

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 expektorate 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.

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.



1482 MOTION TO RECONSIDER

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.

1505 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).

