members.

Proposed Joint Rules change: Keep the 12 hour rule until adjournment of session.

Joint Rule 2.06 In all cases of disagreement between the Senate and House on amendments adopted by either house to a bill, memorial or resolution passed by the other house, a Conference Committee consisting of not less than three members nor more than five members from each house may be requested by either house. The other house shall appoint a similar committee.

The manner of procedure shall be as follows: The house of origin passes a bill and transmits it to the other body. If the other body adopts an amendment to the bill and passes it as amended, it shall return the bill with a record of its actions to the house of origin. If the house of origin refuses to concur in the amendment, it shall ask for a Conference Committee, appoint such a committee on its part, and transmit the bill with a record of its action to the other house. If the other house adheres to its amendment, it shall appoint a like committee and return the bill to the house of origin.

All Conference Committees shall be open to the public. As much as practical, meetings of Conference Committees shall be announced as far in advance as possible, with the intent to provide a 24-hour notice, and actions taken shall be agreed upon in an open meeting. At an agreed upon hour the Conference Committee shall meet. The members from each house shall state to the members from the other house, orally or in writing, the reason for their respective positions. The members shall confer thereon. A conference committee may not meet between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m., except that a committee may extend a meeting for up to one hour past midnight by a vote of two-thirds of the members appointed to the committee by each house. The chair shall rotate between the Senate and the House of Representatives at least every calendar day, Sundays and holidays excepted. The conferees shall report to their respective houses the agreement they have reached, or, if none, the fact of a disagreement.

If an agreement is reported, the house of origin shall act first upon the report. A Conference Committee report must be limited to provisions that are germane to the bill and amendments that were referred to the Conference Committee. A provision is not germane if it relates to a substantially different subject or is intended to accomplish a substantially different purpose from that of the bill and amendment that were referred to the Conference Committee.

A Conference Committee report may not appropriate a larger sum of money than the larger of the bill or the amendments that were referred to the Conference Committee unless the additional appropriation is authorized by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate.

A Conference Committee report may not delegate rulemaking to a department or agency of state government or exempt a department or agency of state government from rulemaking unless the delegation or exemption was included in either the bill or the amendment that was referred to the Conference Committee.

A Conference Committee report may not create a new commission, council, task force, board, or other body to which a member of the legislature may be appointed unless the body was created in either the bill or the amendment that was referred to the Conference Committee.

If the report is adopted and repassed as amended by the Conference Committee by the house of origin, the report, the bill and a record of its action shall be transmitted to the other house.

~~Except after the last Thursday on which the Legislature can meet in regular session in odd-numbered years, and after the last Thursday on which the Legislature intended, when it adopted the concurrent resolution required by Rule 2.03, to meet in regular session in even-numbered years, a~~ A written or electronic copy of a report of a Conference Committee shall be placed on the desk of each member of a house, or delivered electronically, twelve hours before action on the report by that house. If the report has been reprinted in the Journal of either house for a preceding day and is available to the members, the Journal copy shall serve as the written report.

Proposed Joint Rules change: Make holding hearings when you have the gavel during conference committees mandatory.

Rule change notes: The requirement of a daily meeting is drafted to exclude weekends, but that could be removed.

Joint Rule 2.06 In all cases of disagreement between the Senate and House on amendments adopted by either house to a bill, memorial or resolution passed by the other house, a Conference Committee consisting of not less than three members nor more than five members from each house may be requested by either house. The other house shall appoint a similar committee.

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If an agreement is reported, the house of origin shall act first upon the report. A Conference Committee report must be limited to provisions that are germane to the bill and amendments that were referred to the Conference Committee. A provision is not germane if it relates to a substantially different subject or is intended to accomplish a substantially different purpose from that of the bill and amendment that were referred to the Conference Committee.

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A Conference Committee report may not create a new commission, council, task force, board, or other body to which a member of the legislature may be appointed unless the body was created in either the bill or the amendment that was referred to the Conference Committee.

If the report is adopted and repassed as amended by the Conference Committee by the house of origin, the report, the bill and a record of its action shall be transmitted to the other house.

Except after the last Thursday on which the Legislature can meet in regular session in odd-numbered years, and after the last Thursday on which the Legislature intended, when it adopted the concurrent resolution required by Rule 2.03, to meet in regular session in even-numbered years, a written or electronic copy of a report of a Conference Committee shall be placed on the desk of each member of a house, or delivered electronically, twelve hours before action on the report by that house. If the report has been reprinted in the Journal of either house for a preceding day and is available to the members, the Journal copy shall serve as the written report.

The member presenting the Conference Committee report to the body shall disclose, either in writing or orally, the substantial changes from the bill or the amendment as they were last before the body.

Proposed House Rules change: Shorten the amount of time between the state general fund revenue and expenditure forecast and the passage of the budget resolution.

4.03 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE; BUDGET RESOLUTION; EFFECT ON EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE BILLS. (a) The Committee on Ways and Means must hold hearings as necessary to determine state expenditures and revenues for the fiscal biennium.

(b) Within ~~25 days~~ 14 calendar days after the last state general fund revenue and expenditure forecast for the next fiscal biennium becomes available during the regular session in the odd-numbered year, the Committee on Ways and Means must adopt a budget resolution. The budget resolution: (1) must set the maximum limit on net expenditures for the next fiscal biennium for the general fund, (2) must set an amount or amounts to be set aside as a budget reserve and a cash flow account, (3) must set net spending limits for each budget category represented by the major finance and revenue bills identified in paragraph (e), and (4) may set limits for expenditures from funds other than the general fund. The budget resolution must not specify, limit, or prescribe revenues or expenditures by any category other than those specified in clauses (1), (2), (3), and (4). After the Committee adopts the budget resolution, the limits in the resolution are effective during the regular session in the year in which the resolution is adopted, unless a different or amended resolution is adopted.

(c) During the regular session in the even-numbered year, before the Committee on Ways and Means reports a bill containing net increases or decreases in expenditures as compared to general fund expenditures in the current fiscal biennium estimated by the most recent state budget forecast, the Committee may adopt a budget resolution. If adopted, the resolution must account for the net changes in expenditures. The resolution may also (1) set limits for changes in net expenditures for each budget category represented by the major finance and revenue bills identified in paragraph (e), and (2) set limits for expenditures from funds other than the general fund.

If the Committee adopts a budget resolution, it is effective during the regular session that year, unless a different or amended resolution is adopted.

(d) The major finance or revenue bills may be combined or separated by a majority vote of either the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration. Combined or separated bills must conform to the limits in the resolution as those limits apply to the accounts in those bills.

(e) Major finance and revenue bills are:

the agriculture and food finance bill;

the capital investment finance bill;

the education finance bill;

the energy and climate finance bill;

the environment and natural resources bill;

the greater Minnesota jobs and economic development finance bill;

the health and human services finance bill;

the higher education finance bill;

the housing finance bill;

the jobs and economic development finance bill;

the judiciary finance bill;

the legacy finance bill;

the public safety and criminal justice reform finance bill;

the state government finance bill;

the tax bill; and

the transportation finance bill; and

the veterans and military finance bill.

(f) After the adoption of a resolution by the Committee on Ways and Means, each finance committee, and the Committee on Taxes must reconcile each bill described in Rule 4.10 with the resolution. When reporting a finance or revenue bill, each committee or division must provide to the Committee on Ways and Means a fiscal statement reconciling the bill with the resolution.

(g) After the adoption of a resolution by the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Ways and Means must reconcile finance and revenue bills with the resolution. When reporting a bill, the chair of the Committee must certify to the House that the Committee has reconciled the bill with the resolution.

(h) After the adoption of a resolution by the Committee on Ways and Means, an amendment to a bill is out of order if it would cause any of the limits specified in the resolution to be exceeded. Whether an amendment is out of order under this Rule is a question to be decided on the Floor by the Speaker or other presiding officer and in Committee or Division by the person chairing the Committee or Division meeting. In making the determination, the Speaker or other presiding officer or the Committee or Division chair may consider: (1) the limits in a resolution; (2) the effect of existing laws on revenues and expenditures; (3) the effect of amendments previously adopted to the bill under consideration; (4) the effect of bills previously recommended by a Committee or Division or bills previously passed in the legislative session by the House or by the legislature; (5) whether expenditure increases or revenue decreases that would result from the amendment are offset by decreases in other expenditures or increases in other revenue specified by the amendment; and (6) other information reasonably related to expenditure and revenue amounts.

(i) After a resolution is adopted by the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee must make available a summary of the estimated fiscal effect on the general fund of each bill that has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by a finance committee or a division of a finance committee, or the Committee on Taxes and of each bill that has been reported by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Proposed House Rules change: Separate policy from finance bills

House Rule 4.015 Policy Removed From Major Finance and Revenue Bills.

A major finance or revenue bill as defined under Rule 4.03 (e) must not include policy language that is not directly related to a fiscal decision made in the bill, or that has no fiscal impact or a negligible impact, as defined under Rule 4.10. The Chair of the Committee on Ways & Means shall prepare an amendment removing all such policy prior to referring these bills to the General Register.

Proposed Joint Rules change: Separate policy from finance bills

Joint Rule 2.015. Content Restrictions.

A major finance or revenue bill must not contain any policy provision that is not directly related to a fiscal decision made in the bill, or that has no fiscal impact or a negligible fiscal impact. Conference Committees appointed pursuant to Joint Rule 2.06 shall not consider and may not include policy provisions prohibited under this Rule.