

By: Representative White

To: Committee of the Whole

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEMPORARY RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
4 OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following Rules of the House of
5 Representatives, are adopted as the Temporary Rules of the House:

6 HOUSE RULES

7 THE SPEAKER AND SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

8 1. The Speaker, when elected, shall hold office for a term
9 of four (4) years, or until the next regular session of the
10 Legislature following an election for Governor and members of the
11 Legislature, and shall take the chair on every legislative day
12 precisely at the hour to which the House has adjourned at the last
13 sitting, immediately call the members to order, cause the roll to
14 be called finally, and, on the appearance of a quorum, cause the
15 Journal of the proceedings of the last day's sitting to be read.

16 2. He shall preserve order and decorum, and, in case of
17 disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or in the
18 lobby, may cause the same to be cleared, may speak to points of



19 order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for
20 that purpose.

21 3. He shall have general control, except as provided by rule
22 or law, of the Hall of the House, and of the corridors and
23 passages and the disposal of the unappropriated rooms in that part
24 of the Capitol assigned to the use of the House, until further
25 order.

26 4. He shall sign all acts, addresses, joint resolutions,
27 writs, warrants and subpoenas of, or issued by order of, the
28 House, and decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by
29 any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once
30 unless by permission of the House. The Speaker may require points
31 of order in writing and may take reasonable time to examine and
32 study same before ruling thereon, during which period
33 consideration of that particular subject matter may be suspended
34 without prejudice and the House proceed to the next order of
35 business.

36 5. He shall rise to put a question and shall put questions
37 in this form: "All those in favor (of the question), say 'Aye'";
38 and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "All those opposed,
39 say 'No'"; if he doubts, or if a count is required by at least
40 one-tenth (1/10) of the members present, he shall call the roll in
41 the manner prescribed in Rule 69 or take the vote using the
42 electronic roll-call system in Rule 97.



43 6. He shall not be required to vote in ordinary legislative
44 proceedings, except where his vote would be decisive, or where the
45 House is engaged in voting by ballot; and in cases of a tie vote
46 for, question shall be decided in the negative.

47 7. He shall have the right to name any member to perform the
48 duties of the chair when the Speaker Pro Tempore shall be unable
49 to do so, but such substitution shall not extend beyond one (1)
50 legislative day; provided, however, that in the case of illness or
51 unavoidable absence of both the Speaker and the Speaker Pro
52 Tempore, he may make such appointment for a period not exceeding
53 five (5) days, with the approval of the House at the time the same
54 is made.

55 8. Upon the death of a member of the House, the Speaker or
56 any member of the House designated by him shall incur such
57 expenses as may be necessary for the purchase on behalf of the
58 House a State Flag for use in connection with the funeral and
59 burial of said member, which flag shall be presented to the family
60 of said member.

61 9. No member or visitor shall visit in the Speaker's stand
62 during the session of the House, except at the instance of the
63 Speaker. The Speaker may call a member to preside when necessary
64 or desirable to confer with a member or visitor.

65 10. All committees, except the Rules Committee and the
66 Management Committee, shall be appointed by the Speaker unless
67 otherwise specially directed by the House.



68 10A. (1) There is created in the House of Representatives
69 the Office of Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of
70 Representatives (hereinafter Speaker Pro Tempore).

71 (2) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected on the
72 same day and in the same manner and method as may be designated
73 for the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

74 (3) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve a term of four
75 (4) years, which term as Speaker Pro Tempore shall expire
76 concurrently with the term being served by the Speaker Pro Tempore
77 as a member of the House of Representatives. There is no limit on
78 the number of times that a member may serve as Speaker Pro
79 Tempore.

80 (4) Any vacancy in the Office of Speaker Pro Tempore
81 occurring during a regular or special legislative session shall be
82 filled by election of the House of Representatives within five (5)
83 calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring
84 during an interim between legislative sessions shall be filled
85 within the first five (5) calendar days of the next succeeding
86 regular or special session. The person so elected shall serve
87 only the remainder of the unexpired term.

88 (5) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall have the following
89 powers, duties and responsibilities:

90 (a) To serve as Speaker of the House of
91 Representatives during the absence, illness or disability of the
92 Speaker, thereby assuming all powers, duties, responsibilities and



93 privileges conferred upon the Speaker by the Constitution,
94 statute, law or rule;

95 (b) To become Speaker of the House of
96 Representatives in the event of the death or resignation of the
97 Speaker, thereby assuming all powers, duties, responsibilities and
98 privileges conferred upon the Speaker by the Constitution,
99 statute, law or rule. He or she shall serve as Speaker until the
100 beginning of the next succeeding regular legislative session, at
101 which time an election for Speaker shall be held under the same
102 terms and conditions as a regular Speaker's election, except that
103 the person elected as Speaker shall hold the office only for the
104 remainder of the term. If the Speaker Pro Tempore becomes the
105 Speaker of the House, a new Speaker Pro Tempore shall be elected;

106 (c) To preside over the House of Representatives
107 when the Speaker is not presiding and to preside over the House
108 when sitting as the Committee of the Whole unless the Speaker Pro
109 Tempore moved that the House go into the Committee of the Whole;

110 (d) To serve as the Chairman of the House
111 Management Committee, having full powers of discussion,
112 participation and voting;

113 (e) To serve as a member of the Rules Committee,
114 having full powers of discussion, participation and voting;

115 (f) To consult with the Speaker in resolving
116 points of order or other parliamentary matters; and



117 (g) Such other powers, duties and responsibilities
118 as may be conferred upon the Speaker Pro Tempore by law or
119 legislative rule.

120 RULES COMMITTEE

121 11. The Rules Committee shall be composed of the Speaker,
122 the Speaker Pro Tempore, one (1) member from the state at large
123 appointed by the Speaker, and eight (8) other members, two (2)
124 from each congressional district as constituted on January
125 1, * * * 2024, to be selected by the members from their respective
126 congressional districts by caucus. The place of residence of a
127 member representing such district shall determine the
128 congressional district caucus in which he or she shall participate
129 and for which he or she may hold membership on the Rules
130 Committee. The Speaker shall appoint the chairman and the vice
131 chairman from among the members of the Rules Committee, but
132 neither the Speaker nor the Speaker Pro Tempore shall be eligible
133 to serve as chairman or vice chairman of the Rules Committee.

134 The members of the Rules Committee shall be elected during
135 the first calendar week of each regular session having one hundred
136 twenty-five (125) calendar days. Members shall serve a term of
137 four (4) years, and each member's term shall end on the date on
138 which the member's term in the House of Representatives expires.

139 Any vacancy of a congressional district position occurring
140 during a regular annual legislative session shall be filled by
141 election of the appropriate caucus within ten (10) calendar days



142 after the vacancy occurs. Any such vacancy occurring between
143 regular annual sessions shall be filled by caucus election during
144 the first five (5) calendar days of the next succeeding regular or
145 special session of the Legislature.

146 No member of the Rules Committee shall concurrently serve as
147 a member of the House Management Committee, except that the
148 Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve on the Management
149 Committee as provided in Rule 11A.

150 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

151 11A. (1) There is created the House of Representatives
152 Management Committee (hereinafter Management Committee) to be
153 composed of the Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall serve as chairman,
154 the Speaker, one (1) member from the state at large appointed by
155 the Speaker, and eight (8) other representatives, two (2) from
156 each congressional district of Mississippi as constituted on
157 January 1, * * * 2024, to be elected by caucus of the
158 representatives from each such district. The place of residence
159 of a representative shall determine the congressional district
160 caucus in which the representative shall participate and from
161 which the representative may hold membership on the Management
162 Committee. The members of the Management Committee shall select,
163 from among its members, a vice chairman and secretary.

164 The members of the Management Committee shall be elected
165 during the first calendar week of each regular session having one
166 hundred twenty-five (125) calendar days. Members shall serve a



167 term of four (4) years, and each member's term shall end on the
168 date on which the member's term in the House of Representatives
169 expires.

170 (2) No member of the Management Committee shall serve
171 concurrently as a member of the House Rules Committee, except that
172 the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve on the Rules
173 Committee as provided in Rule 11.

174 (3) Any vacancy of a congressional district position
175 occurring during a regular annual legislative session shall be
176 filled by election by the appropriate caucus within ten (10)
177 calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring
178 between regular annual legislative sessions shall be filled by
179 election by the appropriate caucus during the first five (5)
180 calendar days of the next succeeding regular or special session of
181 the Legislature.

182 (4) The Management Committee shall meet at such times
183 as are necessary for the proper exercise of its functions, and
184 shall have the authority to adopt policies, rules and regulations,
185 not inconsistent with these rules, as it deems necessary for the
186 efficient operation of the committee.

187 (5) Action by a majority vote of the Management
188 Committee shall control and be conclusive on any matter properly
189 concerning the House of Representatives.

190 (6) The committee shall function on a year-round basis
191 and when the Legislature is not in session, members of the



192 committee shall be compensated as provided in Section 25-3-69,
193 Mississippi Code of 1972, for each day spent in actual discharge
194 of their duties and shall be reimbursed for mileage and actual
195 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. No
196 committee member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses
197 unless authorized by vote at a meeting of the committee, which
198 action shall be recorded in the official minutes of the committee.

199 (7) The Management Committee, in addition to its other
200 responsibilities, shall perform the following duties:

201 (a) Conduct the business affairs of the House of
202 Representatives;

203 (b) Investigate the feasibility of new and
204 additional staff agencies and make recommendations to the House of
205 Representatives;

206 (c) Assign such space in the Capitol or in such
207 other buildings or parts thereof as may be reserved for the House
208 of Representatives and have complete control, authority and
209 jurisdiction over such rooms, chambers, offices and other areas.
210 Any assignment of space shall be subject to change by the
211 Management Committee. No other branch of the government, or a
212 department or agency thereof, shall use any room, chamber, office
213 or other area without specific written authorization from the
214 Management Committee. The Management Committee is authorized to
215 delegate its powers with regard to any such room, chamber, office
216 or other area in connection with the maintenance, repairing,



217 construction, reconstruction and refurbishing thereof in such a
218 manner as it deems advisable;

219 (d) Staff interim committees;

220 (e) Staff standing committees; and

221 (f) Continually assess ways and means to improve
222 the organization, procedures, facilities and working conditions of
223 the House of Representatives.

224 (8) The Management Committee shall have the authority
225 to designate a director, who may also serve as the Clerk or as the
226 Director of the House Legislative Services Office, and who shall
227 carry out the directives of the Management Committee and shall
228 perform any and all duties of the Management Committee delegated
229 to him or her. The Management Committee may employ other
230 personnel as may be necessary to discharge its duties and
231 responsibilities. All such personnel shall serve at the pleasure
232 of the Management Committee.

233 The Management Committee shall also have the authority to fix
234 the salaries of all personnel employed by the House of
235 Representatives.

236 All employees of the House of Representatives required to
237 travel in the performance of official duties shall be reimbursed
238 for actual subsistence and travel expenses incurred by them while
239 on official business as provided by law, provided such travel has
240 prior approval of the Management Committee or the director under



241 such authority as may be granted to him or her by the Management
242 Committee.

243 (9) In providing for the staffing of the committees,
244 the Management Committee shall have the responsibility for
245 determining the necessity of any staff positions requested by the
246 chairman of any committee. The persons to be employed for the
247 positions that are approved by the Management Committee shall be
248 hired by the committee with approval of the Speaker. At beginning
249 of each term, the Management Committee shall authorize a certain
250 amount to be expended during each year of the term for the
251 operation of the Speaker's Office.

252 (10) The Management Committee, upon request of the
253 chairman of any standing committee of the House of
254 Representatives, may authorize expenses, to include per diem,
255 mileage, meals and lodging, to be paid for members attending the
256 meeting of any standing committee or subcommittees thereof during
257 the period in which the Legislature is not in session, which shall
258 not exceed the compensation provided for members of the Management
259 Committee provided for in subsection (6) of this rule. The
260 Management Committee shall adopt rules and regulations concerning
261 time, places and number of meetings that may be held for which
262 members will be compensated, such rules and regulations to require
263 prior approval of meetings in order for members to be compensated.



264 (11) The Management Committee shall have general
265 administrative powers and the responsibility for the proper
266 operation of the House Legislative Services Office.

267 (a) The director, subject to approval of the
268 Management Committee, shall employ full-time professional,
269 technical, clerical and stenographic assistance as may be
270 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

271 (b) The House Legislative Services Office shall
272 assist the House of Representatives, its committees, commissions
273 and individual members of the House of Representatives as follows
274 in:

275 (i) Bill research;
276 (ii) Bill drafting;
277 (iii) Bill analysis;
278 (iv) Preparation and writing of standing and
279 interim committee reports; and

280 (v) Such other duties as prescribed by the
281 Management Committee.

282 (c) The House Legislative Services Office must be
283 authorized, in writing, by a House member to prepare a draft
284 before it undertakes the preparation thereof.

285 (d) No employee of the House Legislative Services
286 Office shall:

287 (i) Reveal to any person outside his or her
288 office the contents or nature of any request for services made by



289 any member of the House except with the written consent of the
290 person making such request;

291 (ii) Urge, oppose or attempt to influence any
292 legislation;

293 (iii) Give legal advice on any subject to any
294 person, firm or corporation, except members of the House; nor

295 (iv) During his or her employment be
296 associated or interested in the private practice of law in any
297 matter without prior approval of the Management Committee.

298 A violation of any provision of this section by an employee
299 shall be sufficient cause for his or her immediate dismissal.
300 However, this paragraph shall not be a limitation on the authority
301 of the Management Committee to dismiss or change its employees.

302 (12) No employee of the House shall reveal to any
303 person outside his or her department the contents or nature of any
304 request for services made by any member of the House except with
305 the written consent of the person making such request. A
306 violation of this subsection by an employee shall be sufficient
307 cause for his or her immediate dismissal.

308 (13) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of
309 this rule shall be paid from the funds appropriated to the House
310 of Representatives Contingent Fund made by the Legislature for the
311 purposes herein set out.

312 (14) At such time as there may be designated or created
313 in the Senate of the State of Mississippi a committee with like



314 duties and responsibilities of the House Management Committee, the
315 House Management Committee is authorized to meet jointly with such
316 corresponding Senate committee in order to more effectively carry
317 out the provisions of this rule.

318 DUTIES OF THE CLERK

319 12. When a bill has passed, it shall be certified by the
320 Clerk, who shall note thereon the day it passes.

321 13. He shall stand while reading papers to the House, he
322 shall attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of
323 the House.

324 14. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall keep a
325 correct Journal of the proceedings of the House, and, on each day,
326 shall read over the Journal of the preceding day to the House. He
327 shall number, file and preserve in its proper order, each bill,
328 resolution, memorial, or other paper introduced in the House, and
329 carefully engross and enroll all bills, resolutions, memorials and
330 other papers that may be ordered to be engrossed or enrolled; and
331 shall promptly and faithfully discharge all the duties incident to
332 the House, provide for control of employees of the House under
333 Speaker, provide for pay of members, employees, and control pages
334 and porters. (Statutory)

335 15. Pages shall be appointed to serve for one (1) week at a
336 time each, under the control and direction of the Clerk of the
337 House. Only persons over the age of thirteen (13) years shall be
338 eligible to serve as pages.



339 16. The Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives
340 shall have general supervision, under the direction of the Speaker
341 of the House, in maintaining the decorum and security of the
342 House. He shall attend the sittings of the House, preserve order,
343 execute its commands and all processes issued by its authority or
344 by a House committee's authority, and have control of the
345 assistants to the Sergeant at Arms. He shall clear the House of
346 all visitors one (1) hour before each session convenes and not
347 allow visitors on the Floor of the House for ten (10) minutes
348 after a session has recessed or adjourned. He shall see that the
349 Hall of the House and the Committee Rooms and the Room of the
350 Speaker of the House, the anterooms, lobbies and galleries thereof
351 are secure during the sitting of the House, and that all necessary
352 conveniences are supplied to the members, officers and committees.

353 17. Each assistant to the Sergeant at Arms of the House of
354 Representatives shall be known as an Assistant Sergeant at Arms,
355 and shall perform such duties as may be required of him by the
356 Sergeant at Arms.

357 DECORUM AND DEBATE

358 18. When any member desires to speak, to make a motion, or
359 deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise at his desk and
360 respectfully address himself to "Mr. Speaker" and, on being
361 recognized, may address the House from any place on the floor and
362 shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid
363 personalities.



364 18A. Whenever a member is on the floor of the House while
365 the House is in session, each male member of the House shall wear
366 a coat and necktie, except when seated, and each female member of
367 the House shall wear appropriate attire. No visitor or guest on
368 the House floor shall be required to comply with this rule.

369 18B. Smoking shall not be permitted in any areas of the
370 Capitol that are assigned to the House of Representatives and
371 under the jurisdiction of the House Management Committee. As used
372 in this rule, "smoking" means to inhale, exhale, burn, carry or
373 otherwise possess any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other
374 object or device of any form that contains lighted tobacco or any
375 other smoking product. The Sergeant at Arms shall enforce the
376 provisions of this rule.

377 18C. The regular floor proceedings of the House shall be
378 telecast by high-speed wireless Internet transmission. Cameras
379 used in making such telecasts may be allowed only to show a House
380 member speaking at the podium and the Speaker or other officer
381 presiding over the House while the House is convened. Reporters
382 and technicians necessary to effectuate the telecasts may be
383 admitted to the House chamber for this limited purpose; however,
384 no camera, apparatus or procedure that would interfere with the
385 proceedings of the House shall be used, and all telecasting shall
386 be done from areas reserved or set aside for such activities by
387 the Committee on Rules. No member or any other person shall use a
388 phone, camera or other streaming device while in the House chamber



389 to telecast, livestream or broadcast the regular floor proceedings
390 of the House in any manner other than the telecast required by
391 this rule, unless approved by the Committee on Rules.

392 19. No member shall call by name another member present in
393 debate.

394 20. If any member, in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses
395 the Rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any member may on
396 point of order ask the Speaker to call the transgressor to order;
397 and the member called to order shall immediately sit down, unless
398 permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the House if
399 appealed to, shall decide on the case without debate. If the
400 decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at
401 liberty to proceed; if against him and the case requires it, he
402 shall be liable to the censure of the House, or such other
403 punishment as the House may deem proper.

404 21. If a member is called to order for words spoken in
405 debate, the member calling him to order shall indicate the words
406 excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the
407 Clerk's desk and read aloud to the House; but he shall not be held
408 to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the House therefor, if
409 further debate on other business has intervened.

410 22. When two (2) or more members seek recognition at the
411 same time, the Speaker shall name the member who is first to
412 speak.



413 23. No member shall speak more than ten (10) minutes on any
414 main question, or five (5) minutes on an amendment or any
415 subsidiary question, without leave of the House, unless he or she
416 is the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending, in
417 which case he or she shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not
418 until every member choosing to speak has spoken. A member who has
419 spoken once, but who has not consumed his or her whole time shall
420 not be permitted to speak again on the same question until each
421 member that desires to do so has spoken.

422 24. After the motion to lay on the table, those in
423 opposition to the motion shall be allowed five (5) minutes for
424 discussion.

425 25. While the Speaker is putting a question, or addressing
426 the House, no member shall walk out of, or across or about the
427 Hall or converse with another, nor when a member is speaking, pass
428 between him and the Chair, or entertain private discourse. And
429 during the session of the House, no member or other person shall
430 remain at the Clerk's desk at any time. No member or others shall
431 expectorate upon the floor of the House, and the Sergeant at Arms
432 and doorkeepers are charged with the strict enforcement of this
433 rule.

434 26. No member shall vote on any question in the result of
435 which he is pecuniarily interested, nor in any other case where he
436 was not present when the question was put.



437 27. Every member who shall be in the House when a question
438 is put shall vote on one (1) side or the other unless the House
439 shall, for special reasons, excuse him.

440 28. No member shall absent himself from the service of the
441 House, unless he shall have leave, or be sick, or unable to
442 attend. Fifteen (15) members shall be authorized to compel the
443 attendance of absent members and order a call of the House.

444 ON MOTIONS, THEIR PRECEDENCE, ETC.

445 29. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order except when
446 operating under the previous question, but a motion to adjourn
447 being lost, shall not be renewed until some business has
448 intervened.

449 30. Every motion made to the House and entertained by the
450 Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any member,
451 and may be entered on the Journal with the name of the member
452 making the motion.

453 31. When a motion has been made, the Speaker shall state it
454 or (if it be in writing) cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk
455 before being debated, and it shall then be in possession of the
456 House, but may be withdrawn by unanimous consent at any time
457 before a decision or amendment.

458 32. No dilatory motion shall be entertained by the Speaker.

459 33. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be
460 received but:

461 (1) To adjourn



- 462 (2) To lay on the table
463 (3) For the previous question
464 (4) To lay on the table subject to call
465 (5) To postpone to a day certain
466 (6) To refer
467 (7) To amend
468 (8) To postpone indefinitely

469 which several motions shall have precedence in the foregoing
470 order; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or
471 to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall be again allowed on
472 the same day at the same stage of the question.

473 34. A motion to postpone a question beyond the time at which
474 it can be considered is equivalent to complete disapproval and
475 should be treated as a motion to postpone indefinitely.

476 The motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable and opens
477 the main question to debate.

478 A majority vote of the members voting is required for the
479 adoption of the motion to postpone indefinitely. The adoption of
480 a motion to postpone indefinitely shall be treated as a vote on
481 the final passage of a measure and shall be subject to
482 reconsideration as such.

483 35. No motion or proposition on a subject different from
484 that under consideration shall be admitted under color of an
485 amendment; nor shall any amendment be adopted changing the
486 original purpose of the bill.



487 36. The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not
488 preclude further amendments to that section. If a measure is
489 being considered section by section or item by item, only
490 amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be
491 made. The Speaker shall, in recognizing members for the purpose
492 of moving the adoption of amendments, endeavor to cause all
493 amendments to Section 1 to be considered first, then all those to
494 Section 2 and so on. After all sections have been considered
495 separately, the whole measure shall be open for amendment.

496 An amendment to strike all after the enacting or resolving
497 clause or to strike out the enacting or resolving clause of a
498 measure shall, if carried, be considered as equivalent to
499 rejection of the measure by the House, and the vote thereon shall
500 be taken by a roll-call vote. Amendments to an amendment shall be
501 voted on before substitute is taken up. Only one (1) amendment to
502 the amendment is in order at one time; but as rapidly as one is
503 disposed of by rejection or adoption, another is in order as long
504 as any member desires to offer one. A substitute amendment may be
505 offered to an amendment. An amendment to the substitute may be
506 offered. No other amendment can be offered since the third degree
507 has been reached. The vote shall be taken in the following order:
508 the amendment to the amendment shall first be voted on; then the
509 amendment to the substitute; then the substitute amendment and if
510 the substitute is adopted, then the original amendment shall be
511 regarded as automatically tabled.



512 An amendment to a pending question requires only a majority
513 vote for its adoption, even though the question may require a vote
514 greater than a majority, for adoption.

515 It is in order for a House bill with Senate amendments to be
516 referred to the proper committee or committees.

517 On all questions, whether in committee or in the House, the
518 last amendment, the most distant day or hour and the largest sum
519 shall be put first.

520 SUSPENSION OF RULES

521 37. No rule shall be suspended except by the concurrence of
522 two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

523 38. All motions to suspend the rules shall embrace fully the
524 object for which they are to be suspended.

525 39. A motion to suspend the rules shall be deemed a
526 privileged motion, and shall take precedence of all other motions
527 except the motion to adjourn, but it shall not be in order to make
528 a motion to suspend the rules while the House is engaged in the
529 consideration of other business.

530 40. On a motion to suspend the rules for reading a bill a
531 third time, no debate shall be allowed unless the motion prevails.

532 41. An affirmative vote on a motion to suspend the rules for
533 the purpose of taking up any particular bill, or resolution, shall
534 not have the effect of precluding any motion or amendment in
535 relation thereto which would have been in order if the bill or
536 resolution had been brought before the House in the regular order.



562 objection, the question of reading shall be determined without
563 debate by a majority vote of the members present, upon a brief
564 statement of its substance by the Speaker.

565 47. When a bill, resolution, petition, memorial, report and
566 other paper addressed to the House is offered, a motion made to
567 refer any subject, and different committees are proposed, the
568 question shall be taken in the following order:

569 A standing committee

570 A select committee

571 Committee of the Whole

572 When more than one (1) standing committee is proposed, the
573 last proposed shall be the first voted upon as an amendment to
574 strike out and insert.

575 48. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and
576 other papers addressed to the House shall, upon introduction, be
577 referred by the Speaker to the committee having jurisdiction over
578 the subject matter, and shall be considered by the House only
579 after having been reported by such committee.

580 Provided, however, it shall be in order to consider a bill,
581 resolution, petition, memorial, report, and other papers under the
582 suspension of rules.

583 49. When a bill or concurrent resolution is originally
584 referred to two (2) or more committees and favorably reported by
585 them, the chairman of the first-named committee shall have the
586 option of handling the bill or resolution on the floor.



587 Local and private bills may, in the discretion of the
588 Speaker, be referred to two (2) or more committees, if, in the
589 discretion of the Speaker, the nature and effect of said local and
590 private bill shall require the consideration of another committee.

591 General bills written in such a way as to be local and
592 private in nature shall be referred by the Speaker to the
593 Committee on Local and Private Legislation and/or such other
594 committee as permitted by the rules.

595 READING OF BILLS

596 50. After a bill has been read for the first time, if there
597 is no objection, the rules shall be considered suspended and the
598 bill placed on its second reading.

599 51. After a bill has been read the second time it shall be
600 subject to amendment, but no discussion shall be allowed, or
601 amendment adopted, until the bill shall have been referred to a
602 committee with the proposed amendments thereto.

603 52. When a bill is up for final passage, and two (2) or more
604 major amendments have been adopted, a motion to recommit shall be
605 in order and have precedence over all other business. However,
606 it shall be in order for the chairman of the first-named committee
607 from which the bill was reported to the House or any member of the
608 House designated by the chairman to make a motion to recommit
609 without two (2) or more major amendments having been adopted.

610 53. Special order after the reading of the Journal of the
611 preceding day shall be:



- 612 (1) Senate messages.
- 613 (2) Senate bills on the first and second reading and
614 for the proper reference to the committees.
- 615 (3) House bills on second reading.

616 REGULAR ORDER

617 54. The regular order shall be:

- 618 (1) Report of select committees.
- 619 (2) Report of standing committees in their order.
- 620 (3) Introduction of bills and constitutional
621 amendments.
- 622 (4) Resolutions, petitions, memorials and other papers.
- 623 (5) Introduction of guests and visitors.
- 624 (6) Disposition of pending business on previous day,
625 provided that nothing shall be considered under this section
626 except propositions actually pending before the House at the time
627 of adjournment on the previous day.
- 628 (7) Consideration of conference reports.

629 When a conference report is called up, only three (3) courses
630 are open: (a) agree, (b) disagree, or (c) recommit to the same or
631 another conference committee with or without instructions.

632 However, only two (2) motions for the three (3) courses are in
633 order: (a) agree, or (b) recommit to the same or another
634 conference committee with or without instructions. If both
635 motions are offered, the motion to recommit shall take precedence.



636 A conference report must be acted on as a whole and dealt
637 with in its entirety.

638 A conference report may not be amended except by a concurrent
639 resolution.

640 When conference results in disagreement, conferees reporting
641 such disagreement in writing are thereby discharged and new
642 conferees may be appointed.

643 (8) Consideration of bills for concurrence.

644 When Senate amendments to a House bill are before the body,
645 they shall be either concurred in or not concurred in their
646 entirety and not separately. The motion that the House do not
647 concur in Senate amendments but invite conference shall take
648 precedence over the motion that the House do concur. The
649 concurrence in amendments adopted by the other house shall require
650 for adoption the same vote as was required for the original
651 passage of the measure and shall be on roll call duly entered and
652 recorded in the Journal of the House. However, if the Senate
653 amendments would make the House bill a revenue bill under the
654 Joint Rules or the Mississippi Constitution if the amendments were
655 engrossed into the bill, then the vote on concurrence in the
656 Senate amendments shall require the same vote as required for the
657 final passage of a revenue bill.

658 (9) Consideration of motions to reconsider.

659 (10) Consideration and passage of bills and resolutions
660 on the general calendar.



661 (11) The Rules Committee may report at any time.

662 ORDER OF BUSINESS

663 55. The order of business shall not be changed except by
664 two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, and all
665 questions relating to the priority shall be decided without
666 debate.

667 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

668 56. In all cases in forming a Committee of the Whole, which
669 shall be done by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present
670 and voting, the Speaker shall leave his chair and the Speaker Pro
671 Tempore shall preside. If the Speaker Pro Tempore is absent or if
672 the Speaker Pro Tempore moved to go into the Committee of the
673 Whole, the Speaker shall appoint a chairman to preside, who shall,
674 in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the gallery or
675 lobby, have the power to cause the same to be cleared, but the
676 member making the motion to go into Committee of the Whole shall
677 not be called to the chair.

678 57. Upon a bill being referred to the Committee of the
679 Whole, the same shall first be read through by the Clerk, unless
680 the committee shall otherwise order, and then read and debated by
681 sections, leaving the title to be last considered. After report,
682 the bill shall again be subject to debate and amendment before the
683 question of engrossing it be taken.

684 58. The only motions permitted in Committee of the Whole
685 are: to limit debate; to propose amendments; to recommend; to



686 recess committee subject to the call of the chairman; to
687 reconsider, provided said motion to reconsider may be called up
688 immediately or at any time during the time the House is resolved
689 into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the
690 matter before the committee; and to rise.

691 59. The rules of the procedure in the House shall be
692 observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they may be
693 applicable and in all committees, provided standing and select
694 committees may exclude from their committee procedures those House
695 Rules not compatible, in the opinion of said committee, with the
696 proper function of said committee.

697 STANDING COMMITTEES

698 60. (1) The following shall be the standing committees of
699 the House:

700 (a) Rules Committee, as provided for in Rule 11 of
701 these rules;

702 (b) Management Committee, as provided for in Rule
703 11A of these rules;

704 (c) Ethics Committee, as provided for in Rule 63A
705 of these rules;

706 (d) Committee	Number of Members
707 Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency	11
708 Agriculture	33
709 Apportionment and Elections	17
710 Appropriations	33



711	Banking and Financial Services	29
712	Conservation and Water Resources	17
713	Constitution	9
714	Corrections	17
715	County Affairs	19
716	Drug Policy	15
717	Education	27
718	Energy	27
719	Forestry	11
720	Gaming	19
721	Insurance	27
722	Interstate Cooperation	7
723	Judiciary A	25
724	Judiciary B	25
725	Local and Private Legislation	7
726	Marine Resources	11
727	Medicaid	19
728	Military Affairs	15
729	Municipalities	17
730	Ports, Harbors and Airports	11
731	Public Health and Human Services	29
732	Public Property	15
733	Public Utilities	23
734	Technology	11
735	Tourism	21



736	Transportation	29
737	Universities and Colleges	27
738	Ways and Means	33
739	Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks	15
740	Workforce Development	15
741	Youth and Family Affairs	8

742 (2) No member shall serve on both the Committee on Ways
743 and Means and the Committee on Appropriations. Each member who is
744 not a member of the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee
745 on Appropriations shall serve on at least four (4) committees
746 listed in this rule.

747 (3) The Committee on Appropriations and the Committee
748 on Ways and Means each shall consist of thirty-three (33) members
749 appointed by the Speaker, six (6) members from each congressional
750 district as constituted on January 1, * * * 2024, and nine (9)
751 members from the state at large. Appointments from the
752 congressional districts shall be made on the basis of seniority.
753 For the purposes of this rule, "seniority" shall mean length of
754 service, continuous or interrupted, in either the House of
755 Representatives or the Senate. However, seniority among members
756 having the same length of service shall be determined as follows:
757 first, continuous, uninterrupted service in the House; second,
758 continuous, uninterrupted service in the House and Senate; third,
759 interrupted service in the House; and fourth, interrupted service
760 in the House and Senate.



761 (4) In order for a member to be eligible for the rights
762 accorded by this subsection (4), a member shall submit a list of
763 his or her committee preferences, setting forth at least ten (10)
764 committees in order of preference with the most preferred being
765 first on the list, to the Clerk of the House by 5:00 p.m. on the
766 third calendar day of the first legislative session immediately
767 following the year in which the members of the Legislature are
768 elected. With regard to committee appointments, the following
769 shall be followed by the Speaker of the House in making such
770 appointments:

771 (a) Each member of the House who has served in the
772 House for less than four (4) years, whether such service be
773 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member
774 of the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on Ways and
775 Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at
776 least two (2) of the first seven (7) committees on such list, not
777 to include Appropriations and Ways and Means; and

778 (b) Each member of the House who has served in the
779 House for four (4) years or more, whether such service be
780 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member
781 of the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on Ways and
782 Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at
783 least three (3) of the first seven (7) committees on such list,
784 not to include Appropriations and Ways and Means.



785 (5) In making committee appointments, the Speaker shall
786 give consideration to the preferences as expressed by the members
787 on their lists as provided in subsection (4) of this rule, and to
788 the seniority, abilities, and geographic location of the members.

789 61. The first member named on a committee shall be its
790 chairman and the second member named shall be its vice chairman,
791 except that the Vice Chairman of the Management Committee shall be
792 elected as provided in Rule 11A. However, no member who serves as
793 chairman or vice chairman of a standing committee shall serve as
794 chairman or vice chairman of another standing committee, except
795 that the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, the Vice Chairman of
796 the Rules Committee and the Vice Chairman of the Management
797 Committee may be the chairman of another standing committee.
798 There shall be no further rank on committees, the remaining
799 members being listed thereon in alphabetical order. Each
800 committee shall, after its organization, immediately determine by
801 a majority vote what shall constitute a sufficient quorum for it
802 to proceed to business, which quorum shall be not less than a
803 majority of the committee, and shall report that action to the
804 Clerk of the House.

805 62. Bills, resolutions and other measures, at the discretion
806 of the Speaker, may be referred to Judiciary en banc, in which
807 event the Judiciary A Committee and the Judiciary B Committee
808 shall sit as one (1) committee and be presided over by the
809 Chairman of Judiciary A.



835 such meeting is called while the Legislature is in session the
836 notice shall be read to the House. Thereafter, the meeting shall
837 be held at the time and place specified in such notice.

838 The committee shall conduct its investigations, hearings and
839 meetings relating to a specific investigation or a specific
840 member, officer or employee of the House in closed session, and
841 the fact that such investigation is being conducted or to be
842 conducted, or that hearings or such meetings are being held or are
843 to be held shall be confidential information, unless the person
844 subject to investigation advises the committee in writing that he
845 elects that such hearing shall be held publicly. In the event of
846 such an election, the committee shall furnish such person a public
847 hearing. All other meetings of the committee shall be open to the
848 public.

849 The committee shall receive complaints from any citizen
850 against members, officers and employees of the House alleging
851 improper or unethical conduct. Any such complaint must be in
852 writing signed by the person filing the complaint and acknowledged
853 by a notary public, and must set forth in detail the conduct in
854 question and the section of the Code of Ethics, other House Rule,
855 written policy of the House adopted by the Management Committee,
856 statute, or of the Constitution violated. The person against whom
857 the complaint has been brought shall be notified in writing and
858 given a copy of the complaint. Within fifteen (15) days after
859 receipt of the complaint, such person may file a written answer



860 thereto with the committee. Upon receipt of the answer, by vote
861 of a majority of the committee, the committee shall either dismiss
862 the complaint within ten (10) days or proceed with a formal
863 investigation, to include hearings, not less than ten (10) days
864 nor more than thirty (30) days after notice in writing to the
865 person so charged that the committee is proceeding with a formal
866 investigation. Personal service of such notice shall be made by
867 the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and a return
868 made thereon to the committee. Failure of the person charged to
869 file an answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or create an
870 inference or presumption that the complaint is true, and such
871 failure to file an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the
872 committee from either proceeding with a formal investigation or
873 dismissing the complaint.

874 A majority of the committee may, on its own, initiate a
875 preliminary investigation of any suspected violation of the Code
876 of Ethics, other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted
877 by the Management Committee, statute, or Constitution by a member,
878 officer or employee of the House. If it is determined by a
879 majority of the committee that a violation of a rule or law may
880 have occurred, the person in question shall be notified in writing
881 of the conduct in question and the section of the Code of Ethics,
882 other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted by the
883 Management Committee, statute or Constitution violated. Within
884 fifteen (15) days, such person may file a written answer thereto.



885 Upon receipt of the answer, by vote of a majority of the
886 committee, the committee shall either dismiss the charges within
887 ten (10) days or proceed with a formal investigation, to include
888 hearings, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30)
889 days after notice in writing to the person so charged that the
890 committee is proceeding with a formal investigation. Personal
891 service of such notice shall be made by the Sergeant at Arms of
892 the House of Representatives and a return made thereon to the
893 committee. Failure of the person charged to file an answer shall
894 not be deemed to be an admission or create an inference or
895 presumption that the charge is true, and such failure to file an
896 answer shall not prohibit a majority of the committee from either
897 proceeding with a formal investigation or dismissing the charge.

898 In the event that the committee desires to review the
899 statement of economic interest or any other statement filed with
900 the Mississippi Ethics Commission by any member, officer or
901 employee of the House, the commission shall furnish a certified
902 copy of the statement to the committee.

903 In the event that the committee shall elect to proceed with a
904 formal investigation of the conduct of any member, officer or
905 employee of the House, the committee may, in its discretion,
906 employ independent counsel who shall not be employed by the House
907 for any other purpose or in any other capacity during such
908 investigation.



909 Such person shall be entitled to present evidence,
910 cross-examine witnesses, face his accuser, and be represented by
911 counsel.

912 The chairman may continue any hearing for reasonable cause,
913 and upon the vote of a majority of the committee or upon the
914 request of any person subject to investigation, the chairman shall
915 issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and
916 the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter
917 under formal investigation by the committee.

918 All testimony, documents, records, data, statements or
919 information received by the committee in the course of any
920 investigation shall be private and confidential, except in the
921 case of public hearings or in a report to the House. The
922 committee may release any confidential information, including a
923 report thereon, regarding any member, officer or employee at the
924 request of such member, officer or employee. No report shall be
925 made to the House unless a majority of the committee has made a
926 finding of unethical or improper conduct on the part of the person
927 under investigation. No finding of unethical or improper conduct
928 shall be valid unless signed by at least a majority of the
929 committee. Any such report may include a minority report. No
930 action shall be taken on any finding of improper or unethical
931 conduct nor shall such finding or report containing such finding
932 be made public sooner than seven (7) days after a copy of the



933 finding is sent by certified mail to the member, officer or
934 employee under investigation.

935 The committee may meet with a committee of the Senate to hold
936 investigations or hearings involving employees of the two (2)
937 houses jointly or employees of the Legislative Reference Bureau,
938 the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and
939 Expenditure Review, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and any
940 other joint committee created by the Legislature; provided,
941 however, no action may be taken at a joint meeting unless it is
942 approved by a majority of the committee.

943 In the event that a member of the committee shall be under
944 investigation, such member shall be temporarily replaced on the
945 committee in a like manner as the member's original appointment.

946 The committee, upon the written request of a member, officer
947 or employee of the House, shall issue opinions in writing with
948 regard to real or hypothetical situations pertaining to
949 legislative ethics or decorum. When a request made under this
950 paragraph has stated all the facts to govern the opinion and an
951 opinion has been prepared and issued with reference to the
952 request, there shall be no liability, civil or criminal, accruing
953 to or against the person requesting the opinion who, in good
954 faith, follows the direction of the opinion and acts in accordance
955 with the opinion, unless a court of competent jurisdiction, after
956 a full hearing, judicially declares that the opinion is manifestly
957 wrong and without substantial support. No opinion shall be



958 considered or issued if the opinion is requested after suit is
959 filed, prosecution begun, or a complaint has been filed with the
960 committee under this rule. All requests for opinions and all
961 opinions issued under this paragraph shall be confidential and the
962 committee shall not publicly disclose any opinion issued or the
963 fact that an opinion has been requested or issued unless the
964 person requesting the opinion gives his or her written permission
965 to the committee. However, opinions of the committee, with such
966 deletions and changes as are necessary to protect the identity of
967 the person involved or seeking them, may be published and
968 distributed to all the members of the House.

969 Any member of the committee breaching the confidentiality of
970 materials and events as set forth in this rule shall, by a
971 majority vote of the committee, be removed immediately from the
972 committee and replaced by another member of the House in a like
973 manner as the member's original appointment.

974 Any officer or employee of the House shall be subject to the
975 same restriction of confidentiality as a member of the committee,
976 and a breach of this restriction shall be grounds for dismissal of
977 any officer or employee.

978 The committee may adopt rules of procedure for the orderly
979 conduct of its affairs, investigations, hearings and meetings,
980 which rules are not inconsistent with this rule.

981 The committee shall continue to exist and have authority and
982 power to function after the sine die adjournment of the



983 Legislature, and shall so continue until the expiration of the
984 then current term of office of the members of the committee.

985 CODE OF ETHICS

986 63B. In addition to the other rules of the House of
987 Representatives, and in supplement thereto, the following Code of
988 Ethics is established as a standard of conduct for members.

989 (1) No member, officer or employee of the House shall:

990 (a) Accept employment or engage in any business or
991 professional activity which will require him to disclose
992 confidential information which he has gained by reason of his
993 official position or authority;

994 (b) Improperly disclose confidential information
995 acquired by him in the course of his official duties nor use such
996 information to further his personal interests;

997 (c) Use or attempt to use his official position to
998 secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others;

999 (d) Use for private gain any information not
1000 available to the public at large and acquired by him solely by
1001 virtue of his position, and no information described in this
1002 subsection shall be disclosed by a member to others for purposes
1003 of their use for private gain.

1004 (2) Each member of the House shall file the statement
1005 of economic interest or any other statement required to be filed
1006 by the Mississippi Ethics Commission which shall be signed under
1007 oath as to the accuracy and completeness of the information set



1008 forth to the best knowledge of the person submitting such
1009 statement.

1010 Required statements hereunder shall be filed with the
1011 Mississippi Ethics Commission with such information as is required
1012 by law. In the event of any substantial change occurring after
1013 the time required for filing as to matters covered in this
1014 section, a supplemental statement shall be filed within thirty
1015 (30) days thereafter reflecting such new information.

1016 (3) Any member who shall undertake to represent or to
1017 intervene for any person for compensation before any state agency
1018 shall file a statement with the Ethics Committee within thirty
1019 (30) days after undertaking that representation. Such statement
1020 shall identify the person represented and the nature of the
1021 business involved; however, this provision shall not apply: (a)
1022 where such representation involves only the uncontested or routine
1023 actions of administrative officers or employees of the state in
1024 issuing or renewing a license, charter, certificate or similar
1025 document, and (b) where such representation is before the
1026 Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.

1027 (4) In addition to the filings required herein, copies
1028 of the statements required to be filed under this rule shall be
1029 filed with the Secretary of State. Such statements shall be open
1030 to the general public and shall be filed at the same time as
1031 filings required hereinabove.



1032 64. Appropriation and revenue bills shall, at regular
1033 sessions of the Legislature, have precedence over all other
1034 business and no such bill shall be passed during the last five (5)
1035 days of the session.

1036 65. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Engrossed and
1037 Enrolled Bills to examine all engrossed and enrolled bills,
1038 correct all mistakes therein, and report the bills to the House
1039 and this report shall be in order at any time.

1040 THE PREVIOUS QUESTION

1041 66. There shall be a motion for the previous question, which
1042 being ordered by a majority of members voting, if a quorum be
1043 present, shall have the effect to cut off all debate and bring the
1044 House to a direct vote upon the immediate question, or questions,
1045 on which it has been asked and ordered, except that each side
1046 shall be allowed ten (10) minutes on the main question and five
1047 (5) minutes on any subsidiary question for debate, the affirmative
1048 closing the debate. The previous question may be asked and
1049 ordered upon a single motion, a series of motions allowable under
1050 the rules, or an amendment or amendments, or may be made to
1051 embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill
1052 to its recommitment, passage or rejection. It shall be in order
1053 after the previous question shall have been ordered on its
1054 passage, for the Speaker to entertain and submit a motion without
1055 debate to recommit, with or without instruction, to a standing or
1056 select committee. Provided, however, a motion to reconsider the



1057 vote whereby an amendment has been adopted or rejected shall not
1058 be in order after the previous question has been ordered.

1059 67. If the previous question is lost, the motion may not be
1060 renewed until a subsequent vote has been taken on any matter.

1061 68. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion
1062 is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall
1063 be decided, whether an appeal or otherwise, without debate.

1064 ON CALLS OF THE ROLL

1065 69. Upon every roll call where the vote is not taken using
1066 the electronic roll-call system in Rule 97, the names of the
1067 members shall be called alphabetically by surname, except when two
1068 (2) or more have the same surname, in which case the name of the
1069 county shall be added; and if there are two (2) such members from
1070 the same county, the name and initials shall be called, and after
1071 the roll has been once called, the Clerk shall call in their
1072 alphabetical order the names of those not voting; and thereafter
1073 the Speaker shall not entertain a request to record a vote or
1074 announce a pair; and the yeas and nays on any question shall be
1075 entered on the Journal, at the request of one-tenth (1/10) of the
1076 members present; and the yeas and nays shall be entered on the
1077 Journal on the final passage of every bill.

1078 ABSENCE OF QUORUM

1079 70. In the absence of a quorum, fifteen (15) members,
1080 including the Speaker, if there is one, shall be authorized to
1081 compel the attendance of absent members, and in all calls of the



1082 House the doors shall be closed, the names of the members shall be
1083 called by the Clerk, and the absentees noted; and those for whom
1084 no sufficient excuse is made may, by order of a majority of those
1085 present, be sent for and arrested, wherever they may be found, by
1086 officers appointed by the Sergeant at Arms for that purpose, and
1087 their attendance secured and retained; and the House shall
1088 determine upon what condition they shall be discharged. Members
1089 who voluntarily appear shall, unless the House otherwise direct,
1090 be immediately admitted to the Hall of the House, and they shall
1091 report their names to the Clerk to be entered upon the Journal as
1092 present.

1093 71. On the demand of any member, or at the suggestion of the
1094 Speaker, the names of members sufficient to make a quorum in the
1095 Hall of the House who do not vote shall be noted by the Clerk and
1096 recorded in the Journal, and reported to the Speaker with the
1097 names of the members voting and be counted and announced in
1098 determining the presence of a quorum to do business.

1099 72. Whenever a quorum fails to vote on any question and a
1100 quorum is not present and objection is made for that cause, unless
1101 the House shall adjourn there shall be a call of the House, and
1102 the Sergeant at Arms shall forthwith proceed to bring absent
1103 members, and the yeas and nays on the pending question shall at
1104 the same time be considered as ordered.

1105 The Clerk shall call the roll, and each member as he answers
1106 to his name may vote on the pending question, and, after the roll



1107 call is completed, each member arrested shall be brought by the
1108 Sergeant at Arms before the House, whereupon he shall be noted as
1109 present, discharged from arrest, and given an opportunity to vote
1110 and his vote shall be recorded. If those voting on the question
1111 and those who are present and decline to vote shall together make
1112 a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum
1113 is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as the
1114 majority of those voting shall appear; and thereupon further
1115 proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with.
1116 At any time after the roll call has been completed, the Speaker
1117 may entertain a motion to adjourn, if seconded by a majority of
1118 those present, to be ascertained by actual count by the Speaker;
1119 and if the House adjourns, all proceedings under this section
1120 shall be vacated.

1121 DIVISION OF QUESTION

1122 73. On demand of any member, before the question is put, a
1123 question shall be divided if it include propositions so distinct
1124 in substance, that one being taken away, a substantive proposition
1125 shall remain.

1126 74. (1) Questions of privilege shall be:

1127 First, those affecting the rights of the House collectively,
1128 its safety, dignity and the integrity of its proceedings.

1129 Second, the rights, reputation and conduct of members
1130 individually in their representative capacity only.



1131 (2) No member shall speak more than ten (10) minutes on any
1132 question of privilege.

1133 HOURS OF MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

1134 75. Two o'clock in the afternoon on each legislative day
1135 shall be the standing hour to which the House adjourns, unless
1136 otherwise ordered by a majority of the members present and voting.

1137 76. The hour at which every motion to adjourn is made shall
1138 be entered on the Journal.

1139 77. It shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to prescribe
1140 a schedule for regular meetings of standing committees.

1141 78. Every bill or resolution, when favorably reported by the
1142 proper committee, shall be made available for viewing on the
1143 members' computers and shall be reproduced with sufficient copies
1144 so that copies thereof may be placed on the desk of every member
1145 who requests to have a copy, before any such bill or resolution
1146 is placed on final passage. No bill or resolution shall be
1147 considered by the House unless it is available for viewing on the
1148 members' computers and all members who request to have a copy of
1149 the bill or resolution have been furnished copies thereof, except
1150 by unanimous consent. When a bill or resolution is being
1151 considered by the House, all amendments offered have been disposed
1152 of, and two (2) or more major amendments have been adopted, any
1153 member may move that the bill be engrossed. If such motion is
1154 adopted by a majority of those present and voting, further
1155 consideration of such bill or resolution shall be suspended until



1156 the bill or resolution has been engrossed and the engrossed bill
1157 or resolution is available for viewing on the members' computers
1158 and all members present who request to have a copy have been
1159 furnished copies of the engrossed bill or resolution. When the
1160 engrossed bill or resolution is available for viewing on the
1161 members' computers and all members who request to have a copy have
1162 been furnished copies of the engrossed bill or resolution, the
1163 bill or resolution shall then become pending business of the House
1164 as soon as the main question then under consideration has been
1165 disposed of. The committee or any member proposing a substitute
1166 or an amendment which is, in effect, a substitute for an entire
1167 bill or resolution, shall provide the substitute or amendment to
1168 the Clerk to make it available for viewing on the members'
1169 computers and provide copies of the substitute or amendment to all
1170 members who request a copy before the same shall be voted on for
1171 consideration or adoption, except on suspension of the rules.

1172 79. When a bill, memorial or resolution has been finally
1173 rejected in the House, it shall not again be introduced or
1174 considered during the same session without notice of three (3)
1175 days and leave of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and
1176 voting, and a bill so offered for reintroduction shall be regarded
1177 as the same, if it deals substantially with the same subject
1178 matter.

1179 SPECIAL ORDER



1180 80. Special orders of the day not disposed of on the day
1181 assigned, shall stand for every succeeding day, until disposed of.

1182 81. (1) A motion to postpone to a day certain shall require
1183 a majority of those present and voting for its adoption, but a
1184 motion to postpone to a time certain shall be deemed, and treated
1185 as, a motion to set as a special order. (2) A motion to set a
1186 special order may be amended as to time. It is debatable only as
1187 to the question of setting the special order and does not open up
1188 the main question to debate. (3) A motion to set a special order
1189 shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and
1190 voting. (4) When special orders that have been made at different
1191 times come into conflict, the one that was first made takes
1192 precedence over all special orders made afterwards, although the
1193 latter were made for an earlier hour.

1194 CALENDARS

1195 82. Bills reported by committees shall be given a serial
1196 number by the Clerk and shall be placed on the calendar in the
1197 order in which reported by the committee and shall be called for
1198 consideration in that order. Bills on the calendar may only be
1199 called up by the chairman of the first-named committee from which
1200 the bill was reported to the House, or any member of the House
1201 designated by the chairman. When a bill is called for
1202 consideration in the order in which placed on the calendar and is
1203 not considered by the House, it shall go to the heel of the
1204 calendar, unless a majority of the members present allow the bill



1205 to retain its place on the calendar. Separate calendars shall be
1206 kept for the bills reported by the Committees on Ways and Means,
1207 Appropriations, Rules, and Local and Private Legislation.

1208 83. Any committee or individual member of the House may
1209 apply to the Committee on Rules to set a time for the taking up,
1210 ahead of its regular place on the calendar, of any measure
1211 favorably reported by the committee to which the measure has been
1212 referred. The Committee on Rules may grant such request by a
1213 majority vote. The Committee on Rules may designate a day of each
1214 legislative week as a noncontroversial bill day. When such a day
1215 be designated, all bills appearing on the calendar shall be
1216 considered in their regular order provided, however, that should
1217 ten percent (10%) of the membership object to any measure on the
1218 noncontroversial calendar stating that it is of a controversial
1219 nature, that measure shall go to the heel of the General House
1220 Calendar.

1221 84. The calendar shall be made up from day to day.

1222 MINORITY REPORT

1223 85. Bills adversely reported by the committees shall not be
1224 placed on the calendar at all unless accompanied by a minority
1225 report signed by one or more members who were present at the
1226 committee meeting at which the bill was reported. Minority
1227 reports must be filed within three (3) legislative days after the
1228 bill has been reported by the committee; a minority report shall
1229 be placed on the calendar at the heel of favorably reported bills



1230 and shall not be considered until all favorably reported bills are
1231 disposed of, except on a suspension of the rules on a two-thirds
1232 (2/3) vote of those elected to the House and on roll call,
1233 whereupon, the House may proceed immediately to the consideration
1234 thereof.

1235 86. Matters affecting the public interest and regarded as of
1236 immediate necessity may be advanced on the calendar by the Rules
1237 Committee, and such matters may also be advanced on the calendar
1238 by a vote of a majority of the members elected to the House of
1239 Representatives.

1240 RULES

1241 87. The permanent Rules of the House may not be changed or
1242 amended except by three (3) days' notice by a motion entered in
1243 writing and placed on the Journal and by a vote of three-fifths
1244 (3/5) of those present and voting, except that no rule shall be
1245 changed or amended unless at least a majority of the elected
1246 members of the House of Representatives vote for said change or
1247 amendment.

1248 Provided, however, the rules, or a rule, may be amended or
1249 changed by a resolution referred to the Rules Committee, reported
1250 favorably, and adopted by a majority of the elected members of the
1251 House of Representatives, and such resolutions, once reported,
1252 shall not be amended except by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the
1253 elected members of the House of Representatives.



1254 A motion to reconsider the vote whereby a rule has been
1255 adopted or failed shall not be in order at any time.

1256 88. The current Rules of the House of Representatives of the
1257 United States shall govern in all cases to which they are
1258 applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the
1259 foregoing rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of
1260 Representatives, and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi.

1261 89. No person shall be entitled to enter upon the Floor of
1262 the House except: Members, their spouses, former members of the
1263 Legislature, unless said former member is a registered lobbyist,
1264 officers and employees of the House; members, officers and
1265 employees of the Senate; members of the news media who have proper
1266 credentials issued by the Rules Committee; ministers invited by
1267 the Speaker or the Clerk; and such others as the Committee on
1268 Rules may designate.

1269 Doors between the lobby and the cloak room, and the door
1270 between the lobby and the Hall of the House shall be kept closed.
1271 Visitors invited and personally accompanied by members are
1272 permitted in the lobby. The Speaker is charged with the
1273 enforcement of this rule, and it shall be the duty of any member,
1274 officer or employee of the House to inform the Speaker of any
1275 violation of this rule. This rule is applicable from one (1) hour
1276 before the House convenes each day until the House adjourns each
1277 day.



1278 90. Privilege of reports from Committee on Rules, and
1279 limitations thereon.

1280 It shall always be in order to call up for consideration a
1281 report from the Committee on Rules and, pending the consideration
1282 thereof, the Speaker may entertain one (1) motion that the House
1283 adjourn; but after the result is announced, he shall not entertain
1284 any other dilatory motion until the report has been fully disposed
1285 of.

1286 91. No committee, except the Committee on Rules, shall sit
1287 during the sitting of the House, without special leave.

1288 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

1289 92. Each member, who desires to introduce a bill shall place
1290 same in box in front of the Clerk's desk at any hour to suit his
1291 convenience, and the Clerk is instructed to take these out at each
1292 session when the order for introduction of bills and
1293 constitutional amendments is reached, and read their titles, and
1294 after the expiration of not less than one (1) legislative day, the
1295 Speaker shall refer them to the proper committees; provided,
1296 however, that this shall not prevent the immediate references of
1297 said bills or constitutional amendments under a suspension of the
1298 rules.

1299 93. All bills and resolutions must be typewritten or
1300 printed. Bills and resolutions must be introduced in original
1301 form (not carbon, photocopy or facsimile) and should be free from
1302 interlineations, corrections and strikeouts, whether with ink,



1303 pencil or typewriter. Amendments proposed by members or by
1304 committees must not be written into a bill or resolution until
1305 such amendments shall be adopted by the House.

1306 94. In addition to any other time provided by law or by
1307 rule, members of the House may file bills or resolutions with the
1308 Clerk of the House at any time during the period between sessions
1309 of the Legislature. Such prefiled bills shall be numbered by the
1310 Clerk of the House and referred by the Speaker to the appropriate
1311 standing committee of the House for study. Such prefiled bills
1312 shall be introduced in the order filed on the first day of the
1313 next succeeding regular session of the Legislature, or special
1314 session if included within the Governor's call, and referred to
1315 committee in the regular order of business of the House.

1316 WITHDRAW FROM COMMITTEE

1317 95. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this rule, every
1318 House bill, resolution or measure referred to any committee, and
1319 not reported therefrom with a recommendation by the twenty-seventh
1320 day of a ninety-day session and by the sixty-second day of a
1321 one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and every Senate bill,
1322 resolution or measure referred to any committee, and not reported
1323 therefrom by the fifty-fifth day of a ninety-day session and by
1324 the ninetieth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, may be
1325 withdrawn from the committee on a motion made in writing, which
1326 motion must be read by the Clerk immediately upon its
1327 introduction, setting forth the reasons why the bill should be



1328 withdrawn from the committee, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
1329 members present and voting. It may then be taken up and
1330 considered by the Committee of the Whole House in accordance with
1331 the procedure set forth in House Rule 56, or, by a two-thirds
1332 (2/3) vote of those present and voting it may be recommitted to a
1333 standing committee. During extraordinary or special sessions of
1334 the Legislature, any bill, including an appropriation or revenue
1335 bill, may be withdrawn from committee after three (3) days from
1336 the date of reference. A motion to withdraw a bill from a
1337 committee shall not be voted upon by the House on the day which
1338 the motion is made, except upon suspension of the rules by a
1339 two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

1340 (2) Any House appropriation bill or revenue bill
1341 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways
1342 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a
1343 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may
1344 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure
1345 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for
1346 withdrawal is made by the fiftieth day of a ninety-day session and
1347 by the eighty-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session.

1348 (3) Any Senate appropriation bill or revenue bill
1349 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways
1350 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a
1351 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may
1352 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure



1353 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for
1354 withdrawal is made by the seventieth day of a ninety-day session
1355 and by the one-hundred-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day
1356 session.

1357 (4) Any House resolution or House concurrent resolution
1358 that is referred after the twenty-ninth day of a ninety-day
1359 session or after the sixty-fourth day of a
1360 one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and any Senate concurrent
1361 resolution that is referred to a House committee after the
1362 fifty-seventh day of a ninety-day session or after the
1363 ninety-second day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and
1364 not reported therefrom with a recommendation within ten (10)
1365 legislative days after referral may be withdrawn from the
1366 committee in accordance with the procedure set forth in subsection
1367 (1) of this rule.

1368 (5) For the purposes of this rule, the term "revenue
1369 bill" shall include only those bills whose primary purpose is to
1370 increase or decrease taxes or to authorize the issuance of bonds
1371 or the borrowing of money. Bills which are primarily for
1372 regulatory purposes which have revenue provisions included shall
1373 not be considered as revenue bills for the purposes of this rule.

1374 (6) If the Legislature shortens a ninety-day regular
1375 session or a one-hundred-twenty-five-day regular session by moving
1376 the deadlines for processing legislation that are set forth in
1377 Joint Rule 40 to dates earlier than the dates otherwise set for



1378 those sessions, the dates set forth in this subsection (6) shall
1379 apply to the motion for withdrawing a bill from committee. A
1380 general bill, resolution or measure that has not been reported
1381 from the committee to which it has been referred may be withdrawn
1382 from the committee after the second day before the deadline for
1383 the committee to report the bill, resolution or measure. An
1384 appropriation or revenue bill that has not been reported from the
1385 House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways and Means
1386 Committee, as the case may be, within ten (10) legislative days
1387 after referral, may be withdrawn from the applicable committee if
1388 the motion for withdrawal is made by the day before the deadline
1389 for original House floor action on the bill. A House resolution
1390 or House concurrent resolution that is referred after the deadline
1391 for committees to report House general bills, and any Senate
1392 concurrent resolution that is referred to a House committee after
1393 the deadline for House committees to report Senate general bills,
1394 and not reported therefrom with a recommendation within ten (10)
1395 legislative days after referral may be withdrawn from the
1396 committee in accordance with the procedure set forth in subsection
1397 (1) of this rule. All other provisions of this rule regarding the
1398 procedure to follow and the associated vote requirements for
1399 withdrawing bills from committee shall apply.

1400 BILLIS SHALL LIE ON TABLE ONE DAY

1401 96. Every bill or resolution requiring the signature of the
1402 Governor, all resolutions proposing amendments to the



1403 Constitution, and all reports of committees except the report of
1404 the Committee on Rules, shall lie on the table one (1) day before
1405 being considered except by suspension of the rules.

1406 ROLL CALLS

1407 97. When taking the yeas and nays on any question to be
1408 voted upon, the electrical roll-call system may be used, and, when
1409 so used, shall have the same force and effect as a roll call taken
1410 as otherwise provided in the Rules of the House.

1411 When the House is ready to vote upon any question requiring a
1412 roll call and the vote is to be taken by the electrical roll-call
1413 system, the Speaker shall announce:

1414 "The question is on the passage of (designating the matter to
1415 be voted upon). All those in favor (of such question) vote 'Aye';
1416 all those opposed vote 'No.' The House will now vote."

1417 When sufficient time has been allowed the members to vote,
1418 the Speaker shall announce one or more times: "Have all voted?"
1419 And after a short pause, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to
1420 lock the machine and record the vote.

1421 The Clerk shall immediately start the vote-recording
1422 equipment and, when the vote is completely recorded, shall advise
1423 the Speaker of the result, and the Speaker shall announce the
1424 result to the House. The Clerk shall enter upon the Journal the
1425 result in the manner provided by the Rules of the House.

1426 After the voting machine has been locked, but prior to the
1427 display of the tabulated vote on the electric voting board of the



1428 result of a roll call, any member may request to (1) change his or
1429 her vote, or (2) vote. After the vote has been tabulated and
1430 displayed on the electric voting board, a member with unanimous
1431 consent may change his or her vote on the measure, except that no
1432 such change of vote shall be permitted where such vote would alter
1433 the final vote on the measure.

1434 No member shall vote for another member, nor shall any person
1435 not a member cast a vote for a member. In addition to such
1436 penalties as may be prescribed by law, any member who shall vote
1437 or attempt to vote for another member may be punished in such a
1438 manner as the House may determine. If a person not a member shall
1439 vote or attempt to vote for any member, he or she shall be barred
1440 from the Floor of the House for the remainder of the session and
1441 may be punished further in such manner as the House may deem
1442 proper, in addition to such punishment as may be prescribed by
1443 law.

1444 98. Neither the Speaker nor the House exercises jurisdiction
1445 over pairs, and the only cognizance of them taken by the rules is
1446 the provision for the announcement and publication.

1447 99. No member shall be permitted to give an oral explanation
1448 of his vote but may reduce his explanation to writing in not more
1449 than one hundred (100) words, and upon filing with the Clerk, this
1450 explanation shall be spread on the Journal.

1451 MOTION TO RECONSIDER



1452 100. Any member voting on any measure, shall be privileged
1453 to enter a motion to reconsider the vote whereby the measure is
1454 disposed of, at any time within the period prescribed by the rules
1455 of this House.

1456 101. A motion to reconsider having been properly made and
1457 entered in the Journal shall become the property of the House and
1458 may be called up only by the chairman of the first-named committee
1459 from which the measure was reported to the House, or any member of
1460 the House designated by the chairman.

1461 When a measure requires more than a majority vote for
1462 passage, it may still be reconsidered by a majority vote.

1463 102. When a bill is read the third time in regular order,
1464 and not under suspension of the rules, it shall be considered
1465 engrossed and the House on the next or any succeeding legislative
1466 day may proceed to a vote on its final passage in the same manner
1467 as if the rules had been suspended for its consideration.

1468 PASSAGE OVER VETO

1469 103. (1) Upon return of a bill without the approval of the
1470 Governor accompanied by the Governor's objections to the bill, the
1471 House shall proceed to reconsider the bill by either an immediate
1472 vote on the motion for passage, the Governor's veto
1473 notwithstanding, or by referral to the committee which originally
1474 recommended the bill. The manner of reconsideration shall be
1475 determined, upon proper motion, by majority vote of those present.
1476 If the bill is reconsidered by referral to the committee of



1477 origin, the committee shall report, with written recommendations,
1478 to the full House not more than three (3) legislative days from
1479 the referral of the bill in question; however, in the first year
1480 of a term, the committee shall report to the full House not more
1481 than three (3) legislative days from the date that the members of
1482 the committee are appointed. At the time of the report of such
1483 committee, only two (2) courses shall be open:

1484 (a) Allow Governor's veto to stand.

1485 (b) Override Governor's veto.

1486 The motion for the first course is a motion to allow the
1487 Governor's veto to stand, and the motion for the second course is
1488 a motion for passage, the Governor's veto notwithstanding. Such a
1489 motion, while not mandatory, shall be in order at any time on the
1490 same legislative day that the report of the committee is made, but
1491 shall not be in order thereafter. However, if the committee does
1492 not report to the full House by the end of the third legislative
1493 day from the referral of the bill to committee, or by the end of
1494 the third legislative day from the date that the members of the
1495 committee are appointed in the first year of a term, then it shall
1496 be in order for any member of the House to make a motion for
1497 either of the two (2) courses on the fourth legislative day from
1498 referral or the appointment of the committee members, as the case
1499 may be, but not thereafter.

1500 (2) Upon calling up a bill for reconsideration and
1501 passage, the Governor's veto notwithstanding, the question before



1502 the House is not of reconsideration but that of overriding the
1503 Governor's veto.

1504 (3) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present
1505 and voting, a quorum being present, is required to pass a bill
1506 over a Governor's veto.

1507 (4) A motion to reconsider the vote by which a vetoed
1508 bill is passed or rejected is not in order.

1509 104. The Rules Committee shall set aside space to
1510 accommodate representatives of the press, radio and television
1511 media wishing to report proceedings and such representatives shall
1512 be admitted to such area under such regulations as the Rules
1513 Committee may from time to time prescribe. The supervision of
1514 such portion of the floor shall be fixed in the Committee on
1515 Rules.

1516 (a) The correspondents shall abide by such rules
1517 and regulations as may be adopted by the Rules Committee.

1518 (b) The press table allotted to representatives of
1519 the news media shall be for their exclusive use and persons not
1520 holding correspondents' cards shall not be entitled to admission
1521 thereto.

1522 OPEN MEETINGS

1523 104A. All official meetings of any standing, interim or
1524 special committee of the House of Representatives, but not
1525 including conference committees, unless otherwise provided by this
1526 rule or the Constitution of the United States or the State of



1527 Mississippi, are declared to be public meetings and shall be open
1528 to the public at all times unless declared an executive session as
1529 provided herein. Any such House committee may enter into
1530 executive session for the transaction of public business;
1531 provided, however, all meetings of any such committee shall
1532 commence as an open meeting, and an affirmative vote of a majority
1533 of all members present shall be required to declare an executive
1534 session. The procedure to be followed by such committee in
1535 declaring an executive session shall be as follows: Any member
1536 shall have the right to require a closed determination upon the
1537 issue of whether or not to declare an executive session. Such
1538 member, by motion, shall require the meeting to be closed for a
1539 preliminary determination of the necessity for executive session.
1540 No other business shall be transacted until the discussion of the
1541 nature of the matter requiring executive session has been
1542 completed and a vote taken on the issue. The total vote on the
1543 question of entering into an executive session shall be recorded
1544 and spread upon the minutes of such committee. Any such vote
1545 whereby executive session is declared shall be applicable only to
1546 that particular meeting.

1547 Any such House committee may make and enforce reasonable
1548 rules and regulations for the conduct of persons attending its
1549 meetings.

1550 Minutes shall be kept of all House committees, in open or
1551 executive session, and shall consist of a written record of



1552 attendance and final actions taken at such meetings. Such minutes
1553 shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours
1554 within a reasonable time after adjournment.

1555 During a regular or special session of the Legislature,
1556 notice of meetings of all House committees, other than conference
1557 committees, shall be given by announcement on the loudspeaker
1558 during sessions of the House or by posting on a bulletin board
1559 provided for that purpose.

1560 When not in session, the meeting times and places of all
1561 House committees shall be kept by the Clerk of the House of
1562 Representatives and shall be available at all times during regular
1563 working hours to the public and news media.

1564 ELECTION CONTEST

1565 104B. The procedure for handling the contest of the
1566 election, other than a primary election, of a member of the
1567 Mississippi House of Representatives shall be as follows:

1568 (1) Anyone desiring to contest the election, other than
1569 a primary election, of a member returned as elected to the
1570 Mississippi House of Representatives shall file with the Clerk of
1571 the House of Representatives, within thirty (30) days after a
1572 regular general election or ten (10) days after a special election
1573 to fill a vacancy, a sworn petition stating particularly the
1574 grounds upon which the election is contested. A copy of the
1575 petition shall be served on the member whose election is being
1576 contested. Any allegations concerning the election, or any



1577 grounds for the contest contained in the petition, shall be stated
1578 and averred in the same manner in which circumstances constituting
1579 fraud are required to be stated with particularity when pleading
1580 special matters under the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure.

1581 (2) Upon the timely filing of the petition, the Speaker
1582 of the House of Representatives shall appoint a special committee
1583 to resolve the election contest. Any special committee appointed
1584 by the Speaker under this subsection (2) shall be composed of the
1585 chairman, who shall be appointed from the state at large, and one
1586 (1) member of the House of Representatives from each congressional
1587 district as constituted on January 1, * * * 2024. In making the
1588 committee appointments, the Speaker shall give consideration to
1589 the seniority, abilities and geographic location of the members.
1590 Within fifteen (15) days after the Speaker's appointment of the
1591 special committee, the committee shall meet to organize and review
1592 the petition.

1593 (3) (a) Either party to such an election contest may
1594 obtain discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, which is
1595 relevant to the particular grounds stated in the petition or any
1596 response thereto, and he may use any method of discovery that is
1597 authorized under the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure.

1598 (b) Either party shall have the right of full
1599 examination of ballot boxes in accordance with Section 23-15-911,
1600 Mississippi Code of 1972.



1601 (c) All forms of discovery shall be completed
1602 within twenty (20) days before the convening of a regular session
1603 on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January, except that in
1604 the case of a special election to fill a vacancy, discovery shall
1605 be completed within thirty (30) days after the special election.

1606 (d) The special committee shall have exclusive
1607 jurisdiction over the determination of whether the filing of the
1608 petition and discovery related thereto have been timely made. If
1609 the filing of the petition or the discovery related thereto is not
1610 made timely, the election contest shall be void, and the contest
1611 and any rights related thereto shall expire by operation of law.

1612 (4) On the first day of the regular session next
1613 occurring after the election being contested, the person who was
1614 certified by the appropriate election officials as the duly
1615 elected member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from
1616 the district in question shall be administered the oath of office
1617 by the Secretary of State as required by the Constitution, along
1618 with all other members present, and he shall not be requested to
1619 stand aside if he has been so certified. In the case of a special
1620 election contest, the oath shall be administered by the Speaker as
1621 in the case of administering the oath after any special election
1622 in which no contest has been filed. The seating and swearing in
1623 of a member who has been certified by the appropriate election
1624 officials before the special committee has concluded its
1625 deliberations shall be conditional and not permanent. The



1626 conditional seating and swearing in of the member shall vest in
1627 the member all the rights, privileges, and emoluments of the
1628 office, but without prejudice to the contest filed by the
1629 petitioner.

1630 (5) The special committee appointed by the Speaker
1631 shall meet on the first day of the regular session next occurring
1632 after the election being contested, except that in the case of a
1633 special election to fill a vacancy, the special committee shall
1634 meet within five (5) days of the completion of discovery. The
1635 work of the special committee shall be a matter of the highest
1636 priority for the House, and any conflicts in scheduling meetings
1637 of the committee shall be resolved in favor of expediting the
1638 committee's work. The special committee shall have the power to
1639 investigate all facts concerning the election or qualifications of
1640 any member or petitioner, but shall not place itself in the
1641 position of investigating matters not alleged in the petition or
1642 any response thereto. It also shall have the power to issue
1643 subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses and the
1644 production of such documents or papers as may be required. The
1645 special committee shall have the authority to enforce any subpoena
1646 issued by the committee and to enforce compliance with the time
1647 limitations set forth in this rule, with the assistance of the
1648 State Attorney General or his designee.

1649 (6) After the committee concludes its deliberations, it
1650 shall report a resolution recommending one (1) of the following



1651 courses of action to the House: (a) to seat permanently the House
1652 member who was certified and sworn in under subsection (4) of this
1653 rule, failure of which shall vacate the seat for the House
1654 district in question held by that person; (b) to seat permanently
1655 the petitioner in the election contest, passage of which will
1656 vacate the seat for that House district and the petitioner shall
1657 be sworn in for that seat; or (c) to declare the office of
1658 representative for that House district as vacant. The House shall
1659 consider the recommendation of the committee, and it shall adopt
1660 one (1) of the courses of action specified in this subsection (6),
1661 which must be adopted by a majority vote of House members present
1662 and voting.

1663 (7) For purposes of this rule, "day" means a calendar
1664 day and includes any legal holiday.

1665 (8) Section 55, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which
1666 requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present to expel a
1667 seated member, shall not apply to any votes taken with regard to
1668 an election contest of a member of the House of Representatives.

1669 (9) If the House determines that the person
1670 conditionally sworn in under subsection (4) of this rule is not
1671 qualified as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives,
1672 any vote cast in the interim shall stand and any compensation and
1673 expenses paid shall be retained by that person. If the petitioner
1674 prevails on the merits of his contest, he shall receive the
1675 regular compensation and expenses of a member of the House,



1676 retroactive to the beginning of the session, or in the case of a
1677 special election, retroactive to the date upon which the House
1678 member conditionally sworn in was seated.

1679 (10) Under the inherent authority of the House to
1680 create procedures and rules for the governing of its internal
1681 affairs, if any provision of this rule conflicts with any
1682 provision of Sections 23-15-955 and 23-15-957, Mississippi Code of
1683 1972, the provisions of this rule shall prevail.

1684 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1685 105. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other,
1686 adjourn for more than three (3) days, nor to any other place than
1687 that in which the two (2) houses shall be sitting. (Art. 4, Sec.
1688 57, Constitution).

1689 106. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its
1690 title only, but the section or sections, as amended or revived,
1691 shall be inserted at length. (Art. 4, Sec. 61, Constitution).

1692 107. No appropriation bill shall be passed by the
1693 Legislature which does not fix definitely the maximum sum thereby
1694 authorized to be drawn from the Treasury. (Art. 4, Sec. 63,
1695 Constitution).

1696 108. All votes on the final passage of any measure shall be
1697 subject to reconsideration for at least one (1) whole legislative
1698 day, and no motion to reconsider such vote shall be disposed of
1699 adversely on the day on which the original vote was taken, except
1700 on the last day of the session. (Art. 4, Sec. 65, Constitution).



1701 109. No new bill shall be introduced into either house of
1702 the Legislature during the last three (3) days of the session.
1703 (Art. 4, Sec. 67, Constitution).

1704 110. No law granting a gratuity or donation in favor of any
1705 person or object shall be enacted except by the concurrence of
1706 two-thirds (2/3) of the members-elect of each branch of the
1707 Legislature, nor by any vote for a sectarian purpose or use.
1708 (Art. 4, Sec. 66, Constitution).

1709 111. General appropriation bills shall contain only the
1710 appropriations to defray the ordinary expenses of the executive,
1711 legislative and judicial departments of the government; to pay
1712 interest on state bonds and to support the common schools. All
1713 other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each
1714 embracing but one (1) subject. Legislation shall not be engrafted
1715 on appropriation bills, but the same may prescribe the conditions
1716 on which the money may be drawn, and for what purposes paid.
1717 (Art. 4, Sec. 69, Constitution).

1718 112. No revenue bill, or any bill providing for assessments
1719 of property for taxation, shall become a law except by a vote of
1720 at least three-fifths (3/5) of the members of each house present
1721 and voting. (Art. 4, Sec. 70, Constitution).

1722 113. Every bill introduced into the Legislature shall have a
1723 title, and the title ought to indicate clearly the subject matter
1724 or matters of the proposed legislation. Each committee to which a
1725 bill may be referred shall express, in writing, its judgment of



1726 the sufficiency of the title of the bill, and this, too, whether
1727 the recommendation be that the bill do pass or do not pass. (Art.
1728 4, Sec. 71, Constitution).

1729 114. No bill shall become a law until it shall have been
1730 referred to a committee of each house and returned therefrom with
1731 a recommendation in writing. (Art. 4, Sec. 74, Constitution).

1732 115. No bill passed after the adoption of this Constitution
1733 to make appropriations of money out of the State Treasury shall
1734 continue in force more than two (2) months after the expiration of
1735 the fiscal year ending after the meeting of the Legislature at its
1736 next regular session; nor shall such bill be passed except by the
1737 votes of a majority of all the members elected to each house of
1738 the Legislature. (Art. 4, Sec. 64, Constitution).

1739 116. There shall be appointed in each house of the
1740 Legislature a standing committee on Local and Private Legislation;
1741 the House committee to consist of seven (7) Representatives, and
1742 the Senate committee of five (5) Senators. No local or private
1743 bill shall be passed in either house until it shall have been
1744 referred to said committee thereof, and shall have been reported
1745 back with a recommendation in writing that it do pass, stating
1746 affirmatively the reasons therefor, and why the end to be
1747 accomplished should not be reached by a general law, or by a
1748 proceeding in court; or if the recommendation of the committee be
1749 that the bill do not pass, then it shall not pass the house to
1750 which it is so reported unless it be voted by a majority of all



1751 the members elected thereto. If a bill is passed in conformity to
1752 the requirements hereof, other than such as are prohibited in the
1753 next section, the courts shall not, because of its local, special,
1754 or private nature, refuse to enforce it. (Art. 4, Sec. 89,
1755 Constitution).

