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SENATE RULES FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE (2015-2016)

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**BEING THE STANDING RULES FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS OF THE STATE
SENATE OF OKLAHOMA,
FIFTY-FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE (2015-2016)**

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18 **RULE 1: AUTHORITY, APPLICATION, PURPOSE,**
19 **INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES**

20
21 **RULE 1-1. AUTHORITY AND APPLICATION.** The Oklahoma State Senate hereby adopts these
22 rules pursuant to the authority of Section 30 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution. Upon
23 adoption by a majority of the members of the Senate unless and until amended, the following rules
24 shall be the rules for the conduct of business by the Senate.
25

26 **RULE 1-2. PURPOSE.** The purpose of the rules is to provide the members of the Senate with
27 uniform, easily understood procedures for the conduct of business.
28

29 **RULE 1-3. INTERPRETATION.** When the Senate is in daily session, interpretation of the rules
30 shall be made by the President Pro Tempore or by an elected member of the Senate designated by
31 the President Pro Tempore as Presiding Officer pursuant to Rule 2-4; when a committee is meeting,
32 interpretation of the rules shall be made by the Chair, or in the Chair's absence the Vice-Chair, of
33 the committee; and at all other times interpretation of the rules shall be made by the President Pro
34 Tempore of the Senate. Such interpretations shall be final unless an appeal of a ruling is made
35 successfully pursuant to Rule 9-14.
36

37 **RULE 1-4. AMENDMENT.** Any Senate Rule may be amended upon two-thirds vote of the
38 members of the Senate.
39

40 **RULE 1-5. SUSPENSION.** Except as provided in subsection D of Rule 8-30 or subsection F of
41 Rule 8-32, any Senate Rule may be suspended upon two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate.
42

1 **RULE 1-6. MASON'S MANUAL.** For matters not specifically covered under the Senate Rules, the
2 person making an interpretation of the Rules pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1-3 may apply the
3 provisions of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure.
4

5 **RULE 2: SENATE OFFICERS**

6
7 **RULE 2-1. OFFICERS.** Officers of the Senate shall be:

8
9 The President, who shall be the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Oklahoma;

10
11 The President Pro Tempore, who shall be the Presiding Officer of the Senate;

12
13 Such other officers as may be designated by the Majority and Minority caucuses; provided,
14 the Majority Caucus shall designate one officer who shall serve as acting President Pro Tempore in
15 the event that the President Pro Tempore vacates the office on a temporary basis. If the President
16 Pro Tempore shall vacate the office on a permanent basis, the officer so designated by the Majority
17 Caucus shall serve as acting President Pro Tempore until such time as the Senate shall elect a new
18 President Pro Tempore;

19
20 The Secretary, who shall not be a member of the Senate; and

21
22 The Sergeant at Arms, who shall not be a member of the Senate. The Sergeant shall serve at
23 the pleasure of the Senate and shall be appointed to his or her office by the Secretary of the Senate.
24

25 **RULE 2-2. ELECTION.** Pursuant to the provisions of Section 28 of Article V of the Oklahoma
26 Constitution, the President Pro Tempore shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Senate
27 when the Senate convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd-
28 numbered year. The Secretary of the Senate shall be elected by a majority of the members following
29 the election of the President Pro Tempore and announcement of the other officers.
30

31 **RULE 2-3. TERMS.** The terms of all member officers of the Senate shall begin on the first
32 Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year and such officers shall hold
33 office until their successors are chosen or conclusion of their term of office in the Senate, whichever
34 is earlier.
35

36 In the event the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be serving a term of office as a
37 Senator which concludes prior to the date of election provided in Rule 2-2, the Majority Caucus may
38 provide written notice to the Secretary of the Senate of a President Pro Tempore Designate who
39 shall assume all duties, authority and responsibilities as Acting President Pro Tempore from the
40 expiration of the President Pro Tempore's elected Senate term until a successor is chosen under
41 Rule 2-2.
42

43 **RULE 2-4. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE.**
44

1 jurisdiction of the Senate. A sitting member of the Senate contesting the election, returns and
2 qualifications of a Senator or person certified by the State Election Board to serve as a Senator shall
3 file the challenge with the Secretary of the Senate. The Senate shall dispose of all challenges or
4 contests in an expeditious manner.
5

6 **RULE 3-3. ATTENDANCE.** A member of the Senate not present during the roll call of Senators
7 shall only be marked as present if the Senator casts a vote in committee or otherwise informs the
8 Secretary of the Senate he or she is present in person in the Senate Chamber. A member of the
9 Senate who is absent from a daily session shall be shown as "excused."
10

11 **RULE 3-4. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.** Each member of the Senate shall be entitled to designate
12 an executive assistant. Executive assistants shall serve at the discretion of, and perform such duties
13 as prescribed by, the individual member of the Senate for whom employed, subject to such policies
14 as may be established by the President Pro Tempore.
15

16 **RULE 4: SENATE EMPLOYEES**

17
18 **RULE 4-1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.** The President Pro Tempore shall designate a Chief
19 Operating Officer to be responsible for duties not assigned to the Secretary of the Senate.
20

21 A. The Chief Operating Officer, under direction of the President Pro Tempore, shall be
22 authorized to perform routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep on that property and
23 facilities entrusted to the Senate for upkeep and maintenance.
24

25 B. The Chief Operating Officer, under direction of the President Pro Tempore, may issue
26 credentials to representatives of the news media and may limit access to the Press
27 Gallery to those members of the news media holding such credentials.
28

29 **RULE 4-2. COMPTROLLER.** The Senate shall have an employee acting as Comptroller who shall
30 report to the Chief Operating Officer. The Comptroller shall be responsible for the issuance of all
31 warrants and vouchers and the maintenance of an accurate account of expenditures by the Senate.
32

33 **RULE 4-3. SERVICE STAFF.** As authorized in Section 271 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
34 which prescribes the Senate as the sole judge of the number, duties and compensation of its
35 employees, the Chief Operating Officer, subject to the review and supervision of the President Pro
36 Tempore, shall be authorized to employ service staff. Service staff shall be employed according to
37 policies established by the President Pro Tempore and shall receive such compensation pursuant to
38 law as may be determined by, and perform such duties as prescribed by, the President Pro Tempore.
39
40

41 **RULE 5: CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS**

42

1 **RULE 5-1. LEGISLATIVE CONDUCT.** Every Senator shall conduct himself or herself to justify
2 the confidence placed in him or her by the people and, by personal example and admonition to
3 colleagues, shall maintain the integrity and responsibility of his or her office.
4

5 **RULE 5-2. DECORUM.** The decorum of members of the Senate and employees of the Senate
6 during the daily sessions of the Senate shall be determined by the Rules of the Senate and shall be
7 enforced by the Presiding Officer.
8

9 **RULE 5-3. SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.** The use of Senate supplies and equipment is
10 restricted to official Senate business. Questions of compliance shall be resolved by the President
11 Pro Tempore or, at the discretion of the President Pro Tempore, the Rules Committee.
12

13 **RULE 5-4. LOBBYISTS.** All lobbying activities in the Senate shall be governed and regulated by
14 law and by the Rules of the Senate.
15

16 **RULE 5-5. CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS.**

17 1. A coat, tie and slacks or trousers shall be worn by male members and appropriate
18 professional attire shall be worn by female members of the Senate and other persons granted
19 privileges of the floor in the chamber during sessions of the Senate.
20

21 2. Complaints pertaining to employees should be made to the proper authority rather
22 than to the individual. Under no circumstances should complaints pertaining to employees be
23 made on the floor of the Senate, in committee meetings or in other public forums.
24

25 3. On the floor during session and in committee, members should endeavor to be
26 congenial and complimentary. Members should avoid personal attacks and dealing in
27 personalities. During public occasions away from the Capitol, members should endeavor to keep
28 personalities out of their discussions and deal with programs, not personalities.
29

30 4. The consumption of alcohol is forbidden in the chamber, and any member who is in
31 the chamber in an intoxicated state will be removed by security personnel.
32

33 5. It is beneath the dignity of the Senate for members to consume food products in the
34 chamber.
35

36 6. It is beneath the dignity of the Senate for a member to sit upon a desk, or to place his
37 or her feet upon a desk in the chamber.
38

39 7. While a Senator is speaking, no Senator should enter into any disturbing private
40 conversation or pass between the speaking Senator and the Presiding Officer. Profane, obscene,
41 or indecent language is discouraged in the Senate and in all standing or special committees of the
42 Senate. The use of cellular telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices during formal
43 Senate proceedings, either on the floor of the Senate or in committee, is discouraged.
44

45 8. A Senator shall address other members with the title "Senator" when addressing one
46 another during formal Senate proceedings either on the floor of the Senate or in committee.

1
2 9. No member shall be permitted to vote on any question unless said member is
3 physically present on the floor of the Senate at the time the vote is taken.
4

5 10. The President Pro Tempore or the Majority Floor Leader shall designate those Senate
6 employees who shall be granted privileges of the floor during any session of the Senate, said
7 employees to be limited to those whose work requires their presence. Any member desiring to
8 bring a guest to the floor of the Senate shall first notify the Majority Floor Leader. No such
9 guest shall enter the chamber until privileges of the floor have been granted pursuant to Rule 8-7.
10

11 11. No person other than a member of the Senate shall cause materials to be distributed
12 on each desk in the Senate chamber without first having obtained approval by the Majority Floor
13 Leader. The sponsoring Senator will be identified. Any material so distributed shall be
14 considered a public record from the time of such distribution.
15

16 12. Any member who feels that the standards of the Senate are being violated by either a
17 member of the Senate or the staff should seek redress by submitting a complaint to the President
18 Pro Tempore concerning the violation.
19

20 **RULE 6: LEGISLATION**

21 **Chapter 1: General Provisions**

22 **RULE 6-1. LEGISLATION.** Legislation to be considered by the Senate shall be limited to Senate
23 Bills, Senate Joint Resolutions, Senate Concurrent Resolutions, Senate Resolutions, House Bills,
24 House Joint Resolutions and House Concurrent Resolutions.
25

26 **RULE 6-2. INTRODUCTION.** Except as may be limited by Rule 6-22, Senate Bills, Senate Joint
27 Resolutions, Senate Concurrent Resolutions and Senate Resolutions may be introduced at any time
28 beginning on the fifteenth day of November of each even-numbered year and ending at the time of
29 sine die adjournment of the Second Session during the following even-numbered year. Legislation
30 may be introduced by presentation to the Secretary of the Senate, together with as many copies as
31 may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Senate. Each Senate Bill or Resolution shall be assigned a
32 number by the Secretary of the Senate. House Bills, House Joint Resolutions and House
33 Concurrent Resolutions may be introduced upon receipt of a message from the House of
34 Representatives advising passage and engrossment of the measure.
35

36 **RULE 6-3. FORM.** No legislation shall be introduced in the Senate, except for House Bills, House
37 Joint Resolutions and House Concurrent Resolutions, unless that legislation shall include a Title and
38 an Enacting or Resolving Clause.
39

40 **RULE 6-4. RESTRICTIONS.** Senate Concurrent Resolutions, Senate Resolutions and House
41 Concurrent Resolutions shall be considered only for the following purposes:
42

43 A. Memorializing Congress, the President of the United States, or an executive agency of
44 the federal government;

- 1
- 2 B. Communicating with another entity of state government, or a subdivision thereof;
- 3
- 4 C. Expressing legislative intent;
- 5
- 6 D. Expressing policies of the Senate; and
- 7
- 8 E. Such other purposes specifically approved by the President Pro Tempore.
- 9

10 **RULE 6-5. AUTHORS AND COAUTHORS.** After introduction in the Senate of any bill or
11 resolution, no Senator or Representative shall be shown or removed as author or coauthor on the
12 face of the bill or resolution unless the Senator or Representative shall submit a written or electronic
13 request to be so shown to the Secretary of the Senate or person designated by the Secretary of the
14 Senate. The change in authorship shall be shown on the face of the next official version of the bill
15 or resolution; provided, however, a printed substitute for or an electronic version of a bill or
16 resolution may show in parentheses, and the electronic voting machine may display immediately, any
17 author or coauthor changes that have been submitted.

18
19 While a Senate Bill, Senate Joint Resolution or Senate Concurrent Resolution is within the
20 physical control of the Senate, the principal Senate author of the bill or resolution shall have full and
21 complete discretion in determining who the principal House author of the bill or resolution shall be.
22

23 **RULE 6-6. DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATION.** No legislation or amendment shall be
24 considered by the Senate unless a copy has been distributed to the desks of all members of the
25 Senate, or has been made available to all members electronically, on a legislative day previous to
26 consideration of the legislation.

27
28 **RULE 6-7. FINAL ACTION.** If final action is such as to defeat an amendment, a bill or a
29 resolution, no other amendment, bill or resolution having the same effect and covering the same
30 specific or substantially similar subject matter shall be considered by the Senate during either session
31 of the current Legislature, unless otherwise approved by the President Pro Tempore. Action
32 constituting “final action” includes:

- 33
- 34 1. Failure of the motion “Do Pass” or “Do Pass as Amended” on a vote in a committee;
- 35
- 36 2. If a vote is taken on Third Reading or Fourth Reading and the measure fails to receive
37 the required number of votes for passage, and
 - 38 a. no notice is served to reconsider the vote,
 - 39 b. a motion to reconsider the vote fails to prevail or expires, or
 - 40 c. a motion to table the motion to reconsider prevails; or
- 41
- 42 3. In the case of an amendment, if the amendment fails to receive the required number of
43 votes for adoption or if a motion to table prevails.
- 44

45 **RULE 6-8. FINANCIAL IMPACT VERIFICATION.**

46 A. No amendment, bill or resolution which creates or expands a requirement for insurance
47 coverage provided to state employees by a state agency shall be considered by the Senate or any

1 committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or resolution is accompanied by documentation of
2 the fiscal impact of the proposal on the policyholders and the state agency. The President Pro
3 Tempore shall prescribe procedures for such documentation to be obtained from the Office of
4 Management and Enterprise Services or the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, as applicable.
5

6 The Chair of a committee to which a bill or resolution subject to the provisions of this
7 subsection is assigned may request the Majority Floor Leader to suspend the provisions of paragraph
8 4 or 6 of subsection A or paragraph 4 or 6 of subsection B of Rule 6-22; provided, any such
9 suspension shall not suspend or affect any of the remaining dates set forth in Rule 6-22.
10

11 B. No amendment, bill or resolution which creates a direct fiscal impact on state tax
12 revenues shall be considered by the Senate or any committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or
13 resolution is accompanied by documentation of the fiscal impact of such amendment, bill or
14 resolution. The President Pro Tempore shall prescribe procedures for such documentation to be
15 obtained from the Oklahoma Tax Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 118 of Title 68
16 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or from another source as designated by the President Pro Tempore.
17

18 C. No amendment, bill or resolution affecting a retirement system, as such term is defined
19 in the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act, shall be considered by the Senate or
20 any committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or resolution has been submitted to the
21 legislative actuary as provided in the Act.
22

23 Chapter 2: Legislation Requests And Filing

24
25 **RULE 6-20. RIGHTS TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION.** A Senator shall have the right to introduce
26 legislation at any time without regard to any deadlines which have been placed by rule. Bills filed
27 after the deadlines prescribed in Rule 6-22 must be subject to a change in authorship, however, as
28 outlined in Rule 6-23.
29

30 **RULE 6-21. SHELL BILLS PROHIBITED.** No bill (also known as a “shell bill”) shall be filed
31 which fails to effectuate a substantive change in policy.
32

33 **RULE 6-22. DEADLINES FOR BILLS**

34 A. During the First Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature, the Senate shall
35 adhere to the following legislative procedure schedule:
36

37 1. The First Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature shall convene at twelve noon
38 on January 6, 2015, for the purpose only of performing the duties set forth in Section 5 of Article VI
39 of the Oklahoma Constitution and organizing pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the
40 Oklahoma Constitution, and shall recess no later than five p.m. on that same day until February 2,
41 2015, beginning at twelve noon.
42

43 2. December 12, 2014, shall be the final date for requesting the drafting of bills or joint
44 resolutions in the Senate for introduction for consideration during the First Regular Session.
45

1 3. January 22, 2015, shall be the final date for introduction of bills and joint resolutions in
2 the Senate for consideration on the floor of the Senate during the First Regular Session. Bills and
3 joint resolutions subsequently introduced if reported from committee, shall not be placed on the
4 Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first legislative day of the Second Regular Session,
5 except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
6

7 4. February 26, 2015, shall be the final legislative day for reporting Senate bills and Senate
8 joint resolutions from committee in the Senate. Bills and joint resolutions subsequently reported
9 from committee shall not be placed on the Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first
10 legislative day of the Second Regular Session, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
11

12 5. March 12, 2015, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
13 Senate bill or Senate joint resolution in the Senate.
14

15 6. April 9, 2015, shall be the final legislative day for reporting House bills and House joint
16 resolutions from committee in the Senate. Bills and joint resolutions subsequently reported from
17 Committee shall not be placed on the Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first
18 legislative day of the Second Regular Session, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
19

20 7. April 23, 2015, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
21 House bill or a House joint resolution in the Senate.
22

23 8. The First Regular Session shall adjourn sine die not later than five p.m. on May 29, 2015.
24

25 9. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Senate, a bill or joint resolution
26 can be exempt from all deadline dates in the Senate.
27

28 B. During the Second Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature, the Senate shall
29 adhere to the following legislative procedure schedule:
30

31 1. December 11, 2015, shall be the final date for requesting the drafting of bills or joint
32 resolutions in the Senate for introduction for consideration during the Second Regular Session.
33

34 2. January 21, 2016, shall be the final date for introduction of bills and joint resolutions in
35 the Senate for consideration on the floor of the Senate during the Second Regular Session.
36

37 3. The Second Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature shall convene at twelve
38 o'clock noon on February 1, 2016.
39

40 4. February 25, 2016, shall be the final legislative day for reporting Senate bills and Senate
41 joint resolutions from committee in the Senate, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
42

43 5. March 10, 2016, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
44 Senate bill or a Senate joint resolution in the Senate.
45

46 6. April 7, 2016, shall be the final legislative day for reporting a House bill or a House joint
47 resolution from committee in the Senate, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
48

1 7. April 21, 2016, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
2 House bill or a House joint resolution in the Senate.

3
4 8. The Second Regular Session shall adjourn sine die not later than five p.m. on May 27,
5 2016.

6
7 9. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Senate, a bill or joint resolution
8 can be exempt from all deadline dates in the Senate.

9
10 C. This rule shall be inapplicable to any:

11
12 1. Joint resolution introduced for the purpose of disapproving or approving agency rules
13 pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act as set forth in Section 250 et seq.
14 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or for the purpose of disapproving or approving standards
15 adopted by the State Board of Education as set forth in Section 11-103.6a-1 of Title 70 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes;

17
18 2. Bill introduced for the purposes of incorporation and merging different versions of a
19 statute amended in more than one measure at the same or different sessions of the Legislature as set
20 forth in Section 23.1 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

21
22 3. Bill or joint resolution introduced for the purpose of approving, disapproving, repealing
23 or modifying rules of the Ethics Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of Article
24 XXIX of the Oklahoma Constitution;

25
26 4. Bill or joint resolution which proposes a special or local law and for which notice of
27 intended introduction is published in a newspaper for four consecutive weeks pursuant to the
28 provisions of Section 32 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution;

29
30 5. Bill or joint resolution authored by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Senate
31 Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations and Budget Committee which affects the
32 receipt, expenditure or budgeting of state funds or funds under the control of an entity created by
33 state law;

34
35 6. Bill or joint resolution authored by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives which is deemed by them to be necessary for the
37 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; or

38
39 7. Bill or joint resolution authored by committee(s) pursuant to Rule 6-23.

40
41 D. Paragraph 2 of subsection A and paragraph 2 of subsection B of this rule shall be
42 inapplicable to any bill or joint resolution which contains an "RB" number pursuant to the
43 provisions of the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act. Such measures shall be
44 submitted to the legislative actuary not later than the date specified in such paragraphs, and may be
45 introduced not later than the first Monday in February following such submission.

1 **RULE 6-23. COMMITTEE AUTHORSHIP OF BILLS**

2 A. A member who introduces legislation after the deadlines established in Rule 6-22 may file
3 the legislation and upon assignment by the Majority Floor Leader to committee may ask the
4 committee Chair to allow for the measure to be heard as a measure authored by the committee.
5 Upon majority vote of the committee, the authorship of the measure shall be transferred to the
6 committee from the individual Senator and the deadlines established in Rule 6-22 shall not be
7 applicable. In the event a measure is dually assigned, each committee Chair and committee must
8 agree to assume authorship for the deadlines to not apply.
9

10 B. Measures authored by committee shall be exempt from the House author requirements
11 found in subsection G of Rule 7-7. A measure authored by a committee may be heard on General
12 Order and passed on Third Reading without a House author. No individual members, including the
13 original author, may co-author a measure so introduced.
14

15 **RULE 6-24. PENDING LEGISLATION AT ADJOURNMENT OF FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

16 A. Any bill or joint resolution pending in the Senate at the final adjournment of the First
17 Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature shall carry over to the Second Regular Session
18 with the same status as if there had been no adjournment. Bills and joint resolutions pending in a
19 Conference Committee at such time shall not carry over to the Second Regular Session of the 55th
20 Oklahoma Legislature.
21

22 B. Simple and concurrent resolutions pending in the Senate at the final adjournment of the
23 First Regular Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature shall not carry over for consideration during
24 the Second Regular Session.

25 **RULE 7: COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

26
27 **RULE 7-1. TYPES AND NUMBER.** There shall be two types of Senate committees established by
28 the President Pro Tempore: standing committees and select committees. The President Pro
29 Tempore shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of each standing committee and of each select
30 committee.
31

32 The President Pro Tempore may establish, and appoint the members of, as many ad hoc
33 subcommittees of each standing committee as the President Pro Tempore deems appropriate.
34 There shall be as many select committees as are created by the President Pro Tempore.
35

36 **RULE 7-2. MEMBERSHIP.** Membership on standing committees and on select committees shall
37 be subject to the following:
38

39 A. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Senate, the
40 Majority Caucus members and the Chair and Vice-Chair of each standing committee.
41

42 B. The Minority Leader shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Senate, the Minority
43 Caucus members of each standing committee, other than a Minority Caucus member who is
44 appointed as a Chair or Vice-Chair of a committee by the President Pro Tempore.

1
2 C. Membership of standing committees shall be approved by a majority vote of members of
3 the Senate. In the event of a vacancy or extended absence of a member of the Senate, a replacement
4 member may be appointed by the President Pro Tempore or the Minority Leader, as appropriate.
5 Any such appointment shall be approved by a majority vote of members of the Senate.
6

7 D. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint all members of select committees.
8

9 E. The President Pro Tempore and Majority Floor Leader shall each be ex-officio and
10 voting members of all standing and select Senate committees.
11

12 **RULE 7-3. DUTIES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE.** The Rules Committee shall determine any
13 policies of the Senate submitted to it by the President Pro Tempore. The Rules Committee shall
14 have the duty of approving any language expressing legislative intent prior to such language being
15 included in a bill or joint resolution. If a bill or joint resolution is filed which includes language
16 expressing legislative intent, the bill or joint resolution shall be assigned to the Rules Committee for
17 approval or removal of such language prior to the bill or resolution's consideration by another
18 committee; provided, bills or resolutions assigned to the Joint Committee on Appropriations and
19 Budget shall be exempt from this provision.
20

21 **RULE 7-4. DUTIES OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.** Each legislative committee shall be
22 responsible for the formulation of legislative programs and determination of non-legislative matters
23 within the jurisdiction prescribed by the President Pro Tempore; shall inquire into the
24 administration and execution of all laws within the same jurisdiction; shall consider such proposals
25 as may be submitted to the committee by the President Pro Tempore; and shall be responsible for
26 the continuing codification of all laws within the prescribed jurisdiction.
27

28 **RULE 7-5. DUTIES OF SELECT COMMITTEES.** Select committees shall be responsible for such
29 duties as are prescribed at the time of their formation. No select committee shall be formed without
30 its duties being expressly stated at the time of its formation. If a select committee is appointed for
31 the purpose of conducting an investigation, the Senator requesting the investigation shall not serve
32 as Chair of the committee.
33

34 **RULE 7-6. AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEES.** Any Senate committee is authorized to issue
35 process, compel attendance of witnesses, and to administer oaths to any person appearing before the
36 committee. Any Senate committee which considers legislation is empowered to consolidate bills or
37 resolutions, to develop committee substitutes for such bills or resolutions, to amend such bills or
38 resolutions and to develop a committee bill or resolution irrespective of any other legislation.
39

40 **RULE 7-7. PROCEDURES.** The following procedures shall be observed by all legislative
41 committees of the Senate:
42

43 **A. MEETING NOTICES.** Subject to such exceptions as are provided hereinafter,
44 committees of the Senate shall comply with provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. A
45 copy of all notices required by said Act shall be provided to the Chief Operating Officer, who shall
46 designate the appropriate place for such notices to be posted. The Chief Operating Officer shall
47 cause to be posted one such notice on the bulletin board of the Senate located in a place in the

1 Capitol accessible to the public and on the Senate web site and shall take such other actions as may
2 be deemed appropriate to provide adequate notice to the public.
3

4 **B. MEETING TIMES.** The Chair of a committee shall schedule meetings of the committee.
5 Meetings at a time other than the regularly scheduled meeting time of a committee shall not conflict
6 with any regularly scheduled meeting of any other committee, except with the consent of the
7 President Pro Tempore.
8

9 **C. AGENDA.** The agenda for any meeting of a committee shall be set by the Chair and shall
10 include the date, time and place of the meeting. A copy of the agenda shall be provided to members
11 of the committee and to authors of legislation to be considered by the committee at least twenty-
12 four (24) hours prior to the meeting unless otherwise approved by the President Pro Tempore. An
13 agenda for a meeting scheduled to meet prior to or during the first three days of session may reflect
14 a measure for which assignment to the committee is anticipated, and the committee may act upon
15 the measure; provided, if the measure is not assigned to the committee during the first three days of
16 session, any committee action on the measure taken prior to or during those days shall be of no
17 force or effect.
18

19 **D. QUORUM.** A quorum shall be present when any committee votes on any matter. Any
20 member of a committee may request a quorum call at any time the committee is meeting. A number
21 equal to a majority of the appointed members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.
22

23 **E. PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Chair, or in the Chair's absence the Vice-Chair, of the
24 committee, or a designee, shall preside at meetings of the committee. No person shall address the
25 committee unless first recognized for that purpose.
26

27 **F. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.** When considering legislation or conducting other business,
28 committees shall observe the following procedures:
29

30 1. When a legislative measure is taken up for consideration, the Senate author shall be
31 recognized for explanation of the measure.
32

33 2. Upon prior approval given by the Chair of the committee and subject to time restraints
34 established by the Chair, any testimony from non-members of the committee in favor and/or
35 opposed to the measure may be given. Upon completion of the testimony, each member of the
36 committee may put questions to those testifying before the committee. No testimony shall be given
37 unless questions are made available to the members of the committee.
38

39 3. The Senate author shall be given the opportunity to answer questions put by members of
40 the committee.
41

42 4. The Senate author or any member of the committee shall be provided the opportunity for
43 presentation of amendments to the legislation. Amendments to any bill or resolution under
44 consideration by a committee or subcommittee shall be germane to the subject of the introduced bill
45 or resolution. Any amendment must be seconded to receive further consideration. Provided, the
46 Senate author or any member of the committee offering a committee substitute must submit the
47 proposed committee substitute in writing or electronically to the Chair no later than noon on the

1 legislative day before the meeting of the committee. The Chair may, at his or her discretion, waive
2 the deadline set forth in this rule. When a committee substitute is submitted, the Chair may approve
3 the substitute to be heard by the committee and the committee substitute shall be considered a
4 public record from the time of such approval.
5

6 5. Amendments and motions may be adopted by a voice vote; provided, however, that the
7 Senate author, or any member of the committee, may require a roll call vote.
8

9 6. Amendments shall be considered in the order they appear in the legislation, or in the
10 order they are presented to the clerk of the committee; provided, an amendment to restore the title
11 or enacting clause shall be considered after disposition of all other amendments. The Chair or other
12 member presiding shall resolve any conflict resulting from claimed priority of presentation.
13

14 7. If an amendment to strike the title or enacting clause is approved by the committee, the
15 emergency clause, if any, shall also be stricken.
16

17 8. The author of an amendment shall explain the amendment and be afforded the
18 opportunity to answer questions about the amendment put by members of the committee or the
19 author of the legislation.
20

21 9. Any member may be recognized for debate or comment on the proposed legislation or
22 amendments thereto. Debate may be limited at the discretion of the Chair or other member
23 presiding, provided that equal time must be given to both proponent and opponent sides of debate.
24

25 10. The legislation may be laid on the table at the request of the author or at his or her
26 discretion without a vote of the committee to do so. The legislation may be brought back up later in
27 the same or subsequent meetings of the committee provided it is listed on the agenda in compliance
28 with this rule. If the legislation is brought up at a subsequent meeting, consideration of the
29 legislation will recommence with explanation of the measure.
30

31 11. The vote on a recommendation by the committee to the Senate concerning a legislative
32 measure shall be by recorded roll call and shall require a majority vote of the members of the
33 committee present, which shall not be less than a quorum, for passage. The only permitted
34 recommendations to the Senate on a legislative measure are "DO PASS" or "DO PASS, AS
35 AMENDED". A tie vote in a committee on the motion of "DO PASS" or "DO PASS, AS
36 AMENDED" shall result in failure of the motion. All committee votes reflecting the votes of each
37 member present and voting on the motion of "DO PASS" or "DO PASS, AS AMENDED" shall
38 be entered in the Journal.
39

40 **G. LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS.** Except for legislation containing appropriations, all
41 legislation originating in the Senate which is considered by a Senate committee shall contain an
42 Enacting or Resolving Clause, and a Senate author, at the discretion of the Chair.
43

44 **H. SUBCOMMITTEES.** The Chair may assign to any subcommittee any legislation,
45 proposal or inquiry; provided, however, no subcommittee shall be permitted to report directly to the
46 Senate, but rather shall report to the parent committee.
47

1 construction in the State Capitol, a natural disaster or national security emergency prevents the
2 Senate from meeting in its chamber.

3
4 **RULE 8-3. GALLERIES AND HALLWAYS.** The President Pro Tempore or a designee is
5 empowered to assign seats in the galleries of the Senate and is empowered to order the galleries and
6 hallways of the Senate cleared to preserve order or to ensure the safety of the members of the
7 Senate. Firearms and weapons are allowed on the Senate floor, in the gallery, or in any Senate area
8 with permission of the Secretary of the Senate. Conduct in the galleries of the Senate shall conform
9 to the following:

- 10
11 1. No food, drink, signs, placards, noisemakers, flash cameras or any other item which
12 might cause distraction or disturb the decorum of the Senate shall be allowed in the galleries;
13
14 2. Applause shall not be permitted;
15
16 3. Articles carried by visitors may be required to be checked at the door to the galleries by a
17 Senate employee; and
18
19 4. Visitors in the galleries shall be required to conduct themselves with dignity and in an
20 orderly fashion.

21
22 **RULE 8-4. QUORUM.** No business of the Senate shall be conducted without a quorum of its
23 members being in attendance, other than a motion to adjourn, adjourn to a time certain, or operate
24 under call of the Senate pursuant to Rule 9-11, made by the President Pro Tempore or a member
25 designated by the President Pro Tempore. A majority of the members elected to the Senate shall
26 constitute a quorum.

27
28 **RULE 8-5. ORDER OF BUSINESS.** The Order of Business for each daily session of the Senate
29 shall be:

- 30
31 Prayer
32 Executive Nominations
33 General Order
34 Third Reading
35 House Amendments to Senate Bills and Resolutions
36 Conference Committee Reports
37 Fourth Reading
38 Committee Reports
39 Second Reading
40 First Reading
41 Communications
42 Other Business

43
44 Provided, no business shall be considered by the Senate during the daily session unless it has been
45 approved by the Majority Floor Leader or the President Pro Tempore or unless it is otherwise
46 specifically allowed under the Senate rules.
47

1 **RULE 8-6. INTRODUCTIONS.** No persons shall be introduced individually in the galleries,
2 except that a member of the Senate may introduce family members. It shall also be permissible to
3 introduce officials from other states and countries or other persons approved in advance by the
4 Majority Floor Leader.

5
6 **RULE 8-7. PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR.** No person shall be permitted in the Senate chamber
7 or the lobbies at the front or rear of the chamber during the daily sessions of the Senate except:

- 8
9 1. Members and former members of the Senate;
- 10
11 2. Employees of the Senate designated by the President Pro Tempore;
- 12
13 3. Members of the House of Representatives;
- 14
15 4. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor and former Governors and former Lieutenant
16 Governors;
- 17
18 5. Spouses, children and grandchildren of members of the Senate; and
- 19
20 6. Any person who is permitted on the floor by a majority vote of those present.

21
22 Provided, however, that the above privileges shall exclude any person registered as a lobbyist
23 as provided by law. All persons permitted in the Senate chamber during the daily sessions of the
24 Senate shall conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5-5. No person other
25 than those specified in this rule shall be permitted in the Senate Lounge, unless accompanied by a
26 member of the Senate.

27 28 **Chapter 2: Legislative Procedure**

29
30 **RULE 8-20. FIRST READING.** A bill or resolution shall be considered introduced upon First
31 Reading and shall automatically be advanced to Second Reading.

32
33 **RULE 8-21. SECOND READING.** The Second Reading of a bill or resolution shall occur the next
34 legislative day following the First Reading. Upon or after Second Reading of a bill or resolution, the
35 same shall be assigned for committee consideration or assigned directly to the calendar. All bills
36 carrying appropriations which are referred to any committee other than the Appropriations
37 Committee shall, immediately upon a report by the committee to which referred, be referred to the
38 Appropriations Committee. Any bill or resolution which is determined to affect the receipt,
39 expenditure or budgeting of state funds or funds under the control of an entity created by state law
40 may be double-assigned to a committee other than the Appropriations Committee or the Finance
41 Committee and then to the Appropriations Committee or Finance Committee.

42 43 **RULE 8-22. GENERAL ORDER**

44 ***A. PLACEMENT OF MEASURES ON GENERAL ORDER.***

1 1. All bills and resolutions reported by a committee of the Senate or referred directly to the
2 calendar shall be placed on General Order.

3
4 2. When a committee report is filed, the clerk shall indicate on the face of the report the
5 date and time the report was filed.

6
7 3. A bill or resolution reported from committee shall be placed on General Order at the
8 beginning of the second legislative day following the legislative day that a committee report is filed.

9
10 4. Bills and resolutions referred directly to the calendar shall be placed on General Order at
11 the beginning of the legislative day following the day of such referral.

12
13 5. A list of bills and resolutions on General Order, including a copy of the text of such bills
14 and resolutions and the date such bills and resolutions were placed on General Order, shall be
15 published electronically and made available each legislative day to all members of the Senate.

16
17 6. To allow opportunity for amendment under Rule 8-23, no bill may be heard until it has
18 been on General Order for a period of no less than three (3) legislative days.

19
20 7. No bill or joint resolution shall be considered on the Senate floor without a House
21 author.

22
23 ***B. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.*** The Majority Floor Leader, or a
24 designee, shall determine the order in which legislation is considered by the Senate. Nothing in this
25 section nor these rules shall be construed as to guarantee a right to a hearing on any legislation.

26
27 ***C. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES ON GENERAL ORDER.*** On General Order, the
28 following procedure shall be observed:

- 29
30 1. Explanation of the bill or resolution by the Senate author;
31
32 2. Questions;
33
34 3. Consideration of amendments; and
35
36 4. Advancement from General Order to Engrossment and Third Reading.

37
38 **RULE 8-23. AMENDMENTS.**

39 A. Amendments to bills or resolutions shall be in writing and shall be considered only if
40 submitted at least one (1) legislative day prior to consideration on General Order.

41
42 B. The Senate shall not consider any proposed amendment not germane to the subject of
43 the bill or resolution.

44
45 C. If an amendment to strike the title or enacting clause is approved, the emergency clause,
46 if any, shall also be stricken.

47

1 D. If any amendment to a bill or resolution is filed as provided in this subsection, a copy of
2 the text of such amendment shall be provided or made available electronically to each member of
3 the Senate and the three (3) legislative day period provided in Rule 8-22 shall be extended to a four
4 (4) legislative day period for the filing of secondary amendments. A secondary amendment must be
5 germane to both the primary amendment and the measure which it purports to amend.
6

7 E. The deadlines for amendments and secondary amendments set forth in this rule shall not
8 apply to an amendment offered by the author of a bill or resolution:
9

- 10 1. To strike the title or enacting or resolving clause; or
- 11
- 12 2. For any other purpose, subject to the approval of the Majority Floor Leader.
13

14 F. Amendments shall be considered in the order in which they are submitted unless
15 otherwise directed by the Majority Floor Leader; provided, a floor substitute offered by the author
16 of the measure shall be considered first, and an amendment to restore a title or enacting or resolving
17 clause shall be considered after disposition of all other amendments. If a floor substitute is adopted,
18 the Secretary of the Senate shall conform previously submitted amendments to the measure to the
19 floor substitute, if practicable. Once an amendment is read, it shall be explained by its author, who
20 may then answer questions concerning the amendment. If the author of the amendment is not in
21 attendance at the time an amendment is read, the amendment shall be considered withdrawn unless
22 another member of the Senate coauthors the amendment and provides an explanation. An
23 amendment shall be considered a public record from the time it is placed upon the clerk's desk.
24

25 G. After the final vote on third reading of any bill or joint resolution, no amendment to the
26 measure shall be considered, by unanimous consent or otherwise, unless the final vote and
27 advancement of the measure are properly reconsidered according to the Senate Rules.
28

29 H. For any bill which has been recommended to the full Senate by a Senate committee with
30 a stricken title or enacting clause, the title or enacting clause shall not be restored as part of any
31 other amendment, but an amendment to restore the title or enacting clause may be considered
32 separately.
33

34 **RULE 8-24. ADVANCEMENT.** Once a motion to advance has been adopted, the bill or
35 resolution shall be considered engrossed and on Third Reading.
36

37 **RULE 8-25. THIRD READING.** Upon Third Reading of a bill or resolution, the Senate shall not
38 consider amendments, but shall debate passage of the bill or resolution and then vote upon passage.
39

40 **RULE 8-26. HOUSE AMENDMENTS.** Upon receipt of House amendments to Senate bills or
41 resolutions, the Senate author shall make a motion either to accept the amendments, in which case a
42 successful vote on the motion shall automatically advance the bill to Fourth Reading and final
43 passage, or to reject the amendments and request a conference with the House.
44

45 **RULE 8-27. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

1 A. Any Conference Committee Report shall be considered by the Senate only when a
2 majority of the Senate conferees and a majority of the House conferees have signed the report and
3 only when the report is limited to matters germane to the bill or resolution.
4

5 If the Senate adopts a Conference Committee Report, the bill or resolution shall be before
6 the Senate for Fourth Reading and final passage. If the Senate rejects a Conference Committee
7 Report or a motion to adopt the report fails, the bill or resolution shall be returned to the
8 conference committee. Upon a report by the Senate conferees that the conferees cannot agree, the
9 bill or resolution reverts to its former status of consideration of House Amendments to Senate bills
10 or resolutions.
11

12 B. The conference committee report proposed by the Senate author of a measure
13 considered by the General Conference Committee on Appropriations may not be amended during
14 the committee meeting at which the measure is considered.
15

16 **RULE 8-28. FOURTH READING.** Upon Fourth Reading of a bill or resolution, debate shall be in
17 order on final passage of the bill or resolution, after which the vote shall occur on final passage.
18 After final passage of a bill or resolution, it shall be signed by the Presiding Officer in open session.

19 **Chapter 3: Debate and Voting**

20

21 **RULE 8-30. DEBATE.**

22 A. When a Senator desires to speak, he or she shall rise and address the Presiding Officer,
23 and shall not proceed until recognized, and the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who
24 shall first address the Presiding Officer. No Senator shall interrupt another Senator in debate
25 without his or her consent, and to obtain such consent shall first address the Presiding Officer, and
26 no Senator shall speak more than twice upon any one question in debate on the same legislative day
27 without leave of the Senate, which shall be determined without debate.
28

29 B. No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to
30 another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.
31

32 C. Whenever demonstrations of approval or disapproval are indulged in by the occupants of
33 the galleries, it shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to enforce order on his or her own initiative
34 and without any point of order being made by a Senator.
35

36 D. No Senator shall introduce to or bring to the attention of the Senate during its sessions
37 any occupant in the galleries of the Senate other than those allowed pursuant to Rule 8-6. No
38 motion to suspend this rule shall be in order, nor may the Presiding Officer entertain any request to
39 suspend it by unanimous consent.
40

41 E. If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer
42 transgresses the rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall, either on his or her own motion or
43 at the request of any other Senator, call him or her to order; and when a Senator shall be called to
44 order he or she shall take his or her seat, and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, which, if
45 granted, shall be upon motion that he or she be allowed to proceed in order, which motion shall be
46 determined without debate. Any Senator directed by the Presiding Officer to take his or her seat,

1 and any Senator requesting the Presiding Officer to require a Senator to take his or her seat, may
2 offer a substitute ruling as provided in Rule 9-14.
3

4
5 **RULE 8-31. MANNER OF VOTING.** All votes of the Senate shall be by voice vote, division or
6 roll call vote subject to the following:
7

8 A. The voting machine shall be used to record the vote whenever a roll call vote is taken on
9 any question. The machine shall also be used to determine the presence or absence of a quorum. In
10 the event the machine is not operating properly, all roll call votes and determinations of quorums
11 may be taken by calling the roll. The voting machine shall be under the control of the Presiding
12 Officer and shall be operated by a clerk designated by the Presiding Officer.
13

14 B. During any roll call, only a Senator present on the Senate floor may vote, and every
15 Senator present shall vote. During a roll call, the Presiding Officer shall request every Senator in the
16 chamber who has not voted to vote. If any Senator so requested fails to vote, the Presiding Officer
17 shall, upon declaring the roll, order that said Senator be shown as voting "NO" on the question.
18 Said order shall be printed in the Journal directly following the printing of the results of the roll call
19 as reflected by the voting machine, and said "NO" vote shall be included in the determination of the
20 passage or failure of the question. In all other cases, a Senator who fails to vote shall be shown as
21 "excused" in the Journal, except as provided in Section 24 of Article V of the Oklahoma
22 Constitution.
23

24 C. On any question for which a roll call vote is not required, a roll call vote shall be in order
25 only if requested before the question is put. Once the question has been put and a voice vote taken,
26 the Presiding Officer shall state the side that appears to the Presiding Officer to have prevailed, and
27 any member then may request a division, but shall not be entitled to request a roll call vote. The
28 declaration of the vote by the Presiding Officer shall be final.
29

30 D. No Senator shall be permitted to vote or change a vote after the result has been
31 announced by the Presiding Officer.
32

33 E. If a member's voting machine is inoperative, the member shall rise and advise the
34 Presiding Officer of the malfunction; and the Senator will be permitted to verbally vote on the
35 question; and the vote will then be recorded by the clerk.
36

37 F. When a division is called for, those voting in the affirmative shall rise at their seats and
38 remain standing until counted; then those voting in the negative shall rise and stand until they are
39 counted, whereupon the Presiding Officer shall declare the result.
40

41 **RULE 8-32. RECONSIDERATION OF VOTES.** The final vote on Third Reading or Fourth
42 Reading of any bill or joint resolution or on the emergency clause or special election feature or other
43 special feature of any bill or joint resolution may be reconsidered only if a member of the Senate
44 serves notice before any other business is considered by the Senate. Once such notice is served, the
45 following procedures shall be observed:
46

1 A. In anticipation of the closing days of a regular session or a deadline for third reading and
2 final passage of a measure in the Senate, a majority of the members of the Senate may vote that all
3 motions to reconsider made thereafter shall be disposed of on the same day such notice is served, or
4 disposed of immediately on the last Friday in May, or an earlier day set for sine die adjournment
5 pursuant to the provisions of Rule 9-9.
6

7 B. Except as heretofore provided, the member serving notice for reconsideration shall not
8 be permitted to make the motion to reconsider on the day notice is served, but shall have the
9 exclusive right to make such a motion on the next two succeeding legislative days; provided, that on
10 the third succeeding legislative day, any member of the Senate shall have the right to make such a
11 motion. If no such motion is made on the third succeeding legislative day, then no reconsideration
12 shall be permitted.
13

14 C. If the Senate refuses to reconsider or if, upon reconsideration, affirms the first decision,
15 no further consideration shall be in order.
16

17 D. For adoption, a motion to reconsider the final vote on a bill or resolution or on the
18 emergency clause or special election feature or other special feature must be approved by a majority
19 of the members of the Senate.
20

21 E. A motion to reconsider any other action by the Senate must be made by a Senator who
22 voted on the prevailing side before any other business is considered by the Senate and shall be
23 disposed of on the same day it is lodged. The motion to reconsider shall be decided by a majority of
24 those voting on the question.
25

26 F. It shall not be in order for the Senate, by suspension of the Rules or by any other means,
27 to reconsider in the Second Regular Session of a Legislature the vote by which any bill or joint
28 resolution was defeated in the First Regular Session.

29 **Chapter 4: Executive Nominations**

30
31 **RULE 8-40. REFERRAL OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.** When Executive Nominations shall
32 be made by the Governor or other appointing authority to the Senate, said nominations shall be
33 referred for consideration to the standing committee which has in its jurisdiction the entity to which
34 the nomination relates. Nominations shall be made by the Governor or other appointing authority
35 to the Senate no later than May 1 of any year in order to be considered by the full Senate that year.
36

37 **RULE 8-41. REJECTION.** No person whose nomination has been rejected by the Senate shall be
38 eligible to be later confirmed by the Senate during the same session for appointment to the same
39 position. If an executive nomination is not approved during the regular session in which it is
40 submitted, it shall be deemed rejected. If an interim executive nomination is not approved during
41 the first regular session following its submission it shall be deemed rejected. The President Pro
42 Tempore shall notify the appointing authority of the rejection of an executive nomination by the
43 Senate, and shall likewise notify the chief executive of the entity to which the nomination relates.
44

45 **RULE 8-42. COMMITTEE REPORTS ON EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.** Committee reports
46 on Executive Nominations may be combined by the Majority Floor Leader for consideration by the

1 Senate. At the request of any member, however, a nominee shall be separated from the combined
2 report and considered individually by the Senate. A majority vote of the members of the Senate
3 shall be required for adoption of a combined report.

4 **Chapter 5: Committee of the Whole**

5
6 **RULE 8-50. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.** Without prior notice, the Senate may, by motion
7 approved by a majority of the members of the Senate, declare itself a Committee of the Whole, at
8 which time the President Pro Tempore or a member designated by the President Pro Tempore shall
9 chair the Committee of the Whole. Rules applicable to other Senate committees shall be applied to
10 the Committee of the Whole, except those rules relating to notice.

11
12 **RULE 8-51. REPORTS.** Once the Committee of the Whole has reported a bill or resolution “DO
13 PASS“ or “DO PASS, AS AMENDED“, to the Senate, that bill or resolution shall be considered on
14 Third Reading and shall be voted upon without consideration of amendments or debate.

15 **Chapter 6: Vetoes and Other Legislative Actions**

16
17 **RULE 8-60. OVERRIDES OF VETOES.** When a bill or resolution is returned to the Senate
18 because of veto by the Governor, a motion that the vetoed legislation become law the Governor’s
19 objections notwithstanding shall be in order at any time.

20
21 **RULE 8-61. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Committee reports on matters other than
22 legislation or Executive Nominations shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and explained by
23 the Chair of the committee making the report, whereupon the Senate may consider any action called
24 for in the report.

25 26 **RULE 8-62. CORRECTIONS TO LEGISLATION.**

27 A. The Title of a bill or resolution shall be made to conform to the text, unless the same has
28 been ordered stricken. A stricken title shall be shown in brackets. The ballot title of a bill or
29 resolution proposing a state question shall be made to conform to the text. The Enacting Clause
30 shall be a part of every bill unless the same shall have been ordered stricken. A stricken Enacting
31 Clause shall be shown by striking through the words of the Enacting Clause. If the title or enacting
32 clause has been stricken, the emergency clause, if any, shall also be stricken as provided in Rules 7-7
33 and 8-23.

34
35 B. The Senate Service Staff is authorized to correct misspelled words, incorrect citations,
36 typographical errors, repeated words and other similar errors when engrossing or enrolling Senate
37 bills or joint resolutions, or Senate amendments to engrossed House bills or joint resolutions and
38 when preparing committee reports and floor versions of Senate bills or joint resolutions.

39
40 C. When engrossing or enrolling Senate bills or joint resolutions, or Senate amendments to
41 engrossed House bills or joint resolutions and when preparing committee reports and floor versions
42 of Senate bills or joint resolutions, the Senate Service Staff is authorized to:

43
44 1. Remove sections from a bill or joint resolution labeled as amendatory sections but which
45 consist entirely of existing law and contain no amendments to the existing law;

- 1
- 2 A. To adjourn to a time certain.
- 3 B. To adjourn.
- 4 C. To recess.
- 5 D. To operate under Call of the Senate.
- 6 E. To limit debate.
- 7 F. To advance.
- 8 G. To commit to a committee without instructions.
- 9 H. To table.
- 10 I. To suspend the rules.
- 11

12 **RULE 9-3. MOTIONS TO TABLE.** Motions to table shall be in order for all motions except the
13 following:

- 14
- 15 A. To adjourn to a time certain.
- 16 B. To adjourn.
- 17 C. To recess.
- 18 D. To operate under Call of the Senate.
- 19 E. To limit debate.
- 20 F. To advance.
- 21

22 **RULE 9-4. PRECEDENCE.** Motions to table shall take precedence over the original motion. If
23 successful, a motion to table shall constitute a final disposition of the original motion.

24

25 **RULE 9-5. PRIORITY OF MOTIONS NOT ENUMERATED.** Except for those motions
26 otherwise enumerated by priority, all motions shall have equal priority and shall be considered in the
27 order made, or in the order placed on the clerk's desk.

28

29 **RULE 9-6. WRITTEN MOTIONS OR OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS.** The Presiding Officer
30 may require any motion, point of order, substitute ruling, or other item of business to be in writing
31 and placed upon the clerk's desk.

32

33 **RULE 9-7. SUBSTITUTE MOTIONS.** Only one substitute motion for a motion of equal priority
34 shall be considered. Successful passage of a substitute motion shall be considered both adoption of
35 the substitute motion in lieu of the original as well as the passage of the substitute motion. If the
36 substitute motion fails, the original motion shall be disposed of before another motion of the same
37 priority can be considered.

38

39 **RULE 9-8. VOTE REQUIRED.** Unless otherwise provided, a motion shall be declared adopted if
40 it is approved by a majority of the members present and voting thereon.

41

42 **RULE 9-9. MOTIONS TO ADJOURN.**

43 **A. ADJOURNMENT.** A motion to adjourn shall always be in order except when the motion
44 shall have been the last voted on and no business is transacted thereafter.

45

1 **B. AFTER ADOPTION OF MOTION TO ADJOURN.** Once a motion to adjourn when the
2 desk is clear has been adopted, no motion shall be considered from the floor of the Senate, whether
3 by unanimous consent or otherwise.
4

5 **C. SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT.** The date and time of sine die adjournment of the Senate
6 shall be fixed by motion or resolution; provided, that once the date and time of such sine die
7 adjournment has arrived, no further business shall be conducted by the Senate, and the Presiding
8 Officer shall declare the Senate adjourned sine die.
9

10 **RULE 9-10. QUORUM CALL.** Any member of the Senate may, at any time, request the Presiding
11 Officer to suggest the absence of a quorum. Upon such request, the Presiding Officer shall
12 determine whether a quorum is present and no further business shall be conducted until it is
13 determined that a quorum is present.
14

15 **RULE 9-11. CALL OF THE SENATE.** The Senate may, by majority vote of the members present,
16 operate under Call of the Senate, in which case the President Pro Tempore is empowered to compel
17 the attendance of all members of the Senate and is empowered to confine the members of the
18 Senate to the chamber.
19

20 **RULE 9-12. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.** Personal privilege shall be granted to a member of the
21 Senate only to permit such member to respond to a public attack on the rights, integrity or
22 reputation of a member of the Senate, or upon the Senate collectively or any committee or employee
23 of the Senate. Remarks made by a member of the Senate who is granted personal privilege shall be
24 confined to such a response.
25

26 **RULE 9-13. MOTION TO LIMIT DEBATE.** When a question subject to debate is before the
27 Senate, a motion to limit the time for debate shall be in order, even if debate already has begun. The
28 motion shall fix the time limits to be allowed for and against the motion, provided that in no case
29 shall the total debate allotted to each side be less than one-half hour. If such motion is successful,
30 the Presiding Officer shall cause the time limits to be enforced and shall divide the time equally for
31 each side of the question. If the motion is once rejected on a question being debated, it can only be
32 adopted with the approval of two-thirds of those voting.
33

34 **RULE 9-14. SUBSTITUTE RULING MOTIONS.** If a Senator disagrees with a ruling on a motion
35 or point of order, he or she may make a motion the Senate adopt a substitute ruling in the following
36 manner:
37

38 A. Before other business is transacted by the Senate or by the committee, a member of the
39 Senate or the committee may appeal the ruling by offering a substitute ruling.
40

41 B. Once a motion to adopt a substitute ruling is made, no other business shall be transacted
42 until the motion is disposed of by the Senate or by the committee.
43

44 C. A motion to adopt a substitute ruling shall be subject to all other Senate Rules pertaining
45 to motions.

1
2
Rule 10: Executive Sessions

3 **RULE 10-1. PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGE.** On a motion made and carried that the Senate go
4 into executive session, the Presiding Officer shall direct all persons, except Senators, the Secretary of
5 the Senate, and personnel as authorized by the Senate, to withdraw. The vote of a majority of the
6 Senators voting shall be required on a motion for executive session. During an executive session, the
7 doors shall remain closed and every Senator and officer shall keep confidential all proceedings and
8 matters enjoined by order of the Senate.

9
10
Rule 11: Special Sessions

11 **RULE 11-1. SPECIAL SESSIONS.**

12 A. Unless amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate, these rules shall be
13 in effect for any special session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature; provided:

14
15 1. Bills and resolutions reported from committee or referred directly to the calendar shall be
16 placed on General Order immediately upon such report or referral and amendments to such bills
17 and resolutions shall be filed no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day of such report or referral; and

18
19 2. All motions to reconsider shall be disposed of on the same day that notice of such
20 motion is served.

21
22 B. The selection of officers, the membership of the standing committees and the mileage
23 allowances most recently approved in regular session shall be in effect for any special session.