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**SENATE RULES
FOR THE
FIFTY-SEVENTH OKLAHOMA
LEGISLATURE (2019-2020)**

**BEING THE STANDING RULES FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS OF
THE STATE SENATE OF OKLAHOMA,
FIFTY-SEVENTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE (2019-2020)**

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

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

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

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

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

RULE 1-5. SUSPENSION. Except as provided in subsection C of Rule 8-30 or paragraph 6 of Rule 8-32, any Senate Rule may be suspended upon two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate.

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

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RULE 2: SENATE OFFICERS

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

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

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

Such other officers as may be designated by the Majority and Minority caucuses; provided, the Majority Caucus shall designate one officer who shall serve as acting President Pro Tempore in the event that the President Pro Tempore vacates the office on a temporary basis. If the President Pro Tempore shall vacate the office on a permanent basis, the officer so designated by the Majority

1 Caucus shall serve as acting President Pro Tempore until such time as the Senate shall elect a new
2 President Pro Tempore;

3
4 The Secretary, who shall not be a member of the Senate; and

5
6 The Sergeant at Arms, who shall not be a member of the Senate. The Sergeant shall serve at
7 the pleasure of the Senate and shall be appointed to his or her office by the Secretary of the Senate.
8

9 **RULE 2-2. ELECTION.** Pursuant to the provisions of Section 28 of Article V of the Oklahoma
10 Constitution, the President Pro Tempore shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Senate
11 when the Senate convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd-
12 numbered year. The Secretary of the Senate shall be elected by a majority of the members following
13 the election of the President Pro Tempore.
14

15 **RULE 2-3. TERMS.** The terms of all member officers of the Senate shall begin on the first
16 Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year and such officers shall hold
17 office until their successors are chosen or conclusion of their term of office in the Senate, whichever
18 is earlier; provided, however, that the designee of the Majority Caucus for the office of President Pro
19 Tempore and the designee of the Minority Caucus for the office of Minority Floor Leader shall
20 assume the duties of and have the full authority of their respective offices on the fifteenth day
21 following the General Election.
22

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

24
25 **A. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.** The President Pro Tempore shall be the chief executive
26 officer of the Senate and shall prescribe all policies not otherwise provided by law or by the rules.
27

28 **B. PRESIDING OFFICER.** The President Pro Tempore shall serve as Presiding Officer of
29 the Senate during its daily sessions but may in writing designate other members of the Senate to
30 serve as Presiding Officers at such times as the President Pro Tempore deems appropriate.
31 Wherever the title "Presiding Officer" appears in the rules it shall mean the President Pro Tempore
32 or an elected member of the Senate designated by the President Pro Tempore as Presiding Officer.
33

34 **C. REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES.** The President Pro Tempore may refer any matter
35 concerning exercise of the Senate's discretionary powers and duties under Section 30 of Article V of
36 the Oklahoma Constitution to a standing committee or select committee, as the President Pro
37 Tempore deems appropriate.
38

39 **D. LEADERSHIP STAFF.** The President Pro Tempore shall be entitled to employ a
40 leadership staff, one of whom shall be designated as the "Chief of Staff." Leadership staff shall serve
41 at the discretion of, for such compensation pursuant to law as may be determined by, and perform
42 such duties as prescribed by, the President Pro Tempore.
43

44 **E. MANDATORY AUDIT.** The President Pro Tempore shall cause an audit of the Senate's
45 expenditures to be made at least once each fiscal year.
46

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

3
4 1. The Chief Operating Officer, under direction of the President Pro Tempore, shall be
5 authorized to perform routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep on that property and
6 facilities entrusted to the Senate for upkeep and maintenance.

7
8 2. The Chief Operating Officer, under direction of the President Pro Tempore, may issue
9 credentials to representatives of the news media and may limit access to the Press
10 Gallery to those members of the news media holding such credentials.

11
12 **RULE 4-2. COMPTROLLER.** The Senate shall have an employee acting as Comptroller who shall
13 report to the Chief Operating Officer. The Comptroller shall be responsible for the issuance of all
14 warrants and vouchers and the maintenance of an accurate account of expenditures by the Senate.

15
16 **RULE 4-3. SERVICE STAFF.** As authorized in Section 271 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
17 which prescribes the Senate as the sole judge of the number, duties and compensation of its
18 employees, the Chief Operating Officer, subject to the review and supervision of the President Pro
19 Tempore, shall be authorized to employ service staff. Service staff shall be employed according to
20 policies established by the President Pro Tempore and shall receive such compensation pursuant to
21 law as may be determined by, and perform such duties as prescribed by, the President Pro Tempore.

22 23 24 **RULE 5: CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS**

25
26 **RULE 5-1. LEGISLATIVE CONDUCT.** Every Senator shall conduct himself or herself to justify
27 the confidence placed in him or her by the people and, by personal example and admonition to
28 colleagues, shall maintain the integrity and responsibility of his or her office.

29
30 **RULE 5-2. DECORUM.** The decorum of members of the Senate and employees of the Senate
31 during the daily sessions of the Senate shall be determined by the Rules of the Senate and shall be
32 enforced by the Presiding Officer.

33
34 **RULE 5-3. SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.** The use of Senate supplies and equipment is
35 restricted to official Senate business. Questions of compliance shall be resolved by the President
36 Pro Tempore or, at the discretion of the President Pro Tempore, the Rules Committee.

37
38 **RULE 5-4. LOBBYISTS.** All lobbying activities in the Senate shall be governed and regulated by
39 law and by the Rules of the Senate.

40 41 **RULE 5-5. CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS.**

42 A. On the floor during session, appropriate business professional attire, including a suit
43 jacket/blazer, shall be worn by all members of the Senate and other persons granted privileges of
44 the floor, unless otherwise authorized by the President Pro Tempore or Majority Floor Leader.
45 Male members shall wear a tie. Jeans are not considered appropriate business professional attire.

1
2 B. Complaints pertaining to employees should be made to the proper authority rather
3 than to the individual. Under no circumstances should complaints pertaining to employees be
4 made on the floor of the Senate, in committee meetings or in other public forums.
5

6 C. On the floor during session and in committee, members should endeavor to be
7 congenial and complimentary. Members should avoid personal attacks and dealing in
8 personalities. During public occasions away from the Capitol, members should endeavor to keep
9 personalities out of their discussions and deal with programs, not personalities.
10

11 D. The consumption of alcohol is forbidden in the chamber, and any member who is in
12 the chamber in an intoxicated state will be removed by security personnel.
13

14 E. It is beneath the dignity of the Senate for members to consume food products in the
15 chamber. Beverages may be consumed from cups of a solid color, and no larger than twenty
16 ounces in size. Cups may reflect the seal of the state of Oklahoma but shall not include a logo.
17

18 F. It is beneath the dignity of the Senate for a member to sit upon a desk, or to place his
19 or her feet upon a desk in the chamber.
20

21 G. While a Senator is speaking, no Senator should enter into any disturbing private
22 conversation or pass between the speaking Senator and the Presiding Officer. Profane, obscene,
23 or indecent language is discouraged in the Senate and in all standing or special committees of the
24 Senate. The use of cellular telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices during formal
25 Senate proceedings, either on the floor of the Senate or in committee, is discouraged. No
26 Senator shall record or broadcast, or allow any other person to record or broadcast, any Senate
27 floor proceedings without the express approval of the President Pro Tempore or Majority Floor
28 Leader.
29

30 H. A Senator shall address other members with the title "Senator" when addressing one
31 another during formal Senate proceedings either on the floor of the Senate or in committee.
32

33 I. No member shall be permitted to vote on any question unless said member is
34 physically present on the floor of the Senate at the time the vote is taken.
35

36 J. The President Pro Tempore or the Majority Floor Leader shall designate those Senate
37 employees who shall be granted privileges of the floor during any session of the Senate, said
38 employees to be limited to those whose work requires their presence. Any member desiring to
39 bring a guest to the floor of the Senate shall first notify the Majority Floor Leader. No such
40 guest shall enter the chamber until privileges of the floor have been granted pursuant to Rule 8-7.
41

42 K. No person other than a member of the Senate shall cause materials to be distributed
43 on each desk in the Senate chamber without first having obtained approval by the Majority Floor
44 Leader. The sponsoring Senator will be identified. Any material so distributed shall be
45 considered a public record from the time of such distribution.
46

1 L. Any member who feels that the standards of the Senate are being violated by either a
2 member of the Senate or the staff should seek redress by submitting a complaint to the President
3 Pro Tempore concerning the violation.
4

5 **RULE 6: LEGISLATION**

6 **Chapter 1: General Provisions**

7 **RULE 6-1. LEGISLATION.** Legislation to be considered by the Senate shall be limited to Senate
8 Bills, Senate Joint Resolutions, Senate Concurrent Resolutions, Senate Resolutions, House Bills,
9 House Joint Resolutions and House Concurrent Resolutions.

10
11 **RULE 6-2. INTRODUCTION.** Except as may be limited by Rule 6-22, Senate Bills, Senate Joint
12 Resolutions, Senate Concurrent Resolutions and Senate Resolutions may be introduced at any time
13 beginning on the fifteenth day of November of each even-numbered year and ending at the time of
14 sine die adjournment of the Second Session during the following even-numbered year. Legislation
15 may be introduced by presentation to the Secretary of the Senate, together with as many copies as
16 may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Senate. Each Senate Bill or Resolution shall be assigned a
17 number by the Secretary of the Senate. House Bills, House Joint Resolutions and House
18 Concurrent Resolutions may be introduced upon receipt of a message from the House of
19 Representatives advising passage and engrossment of the measure.
20

21 **RULE 6-3. FORM.** No legislation shall be introduced in the Senate, except for House Bills, House
22 Joint Resolutions and House Concurrent Resolutions, unless that legislation shall include a Title and
23 an Enacting or Resolving Clause.
24

25 **RULE 6-4. RESTRICTIONS.** Senate Concurrent Resolutions, Senate Resolutions and House
26 Concurrent Resolutions shall be considered only for the following purposes:
27

- 28 1. Memorializing Congress, the President of the United States, or an executive agency of the
29 federal government;
- 30 2. Communicating with another entity of state government, or a subdivision thereof;
- 31 3. Expressing legislative intent;
- 32 33 4. Expressing policies of the Senate; and
- 34 35 5. Such other purposes specifically approved by the President Pro Tempore.
36
37

38
39 **RULE 6-5. AUTHORS AND COAUTHORS.** After introduction in the Senate of any bill or
40 resolution, no Senator or Representative shall be shown or removed as author or coauthor on the
41 face of the bill or resolution unless the Senator or Representative shall submit a written or electronic
42 request to be so shown to the Secretary of the Senate or person designated by the Secretary of the
43 Senate. The change in authorship shall be shown on the face of the next official version of the bill
44 or resolution; provided, however, a printed substitute for or an electronic version of a bill or

1 resolution may show in parentheses, and the electronic voting machine may display immediately, any
2 author or coauthor changes that have been submitted.

3
4 While a Senate Bill, Senate Joint Resolution or Senate Concurrent Resolution is within the
5 physical control of the Senate, the principal Senate author of the bill or resolution shall have full and
6 complete discretion in determining who the principal House author of the bill or resolution shall be.

7
8 **RULE 6-6. DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATION.** No legislation or amendment shall be
9 considered by the Senate unless a copy has been distributed to the desks of all members of the
10 Senate, or has been made available to all members electronically, on a legislative day previous to
11 consideration of the legislation.

12
13 **RULE 6-7. FINAL ACTION.** If final action is such as to defeat an amendment, a bill or a
14 resolution, no other amendment, bill or resolution having the same effect and covering the same
15 specific or substantially similar subject matter shall be considered by the Senate during either session
16 of the current Legislature, unless otherwise approved by the President Pro Tempore. Action
17 constituting “final action” includes:

- 18
19 1. Failure of the motion “Do Pass” or “Do Pass as Amended” on a vote in a committee;
- 20
21 2. If a vote is taken on Third Reading or Fourth Reading and the measure fails to receive
22 the required number of votes for passage, and
 - 23 a. no notice is served to reconsider the vote,
 - 24 b. a motion to reconsider the vote fails to prevail or expires, or
 - 25 c. a motion to table the motion to reconsider prevails; or
- 26
27 3. In the case of an amendment, if the amendment fails to receive the required number of
28 votes for adoption or if a motion to table prevails.

29
30 **RULE 6-8. FINANCIAL IMPACT VERIFICATION.**

31 A. No amendment, bill or resolution which creates or expands a requirement for insurance
32 coverage provided to state employees by a state agency shall be considered by the Senate or any
33 committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or resolution is accompanied by documentation of
34 the fiscal impact of the proposal on the policyholders and the state agency. The President Pro
35 Tempore shall prescribe procedures for such documentation to be obtained from the Office of
36 Management and Enterprise Services or the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, as applicable.

37
38 The Chair of a committee to which a bill or resolution subject to the provisions of this
39 subsection is assigned may request the Majority Floor Leader to suspend the provisions of paragraph
40 4 or 6 of subsection A or paragraph 4 or 6 of subsection B of Rule 6-22; provided, any such
41 suspension shall not suspend or affect any of the remaining dates set forth in Rule 6-22.

42
43 B. No amendment, bill or resolution which creates a direct fiscal impact on state tax
44 revenues shall be considered by the Senate or any committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or
45 resolution is accompanied by documentation of the fiscal impact of such amendment, bill or
46 resolution. The President Pro Tempore shall prescribe procedures for such documentation to be

1 obtained from the Oklahoma Tax Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 118 of Title 68
2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or from another source as designated by the President Pro Tempore.
3

4 C. No amendment, bill or resolution affecting a retirement system, as such term is defined
5 in the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act, shall be considered by the Senate or
6 any committee thereof unless such amendment, bill or resolution has been submitted to the
7 legislative actuary as provided in the Act, at the direction of the chair of the committee to which
8 such legislation is referred.
9

10 **RULE 6-9. NAMING OF STATE ASSETS.** No amendment, bill or resolution shall be considered
11 by the Senate or any committee thereof which names, dedicates or otherwise memorializes any
12 highway, bridge, state asset or facility unless the persons proposed to be so honored shall have been
13 deceased not less than three (3) years prior to consideration. The prohibition in this rule shall not
14 apply to the naming of highways and bridges on the state highway system designed to honor
15 members of the United States Armed Forces, members of law enforcement or firefighters fallen in
16 the performance of their duties. The prohibition in this rule shall also not apply to the naming of
17 highways and bridges on the state highway system designed to honor Medal of Honor recipients
18 both living and deceased. Every amendment, bill and resolution for the dedication of any highway,
19 bridge, other state asset or facility must specifically state the accomplishments upon which the
20 proposal is based.
21

22 **Chapter 2: Legislation Requests and Filing**

23

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

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

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

33 A. During the First Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature, the Senate shall
34 adhere to the following legislative procedure schedule:
35

36 1. The First Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature shall convene at twelve noon
37 on January 8, 2019, for the purpose only of performing the duties set forth in Section 5 of Article VI
38 of the Oklahoma Constitution and organizing pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the
39 Oklahoma Constitution, and shall recess no later than five p.m. on that same day until February 4,
40 2019, beginning at twelve noon.
41

42 2. December 7, 2018, shall be the final date for requesting the drafting of bills or joint
43 resolutions in the Senate for introduction for consideration during the First Regular Session.
44

45 3. January 17, 2019, shall be the final date for introduction of bills and joint resolutions in
46 the Senate for consideration on the floor of the Senate during the First Regular Session. Bills and

1 joint resolutions subsequently introduced if reported from committee, shall not be placed on the
2 Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first legislative day of the Second Regular Session,
3 except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
4

5 4. February 28, 2019, shall be the final legislative day for reporting Senate bills and Senate
6 joint resolutions from committee in the Senate. Bills and joint resolutions subsequently reported
7 from committee shall not be placed on the Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first
8 legislative day of the Second Regular Session, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
9

10 5. March 14, 2019, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
11 Senate bill or Senate joint resolution in the Senate.
12

13 6. April 11, 2019, shall be the final legislative day for reporting House bills and House joint
14 resolutions from committee in the Senate. Bills and joint resolutions subsequently reported from
15 Committee shall not be placed on the Calendar for consideration in the Senate until the first
16 legislative day of the Second Regular Session, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
17

18 7. April 25, 2019, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
19 House bill or a House joint resolution in the Senate.
20

21 8. The First Regular Session shall adjourn sine die not later than five p.m. on May 31, 2019.
22

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

26 B. During the Second Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature, the Senate shall
27 adhere to the following legislative procedure schedule:
28

29 1. December 13, 2019, shall be the final date for requesting the drafting of bills or joint
30 resolutions in the Senate for introduction for consideration during the Second Regular Session.
31

32 2. January 16, 2020, shall be the final date for introduction of bills and joint resolutions in
33 the Senate for consideration on the floor of the Senate during the Second Regular Session.
34

35 3. The Second Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature shall convene at twelve
36 o'clock noon on February 3, 2020.
37

38 4. February 27, 2020, shall be the final legislative day for reporting Senate bills and Senate
39 joint resolutions from committee in the Senate, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
40

41 5. March 12, 2020, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
42 Senate bill or a Senate joint resolution in the Senate.
43

44 6. April 9, 2020, shall be the final legislative day for reporting a House bill or a House joint
45 resolution from committee in the Senate, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 6-23.
46

47 7. April 23, 2020, shall be the final legislative day for third reading and final passage of a
48 House bill or a House joint resolution in the Senate.

1
2 8. The Second Regular Session shall adjourn sine die not later than five p.m. on May 29,
3 2020.

4
5 9. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Senate, a bill or joint resolution
6 can be exempt from all deadline dates in the Senate.

7
8 C. This rule shall be inapplicable to any:

9
10 1. Joint resolution introduced for the purpose of disapproving or approving agency rules
11 pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act as set forth in Section 250 et seq.
12 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or for the purpose of disapproving or approving standards
13 adopted by the State Board of Education as set forth in Section 11-103.6a-1 of Title 70 of the
14 Oklahoma Statutes;

15
16 2. Bill introduced for the purposes of incorporation and merging different versions of a
17 statute amended in more than one measure at the same or different sessions of the Legislature as set
18 forth in Section 23.1 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

19
20 3. Bill or joint resolution introduced for the purpose of approving, disapproving, repealing
21 or modifying rules of the Ethics Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of Article
22 XXIX of the Oklahoma Constitution;

23
24 4. Bill or joint resolution which proposes a special or local law and for which notice of
25 intended introduction is published in a newspaper for four consecutive weeks pursuant to the
26 provisions of Section 32 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution;

27
28 5. Bill or joint resolution authored by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Senate
29 Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations and Budget Committee which affects the
30 receipt, expenditure or budgeting of state funds or funds under the control of an entity created by
31 state law;

32
33 6. Bill or joint resolution authored by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the
34 Speaker of the House of Representatives which is deemed by them to be necessary for the
35 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; or

36
37 7. Bill or joint resolution authored by committee(s) pursuant to Rule 6-23.

38
39 D. Paragraph 3 of subsection A and paragraph 2 of subsection B of this rule shall be
40 inapplicable to any bill or joint resolution which contains an "RB" number pursuant to the
41 provisions of the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act. Such measures shall be
42 submitted to the legislative actuary not later than the date specified in such paragraphs, and may be
43 introduced not later than the first Monday in February following such submission.

44
45 **RULE 6-23. COMMITTEE AUTHORSHIP OF BILLS**

46 A. A member who introduces legislation after the deadlines established in Rule 6-22 may file
47 the legislation and upon assignment by the Majority Floor Leader to committee may ask the

1 committee Chair to allow for the measure to be heard as a measure authored by the committee.
2 Upon majority vote of the committee, the authorship of the measure shall be transferred to the
3 committee from the individual Senator and the deadlines established in Rule 6-22 shall not be
4 applicable. In the event a measure is dually assigned, each committee must agree to assume
5 authorship for the deadlines to not apply.
6

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

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

13 A. Any bill or joint resolution pending in the Senate at the final adjournment of the First
14 Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature shall carry over to the Second Regular Session
15 with the same status as if there had been no adjournment. Bills and joint resolutions pending in a
16 Conference Committee at such time shall not carry over to the Second Regular Session of the 57th
17 Oklahoma Legislature.
18

19 B. Simple and concurrent resolutions pending in the Senate at the final adjournment of the
20 First Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature shall not carry over for consideration during
21 the Second Regular Session.

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

23
24 **RULE 7-1. TYPES AND NUMBER.** There shall be two types of Senate committees established by
25 the President Pro Tempore: standing committees and select committees. The President Pro
26 Tempore shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of each standing committee and of each select
27 committee.
28

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

33 **RULE 7-2. MEMBERSHIP.** Membership on standing committees and on select committees shall
34 be subject to the following:
35

36 1. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Senate, the
37 Majority Caucus members and the Chair and Vice-Chair of each standing committee.
38

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

43 3. Membership of standing committees shall be approved by a majority vote of members of
44 the Senate. In the event of a vacancy or extended absence of a member of the Senate, a replacement

1 member may be appointed by the President Pro Tempore or the Minority Leader, as appropriate.
2 Any such appointment shall be approved by a majority vote of members of the Senate.

3
4 4. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint all members of select committees.

5
6 5. The President Pro Tempore and Majority Floor Leader shall each be ex-officio and
7 voting members of all standing and select Senate committees.

8
9 **RULE 7-3. DUTIES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE.** The Rules Committee shall determine any
10 policies of the Senate submitted to it by the President Pro Tempore.

11
12 **RULE 7-4. DUTIES OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.** Each legislative committee shall be
13 responsible for the formulation of legislative programs and determination of non-legislative matters
14 within the jurisdiction prescribed by the President Pro Tempore; shall inquire into the
15 administration and execution of all laws and administrative rules within the same jurisdiction; shall
16 consider such proposals as may be submitted to the committee by the President Pro Tempore; and
17 shall be responsible for the continuing codification of all laws within the prescribed jurisdiction.

18
19 **RULE 7-5. DUTIES OF SELECT COMMITTEES.** Select committees shall be responsible for such
20 duties as are prescribed at the time of their formation. No select committee shall be formed without
21 its duties being expressly stated at the time of its formation. If a select committee is appointed for
22 the purpose of conducting an investigation, the Senator requesting the investigation shall not serve
23 as Chair of the committee.

24
25 **RULE 7-6. AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEES.** Any Senate committee is authorized to issue
26 process, compel attendance of witnesses, and to administer oaths to any person appearing before the
27 committee. Any Senate committee which considers legislation is empowered to consolidate bills or
28 resolutions, to develop committee substitutes for such bills or resolutions, to amend such bills or
29 resolutions and to develop a committee bill or resolution irrespective of any other legislation.

30
31 **RULE 7-7. PROCEDURES.** The following procedures shall be observed by all legislative
32 committees of the Senate:

33
34 **A. MEETING NOTICES.** Subject to such exceptions as are provided hereinafter,
35 committees of the Senate shall comply with provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. A
36 copy of all notices required by said Act shall be provided to the Chief Operating Officer, who shall
37 designate the appropriate place for such notices to be posted. The Chief Operating Officer shall
38 cause to be posted one such notice on the bulletin board of the Senate located in a place in the
39 Capitol accessible to the public and on the Senate web site and shall take such other actions as may
40 be deemed appropriate to provide adequate notice to the public.

41
42 **B. MEETING TIMES.** The Chair of a committee shall schedule meetings of the committee.
43 Meetings at a time other than the regularly scheduled meeting time of a committee shall not conflict
44 with any regularly scheduled meeting of any other committee, except with the consent of the
45 President Pro Tempore.

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

10
11 **D. QUORUM.** A quorum shall be present when any committee votes on any matter. Any
12 member of a committee may request a quorum call at any time the committee is meeting. A number
13 equal to a majority of the appointed members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

14
15 **E. PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Chair, or in the Chair's absence the Vice-Chair, of the
16 committee, or a designee, shall preside at meetings of the committee. No person shall address the
17 committee unless first recognized for that purpose.

18
19 **F. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.** When considering legislation or conducting other business,
20 committees shall observe the following procedures:

21
22 1. When a legislative measure is taken up for consideration, the Senate author shall be
23 recognized for explanation of the measure.

24
25 2. Upon prior approval given by the Chair of the committee and subject to time restraints
26 established by the Chair, any testimony from non-members of the committee in favor and/or
27 opposed to the measure may be given. Upon completion of the testimony, each member of the
28 committee may put questions to those testifying before the committee. No testimony shall be given
29 unless questions are made available to the members of the committee.

30
31 3. The Senate author shall be given the opportunity to answer questions put by members of
32 the committee.

33
34 4. The Senate author or any member of the committee shall be provided the opportunity for
35 presentation of amendments to the legislation. Amendments to any bill or resolution under
36 consideration by a committee or subcommittee shall be germane to the subject of the introduced bill
37 or resolution. Any amendment must be seconded to receive further consideration. Provided, the
38 Senate author or any member of the committee offering a committee substitute must submit the
39 proposed committee substitute in writing or electronically to the Chair no later than noon on the
40 legislative day before the meeting of the committee. The Chair may, at his or her discretion, waive
41 the deadline set forth in this rule. When a committee substitute is submitted, the Chair may approve
42 the substitute to be heard by the committee and the committee substitute shall be considered a
43 public record from the time of such approval.

44
45 5. Amendments and motions may be adopted by a voice vote; provided, however, that the
46 Senate author, or any member of the committee, may require a roll call vote.

47

1 6. Amendments shall be considered in the order they appear in the legislation, or in the
2 order they are presented to the clerk of the committee; provided, an amendment to restore the title
3 or enacting clause shall be considered after disposition of all other amendments. The Chair or other
4 member presiding shall resolve any conflict resulting from claimed priority of presentation.
5

6 7. If an amendment to strike the title or enacting clause is approved by the committee, the
7 emergency clause, if any, shall also be stricken.
8

9 8. The author of an amendment shall explain the amendment and be afforded the
10 opportunity to answer questions about the amendment put by members of the committee or the
11 author of the legislation.
12

13 9. Any member may be recognized for debate or comment on the proposed legislation or
14 amendments thereto. Debate may be limited at the discretion of the Chair or other member
15 presiding, provided that equal time must be given to both proponent and opponent sides of debate.
16

17 10. The legislation may be laid on the table at the request of the author or at his or her
18 discretion without a vote of the committee to do so. The legislation may be brought back up later in
19 the same or subsequent meetings of the committee provided it is listed on the agenda in compliance
20 with this rule. If the legislation is brought up at a subsequent meeting, consideration of the
21 legislation will recommence with explanation of the measure.
22

23 11. The vote on a recommendation by the committee to the Senate concerning a legislative
24 measure shall be by recorded roll call and shall require a majority vote of the members of the
25 committee present and voting, which shall not be less than a quorum, for passage. The only
26 permitted recommendations to the Senate on a legislative measure are "DO PASS" or "DO PASS,
27 AS AMENDED". During any roll call, only a Senator present in the committee room may vote,
28 and every Senator present shall vote. The chair shall request every Senator in the committee room
29 who is a member of the committee and who has not voted to vote. If any Senator so requested fails
30 to vote, other than as provided in Section 24 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution, the chair
31 shall, upon declaring the roll, order that said Senator be shown as voting "NO" on the question.
32 Said "NO" vote shall be included in the determination of the passage or failure of the question. If a
33 Senator is present but not voting as provided in Section 24 of Article V of the Oklahoma
34 Constitution, the Senator shall so inform the chair. In such event, the Senator shall be deemed to be
35 present but not voting, and that Senator's vote shall not be included in the determination of the
36 passage or failure of the question. A tie vote in a committee on the motion of "DO PASS" or "DO
37 PASS, AS AMENDED" shall result in failure of the motion. All committee votes reflecting the
38 votes of each member present and voting on the motion of "DO PASS" or "DO PASS, AS
39 AMENDED", and a notation of any member not voting as provided in Section 24 of Article V of
40 the Oklahoma Constitution, shall be entered in the Journal.
41

42 **G. LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS.** Except for legislation containing appropriations, all
43 legislation originating in the Senate which is considered by a Senate committee shall contain an
44 Enacting or Resolving Clause, and a House author at the discretion of the Chair.
45

1 the purposes only of performing the duties as required by Section 5 of Article VI of the Oklahoma
2 Constitution and organizing pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution
3 and shall recess not later than five o'clock p.m. of that same day until the following first Monday in
4 February of the same year, beginning at twelve o'clock noon.
5

6 B. On the first Monday in February of each year, the Senate shall convene in its chamber on
7 the fourth floor of the Capitol at twelve o'clock noon. Thereafter, the Senate shall meet in daily
8 sessions as necessary in the chamber until sine die adjournment. The time of each daily session shall
9 be announced on the preceding legislative day; provided, however, that in the event no such
10 announcement is made, the Senate shall convene at 1:30 p.m.
11

12 C. The Senate may convene in a location other than its chamber, as designated by the
13 President Pro Tempore and upon informing the Governor and the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, in the event that the President Pro Tempore determines that an unsafe condition or
15 construction in the State Capitol, a natural disaster or national security emergency prevents the
16 Senate from meeting in its chamber.
17

18 **RULE 8-3. GALLERIES AND HALLWAYS.** The following provisions shall apply with respect to
19 use of and conduct in the Senate gallery and other public areas of the Capitol under the control of
20 the Senate:

21 1. The President Pro Tempore or a designee is empowered to assign seats in the galleries of
22 the Senate and is empowered to order the galleries and hallways of the Senate cleared to preserve
23 order or to ensure the safety of the members of the Senate;
24

25 2. Firearms and weapons are allowed on the Senate floor, in the gallery, or in any Senate
26 area with permission of the Secretary of the Senate;
27

28 3. No food or drink shall be allowed in the galleries;
29

30 4. No signs shall be allowed in the gallery or committee rooms. No displays which might
31 cause distraction or disturb the decorum of the Senate shall be allowed in the gallery or committee
32 rooms;
33

34 5. No cameras or other recording equipment which might cause distraction or disturb the
35 decorum of the Senate shall be allowed in the gallery;
36

37 6. Audible expressions of approval or disapproval or other outbursts in the gallery or
38 committee rooms shall not be permitted;
39

40 7. Articles carried by visitors may be required to be checked at the door to the galleries or
41 committee rooms by a Senate employee; and
42

43 8. Visitors in the galleries, committee rooms and other areas of the Capitol under the
44 control of the Senate shall be required to conduct themselves with dignity and in an orderly fashion.
45

1 Whenever a violation of the provisions of this section occurs, it shall be the duty of the
2 Presiding Officer to enforce order on his or her own initiative and without any point of order being
3 made by a Senator.
4

5 **RULE 8-4. QUORUM.** No business of the Senate shall be conducted without a quorum of its
6 members being in attendance, other than a motion to adjourn, adjourn to a time certain, or operate
7 under call of the Senate pursuant to Rule 9-11, made by the President Pro Tempore or a member
8 designated by the President Pro Tempore. A majority of the members elected to the Senate shall
9 constitute a quorum.
10

11 **RULE 8-5. ORDER OF BUSINESS.** The Order of Business for each daily session of the Senate
12 shall be determined by the Majority Floor Leader and shall include:
13

- 14 Prayer
- 15 Executive Nominations
- 16 General Order
- 17 Third Reading
- 18 House Amendments to Senate Bills and Resolutions
- 19 Conference Committee Reports
- 20 Fourth Reading
- 21 Committee Reports
- 22 Second Reading
- 23 First Reading
- 24 Communications
- 25 Other Business
26

27 No business shall be considered by the Senate during the daily session unless it has been approved
28 by the Majority Floor Leader or the President Pro Tempore or unless it is otherwise specifically
29 allowed under the Senate rules.
30

31 **RULE 8-6. INTRODUCTIONS.** No persons shall be introduced individually in the galleries,
32 except that a member of the Senate may introduce family members. It shall also be permissible to
33 introduce officials from other states and countries or other persons approved in advance by the
34 Majority Floor Leader.
35

36 **RULE 8-7. PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR.** A. No person shall be permitted in the Senate
37 chamber or the lobbies at the front or rear of the chamber during the daily sessions of the Senate
38 except:
39

- 40 1. Members, the Secretary of the Senate and former members of the Senate;
- 41
- 42 2. Employees of the Senate designated by the President Pro Tempore;
- 43
- 44 3. Members of the House of Representatives;
- 45
- 46 4. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor and former Governors and former Lieutenant
47 Governors;

1
2 5. Spouses, children and grandchildren of members of the Senate; and

3
4 6. Any person who is permitted on the floor by a majority vote of those present.

5
6 B. Provided, however, that the above privileges shall exclude any person registered as a
7 lobbyist as provided by law.

8
9 C. All persons permitted in the Senate chamber during the daily sessions of the Senate shall
10 conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5-5.

11
12 D. No person other than those specified in this rule shall be permitted in the Senate
13 Lounge, unless accompanied by a member of the Senate.

14
15 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this rule, the Majority Floor Leader
16 may prohibit any person other than a member of the Senate from entering the Senate chamber or
17 the lobbies at the front or rear of the chamber during the daily sessions of the Senate.
18

19 **Chapter 2: Legislative Procedure**

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

23
24 **RULE 8-21. SECOND READING.** The Second Reading of a bill or resolution shall occur the next
25 legislative day following the First Reading. Upon or after Second Reading of a bill or resolution, the
26 same shall be assigned for committee consideration or assigned directly to the calendar. All bills
27 carrying appropriations which are referred to any committee other than the Appropriations
28 Committee shall, immediately upon a report by the committee to which referred, be referred to the
29 Appropriations Committee. Any bill or resolution which is determined to affect the receipt,
30 expenditure or budgeting of state funds or funds under the control of an entity created by state law
31 may be double-assigned to a committee other than the Appropriations Committee or the Finance
32 Committee and then to the Appropriations Committee or Finance Committee.
33

34 **RULE 8-22. GENERAL ORDER**

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

36
37 1. All bills and resolutions reported by a committee of the Senate or referred directly to the
38 calendar shall be placed on General Order.

39
40 2. When a committee report is filed, the clerk shall indicate on the face of the report the
41 date and time the report was filed.

42
43 3. A bill or resolution reported from committee shall be placed on General Order at the
44 beginning of the second legislative day following the legislative day that a committee report is filed.
45

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

3
4 5. A list of bills and resolutions on General Order, including a copy of the text of such bills
5 and resolutions and the date such bills and resolutions were placed on General Order, shall be
6 published electronically and made available each legislative day to all members of the Senate.

7
8 6. To allow opportunity for amendment under Rule 8-23, no bill may be heard until it has
9 been on General Order for a period of at least one (1) legislative day.

10
11 7. No bill or joint resolution shall be considered on the Senate floor without a House
12 author.

13
14 **B. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.** The Majority Floor Leader, or a
15 designee, shall determine the order in which legislation is considered by the Senate. Nothing in this
16 section nor these rules shall be construed as to guarantee a right to a hearing on any legislation.

17
18 **C. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES ON GENERAL ORDER.** On General Order, the
19 following procedure shall be observed:

- 20
21 1. Explanation of the bill or resolution by the Senate author;
22
23 2. Questions;
24
25 3. Consideration of amendments; and
26
27 4. Advancement from General Order to Engrossment and Third Reading.

28
29 **RULE 8-23. AMENDMENTS.**

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

32
33 B. The Senate shall not consider any proposed amendment not germane to the subject of
34 the bill or resolution. A secondary amendment must be germane to both the primary amendment
35 and the measure which it purports to amend.

36
37 C. If an amendment to strike the title or enacting clause is approved, the emergency clause,
38 if any, shall also be stricken. If an amendment to restore the title or enacting clause is approved, the
39 emergency clause, if any, shall also be restored unless otherwise directed by the author of the
40 amendment.

41
42 D. If any amendment to a bill or resolution is filed as provided in this subsection, a copy of
43 the text of such amendment shall be provided or made available electronically to each member of
44 the Senate.

45
46 E. The provisions of subsection A of this rule shall not apply to an amendment offered by
47 the author of a bill or resolution:

- 1
- 2 1. To strike the title or enacting or resolving clause; or
- 3
- 4 2. For any other purpose, subject to the approval of the Majority Floor Leader.
- 5

6 F. 1. Amendments shall be considered in the order in which they are submitted unless
7 otherwise directed by the Majority Floor Leader; provided, a floor substitute offered by the author
8 of the measure shall be considered first, and an amendment to restore a title or enacting or resolving
9 clause shall be considered after disposition of all other amendments. If a floor substitute is adopted,
10 the Secretary of the Senate shall conform previously submitted amendments to the measure to the
11 floor substitute, if practicable.

12 2. Once an amendment is read, it shall be explained by its author, who may then answer
13 questions concerning the amendment. If the author of the amendment is not in attendance at the
14 time an amendment is read, the amendment shall be considered withdrawn unless another member
15 of the Senate coauthors the amendment and provides an explanation.

16 3. An amendment shall be considered a public record from the time it is placed upon the
17 clerk's desk.

18

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

22

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

27

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

30

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

33

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

38

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

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

43

44 If the Senate adopts a Conference Committee Report, the bill or resolution shall be before
45 the Senate for Fourth Reading and final passage. If the Senate rejects a Conference Committee
46 Report or a motion to adopt the report fails, the bill or resolution shall be returned to the
47 conference committee. Upon a report by the Senate conferees that the conferees cannot agree, the

1 bill or resolution reverts to its former status of consideration of House Amendments to Senate bills
2 or resolutions.

3
4 B. The conference committee report proposed by the Senate author of a measure
5 considered by the General Conference Committee on Appropriations may not be amended during
6 the committee meeting at which the measure is considered.

7
8 **RULE 8-28. FOURTH READING.** Upon Fourth Reading of a bill or resolution, debate shall be in
9 order on final passage of the bill or resolution, after which the vote shall occur on final passage.
10 After final passage of a bill or resolution, it shall be signed by the Presiding Officer in open session.

11 **Chapter 3: Debate and Voting**

12 **RULE 8-30. DEBATE.**

13
14 A. When a Senator desires to speak, he or she shall rise and address the Presiding Officer,
15 and shall not proceed until recognized, and the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who
16 shall first address the Presiding Officer. No Senator shall interrupt another Senator in debate
17 without his or her consent, and to obtain such consent shall first address the Presiding Officer, and
18 no Senator shall speak more than twice upon any one question in debate on the same legislative day
19 without leave of the Senate, which shall be determined without debate.

20
21 B. No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to
22 another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

23
24 C. No Senator shall introduce to or bring to the attention of the Senate during its sessions
25 any occupant in the galleries of the Senate other than those allowed pursuant to Rule 8-6. No
26 motion to suspend this rule shall be in order, nor may the Presiding Officer entertain any request to
27 suspend it by unanimous consent.

28
29 D. If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer
30 transgresses the rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall, either on his or her own motion or
31 at the request of any other Senator, call him or her to order; and when a Senator shall be called to
32 order he or she shall take his or her seat, and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, which, if
33 granted, shall be upon motion that he or she be allowed to proceed in order, which motion shall be
34 determined without debate. Any Senator directed by the Presiding Officer to take his or her seat,
35 and any Senator requesting the Presiding Officer to require a Senator to take his or her seat, may
36 offer a substitute ruling as provided in Rule 9-14.

37
38
39 **RULE 8-31. MANNER OF VOTING.** All votes of the Senate shall be by voice vote, division or
40 roll call vote subject to the following:

41
42 A. The voting machine shall be used to record the vote whenever a roll call vote is taken on
43 any question. The machine shall also be used to determine the presence or absence of a quorum. In
44 the event the machine is not operating properly, all roll call votes and determinations of quorums
45 may be taken by calling the roll. The voting machine shall be under the control of the Presiding
46 Officer and shall be operated by a clerk designated by the Presiding Officer.

1
2 B. During any roll call, only a Senator present on the Senate floor may vote, and every
3 Senator present shall vote. During a roll call, the Presiding Officer shall request every Senator in the
4 chamber who has not voted to vote. If any Senator so requested fails to vote, the Presiding Officer
5 shall, upon declaring the roll, order that said Senator be shown as voting "NO" on the question.
6 Said order shall be printed in the Journal directly following the printing of the results of the roll call
7 as reflected by the voting machine, and said "NO" vote shall be included in the determination of the
8 passage or failure of the question. In all other cases, a Senator who fails to vote shall be shown as
9 "excused" in the Journal, except as provided in Section 24 of Article V of the Oklahoma
10 Constitution.

11
12 C. On any question for which a roll call vote is not required, a roll call vote shall be in order
13 only if requested before the question is put. Once the question has been put and a voice vote taken,
14 the Presiding Officer shall state the side that appears to the Presiding Officer to have prevailed, and
15 any member then may request a division, but shall not be entitled to request a roll call vote. The
16 declaration of the vote by the Presiding Officer shall be final.

17
18 D. No Senator shall be permitted to vote or change a vote after the result has been
19 announced by the Presiding Officer.

20
21 E. If a member's voting machine is inoperative, the member shall rise and advise the
22 Presiding Officer of the malfunction; and the Senator will be permitted to verbally vote on the
23 question; and the vote will then be recorded by the clerk.

24
25 F. When a division is called for, those voting in the affirmative shall rise at their seats and
26 remain standing until counted; then those voting in the negative shall rise and stand until they are
27 counted, whereupon the Presiding Officer shall declare the result.

28
29 **RULE 8-32. RECONSIDERATION OF VOTES.** The final vote on Third Reading or Fourth
30 Reading of any bill or joint resolution or on the emergency clause or special election feature or other
31 special feature of any bill or joint resolution may be reconsidered only if a member of the Senate
32 serves notice before any other business is considered by the Senate. Once such notice is served, the
33 following procedures shall be observed:

34
35 1. In anticipation of the closing days of a regular session or a deadline for third reading and
36 final passage of a measure in the Senate, a majority of the members of the Senate may vote that all
37 motions to reconsider made thereafter shall be disposed of no later than the day of such deadline or
38 the day set for sine die adjournment.

39
40 2. Except as heretofore provided, the member serving notice for reconsideration shall have
41 the exclusive right to make such a motion on the day notice is served and the next two succeeding
42 legislative days; provided, that on the third succeeding legislative day, any member of the Senate
43 shall have the right to make such a motion. If no such motion is made on the third succeeding
44 legislative day, then no reconsideration shall be permitted.

45
46 3. If the Senate refuses to reconsider or if, upon reconsideration, affirms the first decision,
47 no further consideration shall be in order.

1
2 4. For adoption, a motion to reconsider the final vote on a bill or resolution or on the
3 emergency clause or special election feature or other special feature must be approved by a majority
4 of the members of the Senate.
5

6 5. A motion to reconsider any other action by the Senate must be made by a Senator who
7 voted on the prevailing side before any other business is considered by the Senate and shall be
8 disposed of on the same day it is lodged. The motion to reconsider shall be decided by a majority of
9 those voting on the question.
10

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

14 **Chapter 4: Executive Nominations**

15
16 **RULE 8-40. REFERRAL OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.** When Executive Nominations shall
17 be made by the Governor or other appointing authority to the Senate, said nominations shall be
18 referred for consideration to the standing committee which has in its jurisdiction the entity to which
19 the nomination relates. Nominations shall be made by the Governor or other appointing authority
20 to the Senate no later than May 1 of any year in order to be considered by the full Senate that year.
21

22 **RULE 8-41. REJECTION.** No person whose nomination has been rejected by the Senate shall be
23 eligible to be later confirmed by the Senate during the same session for appointment to the same
24 position. If an executive nomination is not approved during the regular session in which it is
25 submitted, it shall be deemed rejected. If an interim executive nomination is not approved during
26 the first regular session following its submission it shall be deemed rejected. The President Pro
27 Tempore shall notify the appointing authority of the rejection of an executive nomination by the
28 Senate, and shall likewise notify the chief executive of the entity to which the nomination relates.
29

30 **RULE 8-42. COMMITTEE REPORTS ON EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.** Committee reports
31 on Executive Nominations may be combined by the Majority Floor Leader for consideration by the
32 Senate. At the request of any member, however, a nominee shall be separated from the combined
33 report and considered individually by the Senate. A majority vote of the members of the Senate
34 shall be required for adoption of a combined report.

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

36
37 **RULE 8-50. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.** Without prior notice, the Senate may, by motion
38 approved by a majority of the members of the Senate, declare itself a Committee of the Whole, at
39 which time the President Pro Tempore or a member designated by the President Pro Tempore shall
40 chair the Committee of the Whole. Rules applicable to other Senate committees shall be applied to
41 the Committee of the Whole, except those rules relating to notice.
42

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

1 **Chapter 6: Vetoes and Other Legislative Actions**
2

3 **RULE 8-60. OVERRIDES OF VETOES.** When a bill or resolution is returned to the Senate
4 because of veto by the Governor, a motion that the vetoed legislation become law the Governor's
5 objections notwithstanding shall be in order at any time.
6

7 **RULE 8-61. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Committee reports on matters other than
8 legislation or Executive Nominations shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and explained by
9 the Chair of the committee making the report, whereupon the Senate may consider any action called
10 for in the report.
11

12 **RULE 8-62. CORRECTIONS TO LEGISLATION.**

13 A. The Title of a bill or resolution shall be made to conform to the text, unless the same has
14 been ordered stricken. A stricken title shall be shown in brackets. The ballot title of a bill or
15 resolution proposing a state question shall be made to conform to the text. The Enacting Clause
16 shall be a part of every bill unless the same shall have been ordered stricken. A stricken Enacting
17 Clause shall be shown by striking through the words of the Enacting Clause. If the title or enacting
18 clause has been stricken, the emergency clause, if any, shall also be stricken as provided in Rules 7-7
19 and 8-23.
20

21 B. The Senate Service Staff is authorized to correct misspelled words, incorrect citations,
22 typographical errors, repeated words and other similar errors when engrossing or enrolling Senate
23 bills or joint resolutions, or Senate amendments to engrossed House bills or joint resolutions and
24 when preparing committee reports and floor versions of Senate bills or joint resolutions.
25

26 C. When engrossing or enrolling Senate bills or joint resolutions, or Senate amendments to
27 engrossed House bills or joint resolutions and when preparing committee reports and floor versions
28 of Senate bills or joint resolutions, the Senate Service Staff is authorized to:
29

30 1. Remove sections from a bill or joint resolution labeled as amendatory sections but which
31 consist entirely of existing law and contain no amendments to the existing law;
32

33 2. Incorporate amendments to sections of law in the bill or joint resolution which are
34 contained in measures enacted previously during the same legislative session and amending the same
35 sections of law and repeal such previous versions of the section at issue if, in the opinion of a staff
36 attorney designated by the Chief Operating Officer, the incorporation of such amendments and
37 repeal of the previous version would clearly not conflict with the amendments contained in the
38 measure at issue;
39

40 3. Modify sections of such measures which provide for a measure to become effective on
41 July 1 or a date earlier than ninety days after the date of expected sine die adjournment to read to
42 reflect an effective date of ninety days after the date of sine die adjournment, or to delete such
43 sections, if the emergency clause has failed to receive the required number of votes for passage;
44

45 4. Delete sections of such measures which provide for a measure to become effective on a
46 date prior to such engrossment or enrollment; and
47

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

- 3
- 4 1. To adjourn to a time certain.
- 5 2. To adjourn.
- 6 3. To recess.
- 7 4. To operate under Call of the Senate.
- 8 5. To limit debate.
- 9 6. To advance.

10
11 **RULE 9-4. PRECEDENCE.** Motions to table shall take precedence over the original motion. If
12 successful, a motion to table shall constitute a final disposition of the original motion.

13
14 **RULE 9-5. PRIORITY OF MOTIONS NOT ENUMERATED.** Except for those motions
15 otherwise enumerated by priority, all motions shall have equal priority and shall be considered in the
16 order made, or in the order placed on the clerk's desk.

17
18 **RULE 9-6. WRITTEN MOTIONS OR OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS.** The Presiding Officer
19 may require any motion, point of order, substitute ruling, or other item of business to be in writing
20 and placed upon the clerk's desk.

21
22 **RULE 9-7. SUBSTITUTE MOTIONS.** Only one substitute motion for a motion of equal priority
23 shall be considered. Successful passage of a substitute motion shall be considered both adoption of
24 the substitute motion in lieu of the original as well as the passage of the substitute motion. If the
25 substitute motion fails, the original motion shall be disposed of before another motion of the same
26 priority can be considered.

27
28 **RULE 9-8. VOTE REQUIRED.** Unless otherwise provided, a motion shall be declared adopted if
29 it is approved by a majority of the members present and voting thereon.

30
31 **RULE 9-9. MOTIONS TO ADJOURN.**

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

34
35 **B. AFTER ADOPTION OF MOTION TO ADJOURN.** Once a motion to adjourn when the
36 desk is clear has been adopted, no motion shall be considered from the floor of the Senate, whether
37 by unanimous consent or otherwise.

38
39 **C. SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT.** The date and time of sine die adjournment of the Senate
40 shall be fixed by motion or resolution; provided, that once the date and time of such sine die
41 adjournment has arrived, no further business shall be conducted by the Senate, and the Presiding
42 Officer shall declare the Senate adjourned sine die.

43
44 **RULE 9-10. QUORUM CALL.** Any member of the Senate may, at any time, request the Presiding
45 Officer to suggest the absence of a quorum. Upon such request, the Presiding Officer shall

1 determine whether a quorum is present and no further business shall be conducted until it is
2 determined that a quorum is present.

3
4 **RULE 9-11. CALL OF THE SENATE.** The Senate may, by majority vote of the members present,
5 operate under Call of the Senate, in which case the President Pro Tempore is empowered to compel
6 the attendance of all members of the Senate and is empowered to confine the members of the
7 Senate to the chamber.

8
9 **RULE 9-12. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.** Personal privilege shall be granted to a member of the
10 Senate only to permit such member to respond to a public attack on the rights, integrity or
11 reputation of a member of the Senate, or upon the Senate collectively or any committee or employee
12 of the Senate. Remarks made by a member of the Senate who is granted personal privilege shall be
13 confined to such a response.

14
15 **RULE 9-13. MOTION TO LIMIT DEBATE.** When a question subject to debate is before the
16 Senate, a motion to limit the time for debate shall be in order, even if debate already has begun. The
17 motion shall fix the time limits to be allowed for and against the motion, provided that in no case
18 shall the total debate allotted to each side be less than one-half hour. If such motion is successful,
19 the Presiding Officer shall cause the time limits to be enforced and shall divide the time equally for
20 each side of the question. If the motion is once rejected on a question being debated, it can only be
21 adopted with the approval of two-thirds of those voting.

22
23 **RULE 9-14. SUBSTITUTE RULING MOTIONS.** If a Senator disagrees with a ruling on a motion
24 or point of order, he or she may make a motion the Senate adopt a substitute ruling in the following
25 manner:

26
27 1. Before other business is transacted by the Senate or by the committee, a member of the
28 Senate or the committee may appeal the ruling by offering a substitute ruling.

29
30 2. Once a motion to adopt a substitute ruling is made, no other business shall be transacted
31 until the motion is disposed of by the Senate or by the committee.

32
33 3. A motion to adopt a substitute ruling shall be subject to all other Senate Rules pertaining
34 to motions.

35 **Rule 10: Executive Sessions**

36
37 **RULE 10-1. PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGE.** On a motion made and carried that the Senate go
38 into executive session, the Presiding Officer shall direct all persons, except Senators, the Secretary of
39 the Senate, and personnel as authorized by the Senate, to withdraw. The vote of a majority of the
40 Senators voting shall be required on a motion for executive session. During an executive session, the
41 doors shall remain closed and every Senator and officer shall keep confidential all proceedings and
42 matters enjoined by order of the Senate.

Rule 11: Special Sessions

1
2

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

4 A. Unless amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate, these rules shall be
5 in effect for any special session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature; provided, bills and resolutions
6 reported from committee or referred directly to the calendar shall be placed on General Order
7 immediately upon such report or referral and amendments to such bills and resolutions shall be filed
8 no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day of such report or referral.
9

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