

By: Representative Shanks

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PERMANENT RULES OF THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM.

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 permanent Rules of the House  
6 for the 2024-2028 term:

7 HOUSE RULES

8 THE SPEAKER AND SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

17 2. He shall preserve order and decorum, and, in case of  
18 disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or in the



19 lobby, may cause the same to be cleared, may speak to points of  
20 order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for  
21 that purpose.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

121 RULES COMMITTEE

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

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

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



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

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

151 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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



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

220 (d) Staff interim committees;

221 (e) Staff standing committees; and

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

319 DUTIES OF THE CLERK

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

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

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

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



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

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

358   DECORUM AND DEBATE

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



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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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



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

423           The time limit in this rule on speaking on an amendment does  
424 not apply to the time during which the committee substitute on a  
425 House bill or resolution, the committee strike-all amendment on a  
426 Senate bill or resolution, or a strike-all amendment offered to  
427 the bill by the chairman of the first-named committee or any  
428 member of the House designated by the chairman, is explained,  
429 questions are answered, and amendments are offered.

430           24. After the motion to lay on the table (motion to table),  
431 those in opposition to the motion shall be allowed five (5)  
432 minutes for discussion.

433           25. While the Speaker is putting a question, or addressing  
434 the House, no member shall walk out of, or across or about the  
435 Hall or converse with another, nor when a member is speaking, pass  
436 between him and the Chair, or entertain private discourse. And  
437 during the session of the House, no member or other person shall  
438 remain at the Clerk's desk at any time. No member or others shall



439 expectorate upon the floor of the House, and the Sergeant at Arms  
440 and doorkeepers are charged with the strict enforcement of this  
441 rule.

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

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

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

452                         ON MOTIONS, THEIR PRECEDENCE, ETC.

453         29. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order except when  
454 operating under the previous question, but a motion to adjourn  
455 being lost, shall not be renewed until some business has  
456 intervened.

457         30. Every motion made to the House and entertained by the  
458 Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any member,  
459 and may be entered on the Journal with the name of the member  
460 making the motion.

461         31. When a motion has been made, the Speaker shall state it  
462 or (if it be in writing) cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk  
463 before being debated, and it shall then be in possession of the



464 House, but may be withdrawn by unanimous consent at any time  
465 before a decision or amendment.

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

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

469 (1) To adjourn

470 (2) To lay on the table (To table)

471 (3) For the previous question

472 (4) To lay on the table subject to call

473 (5) To postpone to a day certain

474 (6) To refer

475 (7) To amend

476 (8) To postpone indefinitely

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

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

484 The motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable and opens  
485 the main question to debate.

486 A majority vote of the members voting is required for the  
487 adoption of the motion to postpone indefinitely. The adoption of  
488 a motion to postpone indefinitely shall be treated as a vote on



489 the final passage of a measure and shall be subject to  
490 reconsideration as such.

491 35. No motion or proposition on a subject different from  
492 that under consideration shall be admitted under color of an  
493 amendment; nor shall any amendment be adopted changing the  
494 original purpose of the bill.

495 36. The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not  
496 preclude further amendments to that section. If a measure is  
497 being considered section by section or item by item, only  
498 amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be  
499 made. The Speaker shall, in recognizing members for the purpose  
500 of moving the adoption of amendments, endeavor to cause all  
501 amendments to Section 1 to be considered first, then all those to  
502 Section 2 and so on. After all sections have been considered  
503 separately, the whole measure shall be open for amendment.

504 An amendment to strike all after the enacting or resolving  
505 clause or to strike out the enacting or resolving clause of a  
506 measure shall, if carried, be considered as equivalent to  
507 rejection of the measure by the House, and the vote thereon shall  
508 be taken by a roll-call vote. Amendments to an amendment shall be  
509 voted on before substitute is taken up. Only one (1) amendment to  
510 the amendment is in order at one time; but as rapidly as one is  
511 disposed of by rejection or adoption, another is in order as long  
512 as any member desires to offer one. A substitute amendment may be  
513 offered to an amendment. An amendment to the substitute may be



514 offered. No other amendment can be offered since the third degree  
515 has been reached. The vote shall be taken in the following order:  
516 the amendment to the amendment shall first be voted on; then the  
517 amendment to the substitute; then the substitute amendment and if  
518 the substitute is adopted, then the original amendment shall be  
519 regarded as automatically tabled.

520 An amendment to a pending question requires only a majority  
521 vote for its adoption, even though the question may require a vote  
522 greater than a majority, for adoption.

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

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

528 SUSPENSION OF RULES

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

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

533 39. A motion to suspend the rules shall be deemed a  
534 privileged motion, and shall take precedence of all other motions  
535 except the motion to adjourn, but it shall not be in order to make  
536 a motion to suspend the rules while the House is engaged in the  
537 consideration of other business.



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

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

545 42. A motion to suspend the rules for a particular purpose  
546 having been decided in the negative, it shall not be in order to  
547 renew the motion for the same purpose during the same day.

548 MOTION TO REFER

549 43. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
550 other papers addressed to the House may be referred upon original  
551 reference at the pleasure of the House by suspension of the rules;  
552 provided, however, any bill, resolution, petition, memorial,  
553 report, or other paper being before the House after the original  
554 reference thereof may be referred to a standing or select  
555 committee by a majority vote of the members of the House present  
556 and voting.

557 44. The vote on a motion to refer to committee may not be  
558 reconsidered. A motion to recommit or commit to committee shall  
559 be considered a motion to refer.

560 45. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
561 other papers addressed to the House may be presented by any member  
562 who shall state briefly to the House the contents thereof; and no



563 such bill, resolution, petition, memorial, report or other paper  
564 addressed to the House shall be read in full to the House but  
565 shall be filed with the Clerk, attention called thereto, and  
566 referred to the proper committee, unless by a majority vote of  
567 those present in the House should desire the same read.

568 46. Any member upon recognition by the Speaker may object to  
569 the reading of any document before the House. After such  
570 objection, the question of reading shall be determined without  
571 debate by a majority vote of the members present, upon a brief  
572 statement of its substance by the Speaker.

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

577 A standing committee

578 A select committee

579 Committee of the Whole

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

583 48. Bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, reports, and  
584 other papers addressed to the House shall, upon introduction, be  
585 referred by the Speaker to the committee having jurisdiction over  
586 the subject matter, and shall be considered by the House only  
587 after having been reported by such committee.





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

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

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

599            General bills written in such a way as to be local and  
600 private in nature shall be referred by the Speaker to the  
601 Committee on Local and Private Legislation and/or such other  
602 committee as permitted by the rules.

603    READING OF BILLS

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

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

611            52. When a bill is up for final passage, and two (2) or more  
612 major amendments have been adopted, a motion to recommit shall be



613 in order and have precedence over all other business. However,  
614 it shall be in order for the chairman of the first-named committee  
615 from which the bill was reported to the House or any member of the  
616 House designated by the chairman to make a motion to recommit  
617 without two (2) or more major amendments having been adopted.

618 53. Special order after the reading of the Journal of the  
619 preceding day shall be:

620 (1) Senate messages.

621 (2) Senate bills on the first and second reading and  
622 for the proper reference to the committees.

623 (3) House bills on second reading.

624 REGULAR ORDER

625 54. The regular order shall be:

626 (1) Report of select committees.

627 (2) Report of standing committees in their order.

628 (3) Introduction of bills and constitutional  
629 amendments.

630 (4) Resolutions, petitions, memorials and other papers.

631 (5) Introduction of guests and visitors.

632 (6) Disposition of pending business on previous day,

633 provided that nothing shall be considered under this section  
634 except propositions actually pending before the House at the time  
635 of adjournment on the previous day.

636 (7) Consideration of conference reports.



637           When a conference report is called up, only three (3) courses  
638 are open: (a) agree, (b) disagree, or (c) recommit to the same or  
639 another conference committee with or without instructions.  
640 However, only two (2) motions for the three (3) courses are in  
641 order: (a) agree, or (b) recommit to the same or another  
642 conference committee with or without instructions. If both  
643 motions are offered, the motion to recommit shall take precedence.

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

646           A conference report may not be amended except \* \* \* as  
647 provided in Joint Rule 27A.

648           When conference results in disagreement, conferees reporting  
649 such disagreement in writing are thereby discharged and new  
650 conferees may be appointed.

651           (8) Consideration of bills for concurrence.

652           When Senate amendments to a House bill are before the body,  
653 they shall be either concurred in or not concurred in their  
654 entirety and not separately. The motion that the House do not  
655 concur in Senate amendments but invite conference shall take  
656 precedence over the motion that the House do concur. The  
657 concurrence in amendments adopted by the other house shall require  
658 for adoption the same vote as was required for the original  
659 passage of the measure and shall be on roll call duly entered and  
660 recorded in the Journal of the House. However, if the Senate  
661 amendments would make the House bill a revenue bill under the



662 Joint Rules or the Mississippi Constitution if the amendments were  
663 engrossed into the bill, then the vote on concurrence in the  
664 Senate amendments shall require the same vote as required for the  
665 final passage of a revenue bill.

666 (9) Consideration of motions to reconsider.

667 (10) Consideration and passage of bills and resolutions  
668 on the general calendar.

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

670 ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

675 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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



686           57. Upon a bill being referred to the Committee of the  
687 Whole, the same shall first be read through by the Clerk, unless  
688 the committee shall otherwise order, and then read and debated by  
689 sections, leaving the title to be last considered. After report,  
690 the bill shall again be subject to debate and amendment before the  
691 question of engrossing it be taken.

692           58. The only motions permitted in Committee of the Whole  
693 are: to limit debate; to propose amendments; to recommend; to  
694 recess committee subject to the call of the chairman; to  
695 reconsider, provided said motion to reconsider may be called up  
696 immediately or at any time during the time the House is resolved  
697 into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the  
698 matter before the committee; and to rise.

699           59. The rules of the procedure in the House shall be  
700 observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they may be  
701 applicable and in all committees, provided standing and select  
702 committees may exclude from their committee procedures those House  
703 Rules not compatible, in the opinion of said committee, with the  
704 proper function of said committee.

705                           STANDING COMMITTEES

706           60. (1) The following shall be the standing committees of  
707 the House:

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



710 (b) Management Committee, as provided for in Rule  
711 11A of these rules;

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

714 (d) Committee Number of Members

|     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| 715 | Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency | 11 |
| 716 | Agriculture                                 | 33 |
| 717 | Apportionment and Elections                 | 17 |
| 718 | Appropriations A                            | 33 |
| 719 | Appropriations B                            | 9  |
| 720 | Appropriations C                            | 9  |
| 721 | Appropriations D                            | 9  |
| 722 | Appropriations E                            | 9  |
| 723 | Banking and Financial Services              | 21 |
| 724 | Business and Commerce                       | 17 |
| 725 | Conservation and Water Resources            | 17 |
| 726 | Constitution                                | 9  |
| 727 | Corrections                                 | 17 |
| 728 | County Affairs                              | 19 |
| 729 | Drug Policy                                 | 15 |
| 730 | Education                                   | 27 |
| 731 | Energy                                      | 21 |
| 732 | Forestry                                    | 11 |
| 733 | Gaming                                      | 19 |
| 734 | Housing                                     | 7  |



|     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 735 | Insurance  | 21 |
| 736 | Interstate Cooperation   | 7  |
| 737 | Judiciary A  | 25 |
| 738 | Judiciary B  | 25 |
| 739 | Local and Private Legislation                                    | 7  |
| 740 | Marine Resources   | 11 |
| 741 | Medicaid   | 19 |
| 742 | Military Affairs   | 15 |
| 743 | Municipalities   | 17 |
| 744 | Ports, Harbors and Airports                                      | 11 |
| 745 | Public Health and Human Services                                 | 29 |
| 746 | Public Property  | 15 |
| 747 | Public Utilities   | 23 |
| 748 | State Affairs  | 13 |
| 749 | Technology   | 11 |
| 750 | Tourism  | 21 |
| 751 | Transportation   | 33 |
| 752 | Universities and Colleges  | 27 |
| 753 | Ways and Means   | 33 |
| 754 | Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks                                    | 21 |
| 755 | Workforce Development  | 21 |
| 756 | Youth and Family Affairs   | 8  |
| 757 | (2) No member shall serve on both the Committee on Ways          |    |
| 758 | and Means and any of the Appropriations Committees. Each member  |    |
| 759 | who is not a member of the Committee on Ways and Means or any of |    |



760 the Appropriations Committees shall serve on at least four (4)  
761 committees listed in this rule.

762 (3) The Appropriations A Committee and the Committee on  
763 Ways and Means each shall consist of thirty-three (33) members  
764 appointed by the Speaker, six (6) members from each congressional  
765 district as constituted on January 1, 2024, and nine (9) members  
766 from the state at large. Appointments from the congressional  
767 districts shall be made on the basis of seniority. For the  
768 purposes of this rule, "seniority" shall mean length of service,  
769 continuous or interrupted, in either the House of Representatives  
770 or the Senate. However, seniority among members having the same  
771 length of service shall be determined as follows: first,  
772 continuous, uninterrupted service in the House; second,  
773 continuous, uninterrupted service in the House and Senate; third,  
774 interrupted service in the House; and fourth, interrupted service  
775 in the House and Senate.

776 (4) In order for a member to be eligible for the rights  
777 accorded by this subsection (4), a member shall submit a list of  
778 his or her committee preferences, setting forth at least ten (10)  
779 committees in order of preference with the most preferred being  
780 first on the list, to the Clerk of the House by 5:00 p.m. on the  
781 third calendar day of the first legislative session immediately  
782 following the year in which the members of the Legislature are  
783 elected. With regard to committee appointments, the following





784 shall be followed by the Speaker of the House in making such  
785 appointments:

786 (a) Each member of the House who has served in the  
787 House for less than four (4) years, whether such service be  
788 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member  
789 of any of the Appropriations Committees or the Committee on Ways  
790 and Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at  
791 least two (2) of the first seven (7) committees on such list, not  
792 to include any of the Appropriations Committees and the Committee  
793 on Ways and Means; and

794 (b) Each member of the House who has served in the  
795 House for four (4) years or more, whether such service be  
796 continuous or interrupted, and who is not appointed to be a member  
797 of any of the Appropriations Committees or the Committee on Ways  
798 and Means shall, as a matter of right, be appointed to serve on at  
799 least three (3) of the first seven (7) committees on such list,  
800 not to include any of the Appropriations Committees and the  
801 Committee on Ways and Means.

802 (5) (a) The chairman of the Appropriations A Committee  
803 shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Appropriations B,  
804 Appropriations C, Appropriations D and Appropriations E  
805 Committees.

806 (b) Each member of the Appropriations B,  
807 Appropriations C, Appropriations D and Appropriations E Committees  
808 shall also be a member of the Appropriations A Committee.



809 However, except for the chairman of the Appropriations A  
810 Committee, no member of the Appropriations B, Appropriations C,  
811 Appropriations D or Appropriations E Committees may be a member of  
812 any of the other Appropriations Committees other than the  
813 Appropriations A Committee.

814 (6) In making committee appointments, the Speaker shall  
815 give consideration to the preferences as expressed by the members  
816 on their lists as provided in subsection (4) of this rule, and to  
817 the seniority, abilities, and geographic location of the members.

818 61. The first member named on a committee shall be its  
819 chairman and the second member named shall be its vice chairman,  
820 except that the Vice Chairman of the Management Committee shall be  
821 elected as provided in Rule 11A and the Appropriations B,  
822 Appropriations C, Appropriations D and Appropriations E Committees  
823 shall not have a vice chairman. However, no member who serves as  
824 chairman or vice chairman of a standing committee shall serve as  
825 chairman or vice chairman of another standing committee, except  
826 that the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, the Vice Chairman of  
827 the Rules Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Management Committee  
828 and the Vice Chairman of the Committee on State Affairs may be the  
829 chairman of another standing committee. There shall be no further  
830 rank on committees, the remaining members being listed thereon in  
831 alphabetical order. Each committee shall, after its organization,  
832 immediately determine by a majority vote what shall constitute a  
833 sufficient quorum for it to proceed to business, which quorum



834 shall be not less than a majority of the committee, and shall  
835 report that action to the Clerk of the House.

836 62. Bills, resolutions and other measures, at the discretion  
837 of the Speaker, may be referred to Judiciary en banc, in which  
838 event the Judiciary A Committee and the Judiciary B Committee  
839 shall sit as one (1) committee and be presided over by the  
840 Chairman of Judiciary A.

841 63. The chairman of each House committee shall keep a record  
842 of meetings and attendance and shall make with his report each  
843 time a statement showing the hour his committee met and the hour  
844 it adjourned, together with the names of all the members of the  
845 committee who were absent from the meeting, who had not been  
846 previously excused by him or by the Speaker to attend to other  
847 legislative duties.

848 ETHICS COMMITTEE

849 63A. As used in the context of this rule, the word  
850 "committee" shall mean the Committee on Ethics of the House of  
851 Representatives, and the phrase "majority of the committee" shall  
852 mean a majority of the members to which the committee is entitled.

853 The committee shall consist of eight (8) members, one (1)  
854 from each congressional district as constituted on January 1,  
855 2024, one (1) member from the state at large appointed by the  
856 Speaker, and one (1) from each Supreme Court district, appointed  
857 by the Speaker. The Speaker shall appoint from the members a  
858 chairman, vice chairman and secretary for the committee.



859           The chairman shall notify all members of the committee at  
860 least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the date, time and  
861 place of a meeting. Whenever the chairman shall refuse to call a  
862 meeting, a majority of the committee may vote to call a meeting by  
863 giving two (2) days' written notice to the Speaker of the House  
864 setting forth the time and place for such meeting. Such notice  
865 shall be posted in the office of the Clerk of the House, and if  
866 such meeting is called while the Legislature is in session the  
867 notice shall be read to the House. Thereafter, the meeting shall  
868 be held at the time and place specified in such notice.

869           The committee shall conduct its investigations, hearings and  
870 meetings relating to a specific investigation or a specific  
871 member, officer or employee of the House in closed session, and  
872 the fact that such investigation is being conducted or to be  
873 conducted, or that hearings or such meetings are being held or are  
874 to be held shall be confidential information, unless the person  
875 subject to investigation advises the committee in writing that he  
876 elects that such hearing shall be held publicly. In the event of  
877 such an election, the committee shall furnish such person a public  
878 hearing. All other meetings of the committee shall be open to the  
879 public.

880           The committee shall receive complaints from any citizen  
881 against members, officers and employees of the House alleging  
882 improper or unethical conduct. Any such complaint must be in  
883 writing signed by the person filing the complaint and acknowledged



884 by a notary public, and must set forth in detail the conduct in  
885 question and the section of the Code of Ethics, other House Rule,  
886 written policy of the House adopted by the Management Committee,  
887 statute, or of the Constitution violated. The person against whom  
888 the complaint has been brought shall be notified in writing and  
889 given a copy of the complaint. Within fifteen (15) days after  
890 receipt of the complaint, such person may file a written answer  
891 thereto with the committee. Upon receipt of the answer, by vote  
892 of a majority of the committee, the committee shall either dismiss  
893 the complaint within ten (10) days or proceed with a formal  
894 investigation, to include hearings, not less than ten (10) days  
895 nor more than thirty (30) days after notice in writing to the  
896 person so charged that the committee is proceeding with a formal  
897 investigation. Personal service of such notice shall be made by  
898 the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and a return  
899 made thereon to the committee. Failure of the person charged to  
900 file an answer shall not be deemed to be an admission or create an  
901 inference or presumption that the complaint is true, and such  
902 failure to file an answer shall not prohibit a majority of the  
903 committee from either proceeding with a formal investigation or  
904 dismissing the complaint.

905 A majority of the committee may, on its own, initiate a  
906 preliminary investigation of any suspected violation of the Code  
907 of Ethics, other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted  
908 by the Management Committee, statute, or Constitution by a member,



909 officer or employee of the House. If it is determined by a  
910 majority of the committee that a violation of a rule or law may  
911 have occurred, the person in question shall be notified in writing  
912 of the conduct in question and the section of the Code of Ethics,  
913 other House Rule, written policy of the House adopted by the  
914 Management Committee, statute or Constitution violated. Within  
915 fifteen (15) days, such person may file a written answer thereto.  
916 Upon receipt of the answer, by vote of a majority of the  
917 committee, the committee shall either dismiss the charges within  
918 ten (10) days or proceed with a formal investigation, to include  
919 hearings, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30)  
920 days after notice in writing to the person so charged that the  
921 committee is proceeding with a formal investigation. Personal  
922 service of such notice shall be made by the Sergeant at Arms of  
923 the House of Representatives and a return made thereon to the  
924 committee. Failure of the person charged to file an answer shall  
925 not be deemed to be an admission or create an inference or  
926 presumption that the charge is true, and such failure to file an  
927 answer shall not prohibit a majority of the committee from either  
928 proceeding with a formal investigation or dismissing the charge.

929 In the event that the committee desires to review the  
930 statement of economic interest or any other statement filed with  
931 the Mississippi Ethics Commission by any member, officer or  
932 employee of the House, the commission shall furnish a certified  
933 copy of the statement to the committee.



934 In the event that the committee shall elect to proceed with a  
935 formal investigation of the conduct of any member, officer or  
936 employee of the House, the committee may, in its discretion,  
937 employ independent counsel who shall not be employed by the House  
938 for any other purpose or in any other capacity during such  
939 investigation.

940 Such person shall be entitled to present evidence,  
941 cross-examine witnesses, face his accuser, and be represented by  
942 counsel.

943 The chairman may continue any hearing for reasonable cause,  
944 and upon the vote of a majority of the committee or upon the  
945 request of any person subject to investigation, the chairman shall  
946 issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and  
947 the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter  
948 under formal investigation by the committee.

949 All testimony, documents, records, data, statements or  
950 information received by the committee in the course of any  
951 investigation shall be private and confidential, except in the  
952 case of public hearings or in a report to the House. The  
953 committee may release any confidential information, including a  
954 report thereon, regarding any member, officer or employee at the  
955 request of such member, officer or employee. No report shall be  
956 made to the House unless a majority of the committee has made a  
957 finding of unethical or improper conduct on the part of the person  
958 under investigation. No finding of unethical or improper conduct



959 shall be valid unless signed by at least a majority of the  
960 committee. Any such report may include a minority report. No  
961 action shall be taken on any finding of improper or unethical  
962 conduct nor shall such finding or report containing such finding  
963 be made public sooner than seven (7) days after a copy of the  
964 finding is sent by certified mail to the member, officer or  
965 employee under investigation.

966 The committee may meet with a committee of the Senate to hold  
967 investigations or hearings involving employees of the two (2)  
968 houses jointly or employees of the Legislative Reference Bureau,  
969 the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and  
970 Expenditure Review, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and any  
971 other joint committee created by the Legislature; provided,  
972 however, no action may be taken at a joint meeting unless it is  
973 approved by a majority of the committee.

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

977 The committee, upon the written request of a member, officer  
978 or employee of the House, shall issue opinions in writing with  
979 regard to real or hypothetical situations pertaining to  
980 legislative ethics or decorum. When a request made under this  
981 paragraph has stated all the facts to govern the opinion and an  
982 opinion has been prepared and issued with reference to the  
983 request, there shall be no liability, civil or criminal, accruing





984 to or against the person requesting the opinion who, in good  
985 faith, follows the direction of the opinion and acts in accordance  
986 with the opinion, unless a court of competent jurisdiction, after  
987 a full hearing, judicially declares that the opinion is manifestly  
988 wrong and without substantial support. No opinion shall be  
989 considered or issued if the opinion is requested after suit is  
990 filed, prosecution begun, or a complaint has been filed with the  
991 committee under this rule. All requests for opinions and all  
992 opinions issued under this paragraph shall be confidential and the  
993 committee shall not publicly disclose any opinion issued or the  
994 fact that an opinion has been requested or issued unless the  
995 person requesting the opinion gives his or her written permission  
996 to the committee. However, opinions of the committee, with such  
997 deletions and changes as are necessary to protect the identity of  
998 the person involved or seeking them, may be published and  
999 distributed to all the members of the House.

1000 Any member of the committee breaching the confidentiality of  
1001 materials and events as set forth in this rule shall, by a  
1002 majority vote of the committee, be removed immediately from the  
1003 committee and replaced by another member of the House in a like  
1004 manner as the member's original appointment.

1005 Any officer or employee of the House shall be subject to the  
1006 same restriction of confidentiality as a member of the committee,  
1007 and a breach of this restriction shall be grounds for dismissal of  
1008 any officer or employee.



1009           The committee may adopt rules of procedure for the orderly  
1010 conduct of its affairs, investigations, hearings and meetings,  
1011 which rules are not inconsistent with this rule.

1012           The committee shall continue to exist and have authority and  
1013 power to function after the sine die adjournment of the  
1014 Legislature, and shall so continue until the expiration of the  
1015 then current term of office of the members of the committee.

1016   CODE OF ETHICS

1017           63B. In addition to the other rules of the House of  
1018 Representatives, and in supplement thereto, the following Code of  
1019 Ethics is established as a standard of conduct for members.

1020                     (1) No member, officer or employee of the House shall:

1021                                     (a) Accept employment or engage in any business or  
1022 professional activity which will require him to disclose  
1023 confidential information which he has gained by reason of his  
1024 official position or authority;

1025                                     (b) Improperly disclose confidential information  
1026 acquired by him in the course of his official duties nor use such  
1027 information to further his personal interests;

1028                                     (c) Use or attempt to use his official position to  
1029 secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others;

1030                                     (d) Use for private gain any information not  
1031 available to the public at large and acquired by him solely by  
1032 virtue of his position, and no information described in this



1033 subsection shall be disclosed by a member to others for purposes  
1034 of their use for private gain.

1035           (2) Each member of the House shall file the statement  
1036 of economic interest or any other statement required to be filed  
1037 by the Mississippi Ethics Commission which shall be signed under  
1038 oath as to the accuracy and completeness of the information set  
1039 forth to the best knowledge of the person submitting such  
1040 statement.

1041           Required statements hereunder shall be filed with the  
1042 Mississippi Ethics Commission with such information as is required  
1043 by law. In the event of any substantial change occurring after  
1044 the time required for filing as to matters covered in this  
1045 section, a supplemental statement shall be filed within thirty  
1046 (30) days thereafter reflecting such new information.

1047           (3) Any member who shall undertake to represent or to  
1048 intervene for any person for compensation before any state agency  
1049 shall file a statement with the Ethics Committee within thirty  
1050 (30) days after undertaking that representation. Such statement  
1051 shall identify the person represented and the nature of the  
1052 business involved; however, this provision shall not apply: (a)  
1053 where such representation involves only the uncontested or routine  
1054 actions of administrative officers or employees of the state in  
1055 issuing or renewing a license, charter, certificate or similar  
1056 document, and (b) where such representation is before the  
1057 Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.



1058 (4) In addition to the filings required herein, copies  
1059 of the statements required to be filed under this rule shall be  
1060 filed with the Secretary of State. Such statements shall be open  
1061 to the general public and shall be filed at the same time as  
1062 filings required hereinabove.

1063 64. Appropriation and revenue bills shall, at regular  
1064 sessions of the Legislature, have precedence over all other  
1065 business and no such bill shall be passed during the last five (5)  
1066 days of the session.

1067 65. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Engrossed and  
1068 Enrolled Bills to examine all engrossed and enrolled bills,  
1069 correct all mistakes therein, and report the bills to the House  
1070 and this report shall be in order at any time.

1071 THE PREVIOUS QUESTION

1072 66. There shall be a motion for the previous question, which  
1073 being ordered by a majority of members voting, if a quorum be  
1074 present, shall have the effect to cut off all debate and bring the  
1075 House to a direct vote upon the immediate question, or questions,  
1076 on which it has been asked and ordered, except that each side  
1077 shall be allowed ten (10) minutes on the main question and five  
1078 (5) minutes on any subsidiary question for debate, the affirmative  
1079 closing the debate. The previous question may be asked and  
1080 ordered upon a single motion, a series of motions allowable under  
1081 the rules, or an amendment or amendments, or may be made to  
1082 embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill



1083 to its recommitment, passage or rejection. It shall be in order  
1084 after the previous question shall have been ordered on its  
1085 passage, for the Speaker to entertain and submit a motion without  
1086 debate to recommit, with or without instruction, to a standing or  
1087 select committee. Provided, however, a motion to reconsider the  
1088 vote whereby an amendment has been adopted or rejected shall not  
1089 be in order after the previous question has been ordered.

1090 67. If the previous question is lost, the motion may not be  
1091 renewed until a subsequent vote has been taken on any matter.

1092 68. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion  
1093 is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall  
1094 be decided, whether an appeal or otherwise, without debate.

1095 ON CALLS OF THE ROLL

1096 69. Upon every roll call where the vote is not taken using  
1097 the electronic roll-call system in Rule 97, the names of the  
1098 members shall be called alphabetically by surname, except when two  
1099 (2) or more have the same surname, in which case the name of the  
1100 county shall be added; and if there are two (2) such members from  
1101 the same county, the name and initials shall be called, and after  
1102 the roll has been once called, the Clerk shall call in their  
1103 alphabetical order the names of those not voting; and thereafter  
1104 the Speaker shall not entertain a request to record a vote or  
1105 announce a pair; and the yeas and nays on any question shall be  
1106 entered on the Journal, at the request of one-tenth (1/10) of the



1107 members present; and the yeas and nays shall be entered on the  
1108 Journal on the final passage of every bill.

1109 ABSENCE OF QUORUM

1110 70. In the absence of a quorum, fifteen (15) members,  
1111 including the Speaker, if there is one, shall be authorized to  
1112 compel the attendance of absent members, and in all calls of the  
1113 House the doors shall be closed, the names of the members shall be  
1114 called by the Clerk, and the absentees noted; and those for whom  
1115 no sufficient excuse is made may, by order of a majority of those  
1116 present, be sent for and arrested, wherever they may be found, by  
1117 officers appointed by the Sergeant at Arms for that purpose, and  
1118 their attendance secured and retained; and the House shall  
1119 determine upon what condition they shall be discharged. Members  
1120 who voluntarily appear shall, unless the House otherwise direct,  
1121 be immediately admitted to the Hall of the House, and they shall  
1122 report their names to the Clerk to be entered upon the Journal as  
1123 present.

1124 71. On the demand of any member, or at the suggestion of the  
1125 Speaker, the names of members sufficient to make a quorum in the  
1126 Hall of the House who do not vote shall be noted by the Clerk and  
1127 recorded in the Journal, and reported to the Speaker with the  
1128 names of the members voting and be counted and announced in  
1129 determining the presence of a quorum to do business.

1130 72. Whenever a quorum fails to vote on any question and a  
1131 quorum is not present and objection is made for that cause, unless



1132 the House shall adjourn there shall be a call of the House, and  
1133 the Sergeant at Arms shall forthwith proceed to bring absent  
1134 members, and the yeas and nays on the pending question shall at  
1135 the same time be considered as ordered.

1136 The Clerk shall call the roll, and each member as he answers  
1137 to his name may vote on the pending question, and, after the roll  
1138 call is completed, each member arrested shall be brought by the  
1139 Sergeant at Arms before the House, whereupon he shall be noted as  
1140 present, discharged from arrest, and given an opportunity to vote  
1141 and his vote shall be recorded. If those voting on the question  
1142 and those who are present and decline to vote shall together make  
1143 a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum  
1144 is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as the  
1145 majority of those voting shall appear; and thereupon further  
1146 proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with.  
1147 At any time after the roll call has been completed, the Speaker  
1148 may entertain a motion to adjourn, if seconded by a majority of  
1149 those present, to be ascertained by actual count by the Speaker;  
1150 and if the House adjourns, all proceedings under this section  
1151 shall be vacated.

#### 1152 DIVISION OF QUESTION

1153 73. On demand of any member, before the question is put, a  
1154 question shall be divided if it include propositions so distinct  
1155 in substance, that one being taken away, a substantive proposition  
1156 shall remain.



1157 74. (1) Questions of privilege shall be:

1158 First, those affecting the rights of the House collectively,  
1159 its safety, dignity and the integrity of its proceedings.

1160 Second, the rights, reputation and conduct of members  
1161 individually in their representative capacity only.

1162 (2) No member shall speak more than ten (10) minutes on any  
1163 question of privilege.

1164 HOURS OF MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

1165 75. Two o'clock in the afternoon on each legislative day  
1166 shall be the standing hour to which the House adjourns, unless  
1167 otherwise ordered by a majority of the members present and voting.

1168 76. The hour at which every motion to adjourn is made shall  
1169 be entered on the Journal.

1170 77. It shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to prescribe  
1171 a schedule for regular meetings of standing committees.

1172 78. Every bill or resolution, when favorably reported by the  
1173 proper committee, shall be made available for viewing on the  
1174 members' computers and shall be reproduced with sufficient copies  
1175 so that copies thereof may be placed on the desk of every member  
1176 who requests to have a copy, before any such bill or resolution  
1177 is placed on final passage. No bill or resolution shall be  
1178 considered by the House unless it is available for viewing on the  
1179 members' computers and all members who request to have a copy of  
1180 the bill or resolution have been furnished copies thereof, except  
1181 by unanimous consent. When a bill or resolution is being





1182 considered by the House, all amendments offered have been disposed  
1183 of, and two (2) or more major amendments have been adopted, any  
1184 member may move that the bill be engrossed. If such motion is  
1185 adopted by a majority of those present and voting, further  
1186 consideration of such bill or resolution shall be suspended until  
1187 the bill or resolution has been engrossed and the engrossed bill  
1188 or resolution is available for viewing on the members' computers  
1189 and all members present who request to have a copy have been  
1190 furnished copies of the engrossed bill or resolution. When the  
1191 engrossed bill or resolution is available for viewing on the  
1192 members' computers and all members who request to have a copy have  
1193 been furnished copies of the engrossed bill or resolution, the  
1194 bill or resolution shall then become pending business of the House  
1195 as soon as the main question then under consideration has been  
1196 disposed of. The committee or any member proposing a substitute  
1197 or an amendment which is, in effect, a substitute for an entire  
1198 bill or resolution, shall provide the substitute or amendment to  
1199 the Clerk to make it available for viewing on the members'  
1200 computers and provide copies of the substitute or amendment to all  
1201 members who request a copy before the same shall be voted on for  
1202 consideration or adoption, except on suspension of the rules.

1203 79. When a bill, memorial or resolution has been finally  
1204 rejected in the House, it shall not again be introduced or  
1205 considered during the same session without notice of three (3)  
1206 days and leave of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and



1207 voting, and a bill so offered for reintroduction shall be regarded  
1208 as the same, if it deals substantially with the same subject  
1209 matter.

#### 1210 SPECIAL ORDER

1211 80. Special orders of the day not disposed of on the day  
1212 assigned, shall stand for every succeeding day, until disposed of.

1213 81. (1) A motion to postpone to a day certain shall require  
1214 a majority of those present and voting for its adoption, but a  
1215 motion to postpone to a time certain shall be deemed, and treated  
1216 as, a motion to set as a special order. (2) A motion to set a  
1217 special order may be amended as to time. It is debatable only as  
1218 to the question of setting the special order and does not open up  
1219 the main question to debate. (3) A motion to set a special order  
1220 shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and  
1221 voting. (4) When special orders that have been made at different  
1222 times come into conflict, the one that was first made takes  
1223 precedence over all special orders made afterwards, although the  
1224 latter were made for an earlier hour.

#### 1225 CALENDARS

1226 82. Bills reported by committees shall be given a serial  
1227 number by the Clerk and shall be placed on the calendar in the  
1228 order in which reported by the committee and shall be called for  
1229 consideration in that order. Bills on the calendar may only be  
1230 called up by the chairman of the first-named committee from which  
1231 the bill was reported to the House, or any member of the House



1232 designated by the chairman. When a bill is called for  
1233 consideration in the order in which placed on the calendar and is  
1234 not considered by the House, it shall go to the heel of the  
1235 calendar, unless a majority of the members present allow the bill  
1236 to retain its place on the calendar. Separate calendars shall be  
1237 kept for the bills reported by the Committees on Ways and Means,  
1238 Appropriations, Rules, and Local and Private Legislation.

1239 83. Any committee or individual member of the House may  
1240 apply to the Committee on Rules to set a time for the taking up,  
1241 ahead of its regular place on the calendar, of any measure  
1242 favorably reported by the committee to which the measure has been  
1243 referred. The Committee on Rules may grant such request by a  
1244 majority vote. The Committee on Rules may designate a day of each  
1245 legislative week as a noncontroversial bill day. When such a day  
1246 be designated, all bills appearing on the calendar shall be  
1247 considered in their regular order provided, however, that should  
1248 ten percent (10%) of the membership object to any measure on the  
1249 noncontroversial calendar stating that it is of a controversial  
1250 nature, that measure shall go to the heel of the General House  
1251 Calendar.

1252 84. The calendar shall be made up from day to day.

1253 **MINORITY REPORT**

1254 85. Bills adversely reported by the committees shall not be  
1255 placed on the calendar at all unless accompanied by a minority  
1256 report signed by one or more members who were present at the



1257 committee meeting at which the bill was reported. Minority  
1258 reports must be filed within three (3) legislative days after the  
1259 bill has been reported by the committee; a minority report shall  
1260 be placed on the calendar at the heel of favorably reported bills  
1261 and shall not be considered until all favorably reported bills are  
1262 disposed of, except on a suspension of the rules on a two-thirds  
1263 (2/3) vote of those elected to the House and on roll call,  
1264 whereupon, the House may proceed immediately to the consideration  
1265 thereof.

1266         86. Matters affecting the public interest and regarded as of  
1267 immediate necessity may be advanced on the calendar by the Rules  
1268 Committee, and such matters may also be advanced on the calendar  
1269 by a vote of a majority of the members elected to the House of  
1270 Representatives.

1271                                   RULES

1272         87. The permanent Rules of the House may not be changed or  
1273 amended except by three (3) days' notice by a motion entered in  
1274 writing and placed on the Journal and by a vote of three-fifths  
1275 (3/5) of those present and voting, except that no rule shall be  
1276 changed or amended unless at least a majority of the elected  
1277 members of the House of Representatives vote for said change or  
1278 amendment.

1279         Provided, however, the rules, or a rule, may be amended or  
1280 changed by a resolution referred to the Rules Committee, reported  
1281 favorably, and adopted by a majority of the elected members of the



1282 House of Representatives, and such resolutions, once reported,  
1283 shall not be amended except by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the  
1284 elected members of the House of Representatives.

1285 A motion to reconsider the vote whereby a rule has been  
1286 adopted or failed shall not be in order at any time.

1287 88. The current Rules of the House of Representatives of the  
1288 United States shall govern in all cases to which they are  
1289 applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the  
1290 foregoing rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of  
1291 Representatives, and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi.

1292 89. No person shall be entitled to enter upon the Floor of  
1293 the House except: Members, their spouses, former members of the  
1294 Legislature, unless said former member is a registered lobbyist,  
1295 officers and employees of the House; members, officers and  
1296 employees of the Senate; members of the news media who have proper  
1297 credentials issued by the Rules Committee; ministers invited by  
1298 the Speaker or the Clerk; and such others as the Committee on  
1299 Rules may designate.

1300 Doors between the lobby and the cloak room, and the door  
1301 between the lobby and the Hall of the House shall be kept closed.  
1302 Visitors invited and personally accompanied by members are  
1303 permitted in the lobby. The Speaker is charged with the  
1304 enforcement of this rule, and it shall be the duty of any member,  
1305 officer or employee of the House to inform the Speaker of any  
1306 violation of this rule. This rule is applicable from one (1) hour



1307 before the House convenes each day until the House adjourns each  
1308 day.

1309 90. Privilege of reports from Committee on Rules, and  
1310 limitations thereon.

1311 It shall always be in order to call up for consideration a  
1312 report from the Committee on Rules and, pending the consideration  
1313 thereof, the Speaker may entertain one (1) motion that the House  
1314 adjourn; but after the result is announced, he shall not entertain  
1315 any other dilatory motion until the report has been fully disposed  
1316 of.

1317 91. No committee, except the Committee on Rules, shall sit  
1318 during the sitting of the House, without special leave.

1319 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

1320 92. Each member, who desires to introduce a bill shall place  
1321 same in box in front of the Clerk's desk at any hour to suit his  
1322 convenience, and the Clerk is instructed to take these out at each  
1323 session when the order for introduction of bills and  
1324 constitutional amendments is reached, and read their titles, and  
1325 after the expiration of not less than one (1) legislative day, the  
1326 Speaker shall refer them to the proper committees; provided,  
1327 however, that this shall not prevent the immediate references of  
1328 said bills or constitutional amendments under a suspension of the  
1329 rules.

1330 93. All bills and resolutions must be typewritten or  
1331 printed. Bills and resolutions must be introduced in original



1332 form (not carbon, photocopy or facsimile) and should be free from  
1333 interlineations, corrections and strikeouts, whether with ink,  
1334 pencil or typewriter. Amendments proposed by members or by  
1335 committees must not be written into a bill or resolution until  
1336 such amendments shall be adopted by the House.

1337         94. In addition to any other time provided by law or by  
1338 rule, members of the House may file bills or resolutions with the  
1339 Clerk of the House at any time during the period between sessions  
1340 of the Legislature. Such prefiled bills shall be numbered by the  
1341 Clerk of the House and referred by the Speaker to the appropriate  
1342 standing committee of the House for study. Such prefiled bills  
1343 shall be introduced in the order filed on the first day of the  
1344 next succeeding regular session of the Legislature, or special  
1345 session if included within the Governor's call, and referred to  
1346 committee in the regular order of business of the House.

1347                                 WITHDRAW FROM COMMITTEE

1348         95. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this rule, every  
1349 House bill, resolution or measure referred to any committee, and  
1350 not reported therefrom with a recommendation by the twenty-seventh  
1351 day of a ninety-day session and by the sixty-second day of a  
1352 one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and every Senate bill,  
1353 resolution or measure referred to any committee, and not reported  
1354 therefrom by the fifty-fifth day of a ninety-day session and by  
1355 the ninetieth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, may be  
1356 withdrawn from the committee on a motion made in writing, which



1357 motion must be read by the Clerk immediately upon its  
1358 introduction, setting forth the reasons why the bill should be  
1359 withdrawn from the committee, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the  
1360 members present and voting. It may then be taken up and  
1361 considered by the Committee of the Whole House in accordance with  
1362 the procedure set forth in House Rule 56, or, by a two-thirds  
1363 (2/3) vote of those present and voting it may be recommitted to a  
1364 standing committee. During extraordinary or special sessions of  
1365 the Legislature, any bill, including an appropriation or revenue  
1366 bill, may be withdrawn from committee after three (3) days from  
1367 the date of reference. A motion to withdraw a bill from a  
1368 committee shall not be voted upon by the House on the day which  
1369 the motion is made, except upon suspension of the rules by a  
1370 two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

1371 (2) Any House appropriation bill or revenue bill  
1372 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways  
1373 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a  
1374 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may  
1375 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure  
1376 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for  
1377 withdrawal is made by the fiftieth day of a ninety-day session and  
1378 by the eighty-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session.

1379 (3) Any Senate appropriation bill or revenue bill  
1380 referred to the House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways  
1381 and Means Committee and not reported therefrom with a





1382 recommendation within ten (10) legislative days after referral may  
1383 be withdrawn from the committee in accordance with the procedure  
1384 set forth in subsection (1) of this rule if the motion for  
1385 withdrawal is made by the seventieth day of a ninety-day session  
1386 and by the one-hundred-fifth day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day  
1387 session.

1388           (4) Any House resolution or House concurrent resolution  
1389 that is referred after the twenty-ninth day of a ninety-day  
1390 session or after the sixty-fourth day of a  
1391 one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and any Senate concurrent  
1392 resolution that is referred to a House committee after the  
1393 fifty-seventh day of a ninety-day session or after the  
1394 ninety-second day of a one-hundred-twenty-five-day session, and  
1395 not reported therefrom with a recommendation within ten (10)  
1396 legislative days after referral may be withdrawn from the  
1397 committee in accordance with the procedure set forth in subsection  
1398 (1) of this rule.

1399           (5) For the purposes of this rule, the term "revenue  
1400 bill" shall include only those bills whose primary purpose is to  
1401 increase or decrease taxes or to authorize the issuance of bonds  
1402 or the borrowing of money. Bills which are primarily for  
1403 regulatory purposes which have revenue provisions included shall  
1404 not be considered as revenue bills for the purposes of this rule.

1405           (6) If the Legislature shortens a ninety-day regular  
1406 session or a one-hundred-twenty-five-day regular session by moving



1407 the deadlines for processing legislation that are set forth in  
1408 Joint Rule 40 to dates earlier than the dates otherwise set for  
1409 those sessions, the dates set forth in this subsection (6) shall  
1410 apply to the motion for withdrawing a bill from committee. A  
1411 general bill, resolution or measure that has not been reported  
1412 from the committee to which it has been referred may be withdrawn  
1413 from the committee after the second day before the deadline for  
1414 the committee to report the bill, resolution or measure. An  
1415 appropriation or revenue bill that has not been reported from the  
1416 House Appropriations Committee or the House Ways and Means  
1417 Committee, as the case may be, within ten (10) legislative days  
1418 after referral, may be withdrawn from the applicable committee if  
1419 the motion for withdrawal is made by the day before the deadline  
1420 for original House floor action on the bill. A House resolution  
1421 or House concurrent resolution that is referred after the deadline  
1422 for committees to report House general bills, and any Senate  
1423 concurrent resolution that is referred to a House committee after  
1424 the deadline for House committees to report Senate general bills,  
1425 and not reported therefrom with a recommendation within ten (10)  
1426 legislative days after referral may be withdrawn from the  
1427 committee in accordance with the procedure set forth in subsection  
1428 (1) of this rule. All other provisions of this rule regarding the  
1429 procedure to follow and the associated vote requirements for  
1430 withdrawing bills from committee shall apply.

1431 BILL'S SHALL LIE ON TABLE ONE DAY



1432           96. Every bill or resolution requiring the signature of the  
1433 Governor, all resolutions proposing amendments to the  
1434 Constitution, and all reports of committees except the report of  
1435 the Committee on Rules, shall lie on the table one (1) day before  
1436 being considered except by suspension of the rules.

1437                                       ROLL CALLS

1438           97. When taking the yeas and nays on any question to be  
1439 voted upon, the electrical roll-call system may be used, and, when  
1440 so used, shall have the same force and effect as a roll call taken  
1441 as otherwise provided in the Rules of the House.

1442           When the House is ready to vote upon any question requiring a  
1443 roll call and the vote is to be taken by the electrical roll-call  
1444 system, the Speaker shall announce:

1445           "The question is on the passage of (designating the matter to  
1446 be voted upon). All those in favor (of such question) vote 'Aye';  
1447 all those opposed vote 'No.' The House will now vote."

1448           When sufficient time has been allowed the members to vote,  
1449 the Speaker shall announce one or more times: "Have all voted?"  
1450 And after a short pause, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to  
1451 lock the machine and record the vote.

1452           The Clerk shall immediately start the vote-recording  
1453 equipment and, when the vote is completely recorded, shall advise  
1454 the Speaker of the result, and the Speaker shall announce the  
1455 result to the House. The Clerk shall enter upon the Journal the  
1456 result in the manner provided by the Rules of the House.



1457           After the voting machine has been locked, but prior to the  
1458 display of the tabulated vote on the electric voting board of the  
1459 result of a roll call, any member may request to (1) change his or  
1460 her vote, or (2) vote. After the vote has been tabulated and  
1461 displayed on the electric voting board, a member with unanimous  
1462 consent may change his or her vote on the measure, except that no  
1463 such change of vote shall be permitted where such vote would alter  
1464 the final vote on the measure.

1465           No member shall vote for another member, nor shall any person  
1466 not a member cast a vote for a member. In addition to such  
1467 penalties as may be prescribed by law, any member who shall vote  
1468 or attempt to vote for another member may be punished in such a  
1469 manner as the House may determine. If a person not a member shall  
1470 vote or attempt to vote for any member, he or she shall be barred  
1471 from the Floor of the House for the remainder of the session and  
1472 may be punished further in such manner as the House may deem  
1473 proper, in addition to such punishment as may be prescribed by  
1474 law.

1475           98. Neither the Speaker nor the House exercises jurisdiction  
1476 over pairs, and the only cognizance of them taken by the rules is  
1477 the provision for the announcement and publication.

1478           99. No member shall be permitted to give an oral explanation  
1479 of his vote but may reduce his explanation to writing in not more  
1480 than one hundred (100) words, and upon filing with the Clerk, this  
1481 explanation shall be spread on the Journal.



MOTION TO RECONSIDER

1482  
1483           100. Any member voting on any measure, shall be privileged  
1484 to enter a motion to reconsider the vote whereby the measure is  
1485 disposed of, at any time within the period prescribed by the rules  
1486 of this House.

1487           101. A motion to reconsider having been properly made and  
1488 entered in the Journal shall become the property of the House and  
1489 may be called up only by the chairman of the first-named committee  
1490 from which the measure was reported to the House, or any member of  
1491 the House designated by the chairman.

1492           When a measure requires more than a majority vote for  
1493 passage, it may still be reconsidered by a majority vote.

1494           101A. When a bill or resolution is before the House for  
1495 final passage or adoption and a motion to lay on the table (motion  
1496 to table) the bill or resolution prevails, the vote to table the  
1497 bill or resolution may be held on a motion to reconsider and may  
1498 be reconsidered in the same manner as a vote on final passage or  
1499 adoption of a bill or resolution that fails.

1500           102. When a bill is read the third time in regular order,  
1501 and not under suspension of the rules, it shall be considered  
1502 engrossed and the House on the next or any succeeding legislative  
1503 day may proceed to a vote on its final passage in the same manner  
1504 as if the rules had been suspended for its consideration.

PASSAGE OVER VETO



1506           103. (1) Upon return of a bill without the approval of the  
1507 Governor accompanied by the Governor's objections to the bill, the  
1508 House shall proceed to reconsider the bill by either an immediate  
1509 vote on the motion for passage, the Governor's veto  
1510 notwithstanding, or by referral to the committee which originally  
1511 recommended the bill. \* \* \* If the bill is reconsidered by  
1512 referral to the committee of origin, the committee \* \* \* may  
1513 report, with written recommendations, to the full House \* \* \* at  
1514 any time before the date of sine die adjournment of the session.

1515 At the time of the report of such committee, only two (2) courses  
1516 shall be open:

1517                         (a) Allow Governor's veto to stand.

1518                         (b) Override Governor's veto.

1519           The motion for the first course is a motion to allow the  
1520 Governor's veto to stand, and the motion for the second course is  
1521 a motion for passage, the Governor's veto notwithstanding. Such a  
1522 motion, while not mandatory, shall be in order at any time \* \* \*.

1523                         (2) Upon calling up a bill for reconsideration and  
1524 passage, the Governor's veto notwithstanding, the question before  
1525 the House is not of reconsideration but that of overriding the  
1526 Governor's veto.

1527                         (3) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present  
1528 and voting, a quorum being present, is required to pass a bill  
1529 over a Governor's veto.



1530 (4) A motion to reconsider the vote by which a vetoed  
1531 bill is passed or rejected is not in order.

1532 104. The Rules Committee shall set aside space to  
1533 accommodate representatives of the press, radio and television  
1534 media wishing to report proceedings and such representatives shall  
1535 be admitted to such area under such regulations as the Rules  
1536 Committee may from time to time prescribe. The supervision of  
1537 such portion of the floor shall be fixed in the Committee on  
1538 Rules.

1539 (a) The correspondents shall abide by such rules  
1540 and regulations as may be adopted by the Rules Committee.

1541 (b) The press table allotted to representatives of  
1542 the news media shall be for their exclusive use and persons not  
1543 holding correspondents' cards shall not be entitled to admission  
1544 thereto.

1545 OPEN MEETINGS

1546 104A. All official meetings of any standing, interim or  
1547 special committee of the House of Representatives, but not  
1548 including conference committees, unless otherwise provided by this  
1549 rule or the Constitution of the United States or the State of  
1550 Mississippi, are declared to be public meetings and shall be open  
1551 to the public at all times unless declared an executive session as  
1552 provided herein. Any such House committee may enter into  
1553 executive session for the transaction of public business;  
1554 provided, however, all meetings of any such committee shall



1555 commence as an open meeting, and an affirmative vote of a majority  
1556 of all members present shall be required to declare an executive  
1557 session. The procedure to be followed by such committee in  
1558 declaring an executive session shall be as follows: Any member  
1559 shall have the right to require a closed determination upon the  
1560 issue of whether or not to declare an executive session. Such  
1561 member, by motion, shall require the meeting to be closed for a  
1562 preliminary determination of the necessity for executive session.  
1563 No other business shall be transacted until the discussion of the  
1564 nature of the matter requiring executive session has been  
1565 completed and a vote taken on the issue. The total vote on the  
1566 question of entering into an executive session shall be recorded  
1567 and spread upon the minutes of such committee. Any such vote  
1568 whereby executive session is declared shall be applicable only to  
1569 that particular meeting.

1570 Any such House committee may make and enforce reasonable  
1571 rules and regulations for the conduct of persons attending its  
1572 meetings.

1573 Minutes shall be kept of all House committees, in open or  
1574 executive session, and shall consist of a written record of  
1575 attendance and final actions taken at such meetings. Such minutes  
1576 shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours  
1577 within a reasonable time after adjournment.

1578 During a regular or special session of the Legislature,  
1579 notice of meetings of all House committees, other than conference





1580 committees, shall be given by announcement on the loudspeaker  
1581 during sessions of the House or by posting on a bulletin board  
1582 provided for that purpose.

1583         When not in session, the meeting times and places of all  
1584 House committees shall be kept by the Clerk of the House of  
1585 Representatives and shall be available at all times during regular  
1586 working hours to the public and news media.

1587   ELECTION CONTEST

1588         104B. The procedure for handling the contest of the  
1589 election, other than a primary election, of a member of the  
1590 Mississippi House of Representatives shall be as follows:

1591             (1) Anyone desiring to contest the election, other than  
1592 a primary election, of a member returned as elected to the  
1593 Mississippi House of Representatives shall file with the Clerk of  
1594 the House of Representatives, within thirty (30) days after a  
1595 regular general election or ten (10) days after a special election  
1596 to fill a vacancy, a sworn petition stating particularly the  
1597 grounds upon which the election is contested. A copy of the  
1598 petition shall be served on the member whose election is being  
1599 contested. Any allegations concerning the election, or any  
1600 grounds for the contest contained in the petition, shall be stated  
1601 and averred in the same manner in which circumstances constituting  
1602 fraud are required to be stated with particularity when pleading  
1603 special matters under the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure.



1604           (2) Upon the timely filing of the petition, the Speaker  
1605 of the House of Representatives shall appoint a special committee  
1606 to resolve the election contest. Any special committee appointed  
1607 by the Speaker under this subsection (2) shall be composed of the  
1608 chairman, who shall be appointed from the state at large, and one  
1609 (1) member of the House of Representatives from each congressional  
1610 district as constituted on January 1, 2024. In making the  
1611 committee appointments, the Speaker shall give consideration to  
1612 the seniority, abilities and geographic location of the members.  
1613 Within fifteen (15) days after the Speaker's appointment of the  
1614 special committee, the committee shall meet to organize and review  
1615 the petition.

1616           (3) (a) Either party to such an election contest may  
1617 obtain discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, which is  
1618 relevant to the particular grounds stated in the petition or any  
1619 response thereto, and he may use any method of discovery that is  
1620 authorized under the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure.

1621                       (b) Either party shall have the right of full  
1622 examination of ballot boxes in accordance with Section 23-15-911,  
1623 Mississippi Code of 1972.

1624                       (c) All forms of discovery shall be completed  
1625 within twenty (20) days before the convening of a regular session  
1626 on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January, except that in  
1627 the case of a special election to fill a vacancy, discovery shall  
1628 be completed within thirty (30) days after the special election.



1629                   (d) The special committee shall have exclusive  
1630 jurisdiction over the determination of whether the filing of the  
1631 petition and discovery related thereto have been timely made. If  
1632 the filing of the petition or the discovery related thereto is not  
1633 made timely, the election contest shall be void, and the contest  
1634 and any rights related thereto shall expire by operation of law.

1635                   (4) On the first day of the regular session next  
1636 occurring after the election being contested, the person who was  
1637 certified by the appropriate election officials as the duly  
1638 elected member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from  
1639 the district in question shall be administered the oath of office  
1640 by the Secretary of State as required by the Constitution, along  
1641 with all other members present, and he shall not be requested to  
1642 stand aside if he has been so certified. In the case of a special  
1643 election contest, the oath shall be administered by the Speaker as  
1644 in the case of administering the oath after any special election  
1645 in which no contest has been filed. The seating and swearing in  
1646 of a member who has been certified by the appropriate election  
1647 officials before the special committee has concluded its  
1648 deliberations shall be conditional and not permanent. The  
1649 conditional seating and swearing in of the member shall vest in  
1650 the member all the rights, privileges, and emoluments of the  
1651 office, but without prejudice to the contest filed by the  
1652 petitioner.

1653                   (5) The special committee appointed by the Speaker



1654 shall meet on the first day of the regular session next occurring  
1655 after the election being contested, except that in the case of a  
1656 special election to fill a vacancy, the special committee shall  
1657 meet within five (5) days of the completion of discovery. The  
1658 work of the special committee shall be a matter of the highest  
1659 priority for the House, and any conflicts in scheduling meetings  
1660 of the committee shall be resolved in favor of expediting the  
1661 committee's work. The special committee shall have the power to  
1662 investigate all facts concerning the election or qualifications of  
1663 any member or petitioner, but shall not place itself in the  
1664 position of investigating matters not alleged in the petition or  
1665 any response thereto. It also shall have the power to issue  
1666 subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses and the  
1667 production of such documents or papers as may be required. The  
1668 special committee shall have the authority to enforce any subpoena  
1669 issued by the committee and to enforce compliance with the time  
1670 limitations set forth in this rule, with the assistance of the  
1671 State Attorney General or his designee.

1672 (6) After the committee concludes its deliberations, it  
1673 shall report a resolution recommending one (1) of the following  
1674 courses of action to the House: (a) to seat permanently the House  
1675 member who was certified and sworn in under subsection (4) of this  
1676 rule, failure of which shall vacate the seat for the House  
1677 district in question held by that person; (b) to seat permanently  
1678 the petitioner in the election contest, passage of which will



1679 vacate the seat for that House district and the petitioner shall  
1680 be sworn in for that seat; or (c) to declare the office of  
1681 representative for that House district as vacant. The House shall  
1682 consider the recommendation of the committee, and it shall adopt  
1683 one (1) of the courses of action specified in this subsection (6),  
1684 which must be adopted by a majority vote of House members present  
1685 and voting.

1686 (7) For purposes of this rule, "day" means a calendar  
1687 day and includes any legal holiday.

1688 (8) Section 55, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which  
1689 requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present to expel a  
1690 seated member, shall not apply to any votes taken with regard to  
1691 an election contest of a member of the House of Representatives.

1692 (9) If the House determines that the person  
1693 conditionally sworn in under subsection (4) of this rule is not  
1694 qualified as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives,  
1695 any vote cast in the interim shall stand and any compensation and  
1696 expenses paid shall be retained by that person. If the petitioner  
1697 prevails on the merits of his contest, he shall receive the  
1698 regular compensation and expenses of a member of the House,  
1699 retroactive to the beginning of the session, or in the case of a  
1700 special election, retroactive to the date upon which the House  
1701 member conditionally sworn in was seated.

1702 (10) Under the inherent authority of the House to  
1703 create procedures and rules for the governing of its internal



1704 affairs, if any provision of this rule conflicts with any  
1705 provision of Sections 23-15-955 and 23-15-957, Mississippi Code of  
1706 1972, the provisions of this rule shall prevail.

1707   CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1708           105. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other,  
1709 adjourn for more than three (3) days, nor to any other place than  
1710 that in which the two (2) houses shall be sitting. (Art. 4, Sec.  
1711 57, Constitution).

1712           106. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its  
1713 title only, but the section or sections, as amended or revived,  
1714 shall be inserted at length. (Art. 4, Sec. 61, Constitution).

1715           107. No appropriation bill shall be passed by the  
1716 Legislature which does not fix definitely the maximum sum thereby  
1717 authorized to be drawn from the Treasury. (Art. 4, Sec. 63,  
1718 Constitution).

1719           108. All votes on the final passage of any measure shall be  
1720 subject to reconsideration for at least one (1) whole legislative  
1721 day, and no motion to reconsider such vote shall be disposed of  
1722 adversely on the day on which the original vote was taken, except  
1723 on the last day of the session. (Art. 4, Sec. 65, Constitution).

1724           109. No new bill shall be introduced into either house of  
1725 the Legislature during the last three (3) days of the session.  
1726 (Art. 4, Sec. 67, Constitution).

1727           110. No law granting a gratuity or donation in favor of any  
1728 person or object shall be enacted except by the concurrence of



1729 two-thirds (2/3) of the members-elect of each branch of the  
1730 Legislature, nor by any vote for a sectarian purpose or use.  
1731 (Art. 4, Sec. 66, Constitution).

1732 111. General appropriation bills shall contain only the  
1733 appropriations to defray the ordinary expenses of the executive,  
1734 legislative and judicial departments of the government; to pay  
1735 interest on state bonds and to support the common schools. All  
1736 other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each  
1737 embracing but one (1) subject. Legislation shall not be engrafted  
1738 on appropriation bills, but the same may prescribe the conditions  
1739 on which the money may be drawn, and for what purposes paid.  
1740 (Art. 4, Sec. 69, Constitution).

1741 112. No revenue bill, or any bill providing for assessments  
1742 of property for taxation, shall become a law except by a vote of  
1743 at least three-fifths (3/5) of the members of each house present  
1744 and voting. (Art. 4, Sec. 70, Constitution).

1745 113. Every bill introduced into the Legislature shall have a  
1746 title, and the title ought to indicate clearly the subject matter  
1747 or matters of the proposed legislation. Each committee to which a  
1748 bill may be referred shall express, in writing, its judgment of  
1749 the sufficiency of the title of the bill, and this, too, whether  
1750 the recommendation be that the bill do pass or do not pass. (Art.  
1751 4, Sec. 71, Constitution).



1752           114. No bill shall become a law until it shall have been  
1753 referred to a committee of each house and returned therefrom with  
1754 a recommendation in writing. (Art. 4, Sec. 74, Constitution).

1755           115. No bill passed after the adoption of this Constitution  
1756 to make appropriations of money out of the State Treasury shall  
1757 continue in force more than two (2) months after the expiration of  
1758 the fiscal year ending after the meeting of the Legislature at its  
1759 next regular session; nor shall such bill be passed except by the  
1760 votes of a majority of all the members elected to each house of  
1761 the Legislature. (Art. 4, Sec. 64, Constitution).

1762           116. There shall be appointed in each house of the  
1763 Legislature a standing committee on Local and Private Legislation;  
1764 the House committee to consist of seven (7) Representatives, and  
1765 the Senate committee of five (5) Senators. No local or private  
1766 bill shall be passed in either house until it shall have been  
1767 referred to said committee thereof, and shall have been reported  
1768 back with a recommendation in writing that it do pass, stating  
1769 affirmatively the reasons therefor, and why the end to be  
1770 accomplished should not be reached by a general law, or by a  
1771 proceeding in court; or if the recommendation of the committee be  
1772 that the bill do not pass, then it shall not pass the house to  
1773 which it is so reported unless it be voted by a majority of all  
1774 the members elected thereto. If a bill is passed in conformity to  
1775 the requirements hereof, other than such as are prohibited in the  
1776 next section, the courts shall not, because of its local, special,





1777 or private nature, refuse to enforce it. (Art. 4, Sec. 89,  
1778 Constitution).

