

MUNEA'26



Rules Of Procedure US SENATE

Agenda Item: Healthcare Reform

CO-USG
Yağmur AKMAN
yagmurakman2@gmail.com

CO-USG
Nilda YIGIT
yigitnilda47@gmail.com

Standing Rules of the United States Senate

Standing Rules of the United States Senate regulates, explains and defines the structure and function of the Senate and also sets rules for Senators and other members of the Senate to follow and obey. Standing Rules of the Senate carries the same enforcement power as the U.S. Code. For the conference reasons, this Standing Rules will only regulate legislation and congressional hearing rules including Constitutional Amendments.

SECTION I

Structure of the United States Senate

1. The United States Senate is a constitutional legislative institution and upper house of the United States Congress.
2. The Senate consists of elected and officially sworn Senators which they are natural members of. The Senate also consists of the Vice President of the United States as President of the Senate, Senate Chaplain, Sergeant At Arms and President Pro Tempore.
3. The Senate convenes on Presidential Inauguration Day for the opening ceremony without invitation or order of summon.
4. The Senate operates exclusively in and on the Senate sessions which are designated by the Conference Schedule and can be commenced by the required number of Senators convene under a quorum. Quorum stands still and does not change automatically due to the absence of Senators.
5. The President of the Senate chooses President Pro Tempore to conduct and oversee the Senate affairs and enforce the Standing Rules.
6. Each Political Party is represented by their Leaders in the eyes of the Senate Presidency.
7. In all affairs, conducts and affairs of the Senate; the Vice President casts the Tie-Breaking Vote in the event of a tie vote.

SECTION II

President Pro Tempore

8. President Pro Tempore is appointed by the Vice President of the United States as President of the Senate to conduct and oversee the Senate affairs and enforce the Standing Rules.
9. President Pro Tempore is the extension of the President of the Senate.
10. President Pro Tempore has the power to conduct, suspend, and sustain Senate debates according to schedule, recognizing Senators in debates, order and discipline Senators according to Standing Rules.
11. President Pro Tempore is responsible for entertaining legislation procedure, conducting Senate votings and keeping the Senate in order.
12. President Pro Tempore checks proposals for necessary requirements.
13. President Pro Tempore neither participates nor votes in any Senate debate of proposition.

14. President Pro Tempore holds Party Leaders as responsible and recognises them as privileged on Senatorial debates, regulation propositions and in general.

SECTION III

Senators of the United States

15. Senators of the United States are elected by their respective States in general elections. Every Senator is a representative of their respective State and elected for six legislative years for their political party or political affiliation.
16. Senators can propose or sponsor legislation, participate in Senatorial debates, vote on any Senate proposition and question other Senators.
17. Every Senator has one vote and Senators have to vote in person and has to be counted in the quorum. Proxy voting is not allowed.
18. Senators have to act and behave as a Senator of the United States. Senators cannot behave or act as unbecoming for a Senator. Senators cannot incite physical disorder within the Senate. Senators cannot change political parties or turn independent. Removal from their respective parties can make them independent.
19. Senators of the United States are not immune from President Pro Tempore's reprimand for disobeying Standing Rules and committing disorderly conduct.
20. Senators of the United States cannot be impeached, however can be expelled from the Senate indefinitely.

SECTION IV

Affairs of the Senate

21. The United States Senate is authorized, by the constitution, to adopt legislation, resolution and amend the Constitution by the majority of the Senators alongside with other powers and responsibilities.
22. In all affairs of the Senate, the Senate has to take quorum, set agenda, debate, vote and read twice in order to adopt any legislation or resolution. In the event of amendment proposals for the proposed legislation, mandatory reading extends for a third time.
23. In all Senate affairs, the Senate has to reach a certain quorum in order to commence the sessions. The necessary quorum for commencing Senate sessions unless decided otherwise, is more than half of the members of the Senate.
24. In all Senate affairs, President Pro Tempore has to grant and recognize the Senate Speakers List after the quorum and before the adoption of the Senate agenda. Speakers List can only have ten Senators besides Leadership of the Political Parties.

SECTION V

Senate Legislation Procedure

25. The legislation procedure of the United States Senate has at least five and at most seven legislative stages. It is applied for lawmaking and constitutional amendments.
26. The mandatory legislative stages are; 1) First Reading, 2) First Division, 3) Second Reading, 4) Second Division and 5) Final Voting.
27. Amendment proposals to the proposed legislation, extends to seven stages and the process extends with addition of Third Reading and Third Division.
28. Final Voting is always mandatory and always holds as the last step.

29. For the constitutional amendments, five legislative steps are mandatory. There will be no extension.
30. In order to start the legislative procedure, at least one Senator has to propose a bill to the Senate floor with proper requirements.
31. In order to legislate, the Senate has to adopt a certain agenda primarily.

SECTION VI
Senate Lawmaking Procedure
SUBSECTION I

Proposals

32. Every Senate lawmaking procedure starts with bill proposals from at least one Senator of the United States Senate.
33. The proposed bill has to have these items as in order;
 - A Title that starts with “*An Act to...*”,
 - List of Senators that are sponsors of the bill. Main sponsor has to be declared separately on the proposal,
 - A preamble that explains the proposal.
 - Section for short title,
 - At least four sections or article besides short title, appropriation and enforcement section,
 - A final section for the enactment or enforcement date.The proposal has to have an appropriation clause if the proposal requires funding.
34. The proposal can include or have more than listed requirements.
35. An amendment to the proposed legislation has to have these items as in order;
 - A Title that starts with “*An amendment to Proposed Act*”,
 - List of Senators that are sponsors of the amendment. Main sponsor has to be declared separately on the proposal,
 - Detailed explanation on how to amend the which section of the proposed legislation or explaining the new section added with this amendment.
36. Limitation of the amendment proposals to the proposed legislation is the same number as sections of the proposed legislation. Amendments can only target one section or create only one section.
37. The bill and amendments have to be drafted and submitted by the Senators in the Conference premises as digitally and not on paper.
38. President Pro Tempore receives the proposals and inspects the document for requirements listed in the Standing Rules. President Pro Tempore includes the proposal to the Senate Legislation Calendar when he or she sees fit.
39. A proposal that is included in the Legislation Calendar, is considered officially proposed and a document is considered a bill in the eyes of the Senate.

SUBSECTION II
First Reading

40. The First Reading is a debate about the preamble of the proposed legislation. The Sections of the proposed legislation cannot be debated or voted in the First Reading.
41. President Pro Tempore introduces proposals when the required quorum is met, Senate Speakers List has been exhausted and the agenda has been set to Senate Lawmaking Procedure by the Senate.
42. The Senate can set an agenda when President Pro Tempore commences the session with reaching required quorum, entertaining Speakers List members and taking agenda proposals verbally. Then entertains any agenda proposal of his liking and puts it into a vote by voice. If the proposal passes, the Senate adopts the agenda. Agenda can be proposed by any Senator.
43. President Pro Tempore has to follow the order of the Legislation Calendar for proposals.
44. President Pro Tempore introduces the proposed legislation by only reading the title, sponsors and preamble to the Senate floor out loud. This is considered as the First Reading commenced.
45. President Pro Tempore recognizes the main sponsor and invites them to the Senate Floor.
46. The Main Sponsor who is invited has to take the floor and defend the proposed legislation. The Main Sponsor has to open him or herself to the questionnaire immediately after his defense speech is concluded.
47. Senators can question the Main Sponsor by getting recognized by President Pro Tempore. Senators can only direct questions about the preamble of the proposal.
48. President Pro Tempore can only recognize twelve Senators for a questionnaire and the answer time limit can be determined by the President Pro Tempore.
49. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Senatorial Debate after the questionnaire has been concluded. President Pro Tempore has to express the move to Senatorial Debate with extraordinary behavior of their liking.
50. In the Senatorial Debate Senators express assent or dissent for proposed legislation via recognition from President Pro Tempore. Exit from the Senate floor is prohibited during the Senatorial Debate. This includes break times designated by the Conference Schedule.
51. In the Senatorial Debate, in order to discipline and exchange ideas within the party, Party Whips can roam around the Senate floor and enter dialogue with their party members. Party Whip can only interact with their party members and this privilege applies only when the Senate is in Senatorial Debate.
52. There is no total debate time and individual speaker time is limited to three minutes. Senatorial Debate can only be concluded by Closure of Debate vote which has to be proposed by fifteen Senators verbally and somatically
53. President Pro Tempore recognizes Majority and Minority Leaders primarily for Senatorial Debate. After the leaders conclude their speeches, President Pro Tempore recognizes any Senator of their liking.
54. Senatorial Debate continues until fifteen Senators propose Closure of Debate verbally and somatically.

55. President Pro Tempore immediately takes a vote for the Closure of Debate proposal. Three-Fifth Senators majority is required to adopt Closure of Debate and close the Senatorial Debate.
56. President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of their liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to adoption vote.
57. The adoption vote is for whether the Senate considers the proposal as serious and decides whether the proposal does need a Second Reading.
58. The Adoption Vote is conducted by President Pro Tempore and requires a one-third majority of the Senators. The proposal is considered serious if it survives the adoption vote. If the proposal does not survive from the adoption vote, the Senate considers the proposal as failed.
59. President Pro Tempore declares the result of the vote and moves the Senate to First Division in the event the proposal is adopted.

SUBSECTION III

First Division

60. Declaration of the First Division by the President Pro Tempore, grants political parties to; convene, debate and conclude agendas or events privately and within their respective caucus. The Senate behaves as in an unmoderated caucus.
61. Leadership of the respective political parties became in charge of their Senators.
62. Total time for the First Division is allocated as twenty minutes but can be extended by the discretion of the President Pro Tempore for an additional fifteen minutes.
63. All Senators have to be present in the Senate when First Division time has lapsed.
64. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Second Reading after the time has lapsed.

SUBSECTION IV

Second Reading

65. The Second Reading is about the sections and articles of the proposed legislation. The preamble of the proposal cannot be debated or voted in the Second Reading.
66. President Pro Tempore commences the Second Reading when the required quorum is met and First Division has ended.
67. The Second Reading; Rule 44 to 56 applies with these exceptions;
 - For Rule 44; In Second Reading, President pro Tempore only reads sections and articles of the proposal and that is considered as Second Reading is commenced.
 - For Rule 47; Senators can only question the Main Sponsor about sections and articles of the proposal.
68. President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of their liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to Second Division without any vote.

SUBSECTION V

Second Division

69. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Second Division after the Closure of Debate motion is adopted. Before commencing the Second Division, President pro Tempore reminds the Leadership of the Political Parties about the Standing Rules and amendment proposals.
70. The Second Division is regulated as the First Division. Article 60 to 65 is applied.
71. When allocated time for the Second Division is lapsed, President Pro Tempore recognizes Majority and Minority Leaders and grants them speaker time.
72. Within their individual speaker time, Leaders have to express whether or not they have amendment proposals to the relevant proposed legislation.
73. If the Leadership does not have an amendment proposal, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Final Voting.
74. If the Leadership does have amendment proposals, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Third Reading.
75. Party Leaders can submit their amendment proposals within the Second Division but they have to declare them after the Division is concluded.

SUBSECTION VI

Third Reading

76. Third Reading is about proposed amendments and sections that are targeted by proposed amendments.
77. President Pro Tempore declares the Second Division has been concluded and takes a quorum. When the quorum is reached, President Pro Tempore commences Third Reading.
78. President Pro Tempore gathers amendment proposals from Senators within five minutes after the quorum has been taken. The proposals submitted after five minutes become invalid.
79. President Pro Tempore receives the amendments proposals and lists them in order of submission time and introduces them in the order of submission time.
80. When the time allocated for amendment proposal submissions has been concluded, President Pro Tempore introduces the proposed amendment to the Senate outloud. This is considered as Third Reading is commenced.
81. President Pro Tempore recognizes the main sponsor and invites to the Senate Floor for after the introduction.
82. The Main Sponsor who is invited has to take the floor and defend the proposed legislation. The Main Sponsor has to open him or herself to the questionnaire immediately after their defense speech is concluded.
83. Senators can question the Main Sponsor by getting recognized by President Pro Tempore.
84. President Pro Tempore can only recognize twelve Senators for a questionnaire and the answer time limit can be determined by the President Pro Tempore.
85. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Senatorial Debate after the questionnaire has been concluded. President Pro Tempore has to express the move to Senatorial Debate with extraordinary behavior of their liking. Exit from the Senate floor is

prohibited during the Senatorial Debate. This includes break times designated by the Conference Schedule.

86. In the Senatorial Debate Senators express assent or dissent for proposed amendment via recognition from President Pro Tempore.
87. In the Senatorial Debate, in order to discipline and exchange ideas within the party, Party Whips can roam around the Senate floor and enter dialogue with their party members. Party Whip can only interact with their party members and this privilege applies only when the Senate is in Senatorial Debate.
88. There is no total debate time and individual speaker time. Senatorial Debate can only be concluded by Closure of Debate vote which has to be proposed by fifteen Senators verbally and somatically.
89. President Pro Tempore recognizes Majority and Minority Leaders primarily for Senatorial Debate. After the leaders conclude their speeches, President Pro Tempore recognizes any Senator of their liking.
90. Senatorial Debate continues until fifteen Senators propose Closure of Debate verbally and somatically.
91. President Pro Tempore immediately takes a vote for the Closure of Debate proposal. Three-Fifth Senators majority is required to adopt Closure of Debate and close the Senatorial Debate.
92. President Pro Tempore declares that Debate has been concluded with extraordinary behavior of their liking when the Closure of Debate motion is adopted and moves the Senate to Amendment Vote.
93. Amendment Vote for whether or not the Senate adopts a proposed amendment to the proposed legislation.
94. Amendment Vote is conducted by President Pro Tempore and requires a simple majority of the Senators. If the amendment is adopted, proposed legislation becomes altered as proposed amendment. If it is not adopted, the amendment proposal is considered as dead.
95. President Pro Tempore applies Rule 79 to 93 for every amendment proposal. At the end when all amendment proposals are debated and voted, President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to the Third Division.

SUBSECTION VII

Third Division

96. The Third Division follows the same Standing Rules as other divisions.
97. Before commencing the Third Division, President Pro Tempore reminds political parties to debate about Final Voting and reach a decision within their respective political parties.
98. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to Final Vote when the allocated time has been lapsed.

SUBSECTION VIII

Final Vote

99. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to the Final Vote after the Second or Third Division according to the Standing Rules.
100. Final Vote is about voting for enshrining the proposed legislation to Senate annuls and sending the legislation to the House of Representatives.
101. President Pro Tempore announces to the Senate that the Final Vote procedure will be commenced.
102. President Pro Tempore invites all Senators' attention and orders Sergeant At Arms to secure the Senate Floor. No one but the President or Vice President can enter or exit the Senate on the Final Vote.
103. President Pro Tempore reads the proposed legislation in entirety and without any interruption.
104. Immediately after the final reading of the proposal by President Pro Tempore, President Pro Tempore takes the Final Vote. Proposed legislation requires a simple majority of Senator votes in order to be adopted by the Final Vote. If it does not reach a simple majority, the Senate rejects the proposal and the proposal cannot be proposed to the Senate Floor.
105. The Senate votes first for each section or article of the proposal and then votes for the entirety of the proposal. A Section which does not reach a simple majority, automatically considered stricken out from the proposal.
106. With the conclusion of the Final Vote. President Pro Tempore announces the result of the vote out loud and the Senate automatically lapses their agenda and adopted legislation is sent to the House of Representatives.

SECTION VII

Senate Constitutional Amendment Procedure

107. The United States Senate, as Rule 21 states, can propose Amendments to the United States Constitution.
108. Constitutional Amendment procedure follows the same rules for Senate Lawmaking procedure but Constitutional Amendment requires setting agenda to Senate Constitutional Amendment Procedure and simple majority for Adoption Vote and two-third majority for Final Vote.
109. Constitutional Amendment Procedure cannot have a Third Reading or Third Division.
110. Constitutional Amendment Proposals has to have these items as in order;
 - A Title that states "*An Amendment to the Constitution*",
 - Constitutional Amendment that written as in paragraph
 - Mention of the Regulatory Act within the paragraph if needed.
111. Constitutional Amendments cannot have ratification, appropriation or enforcement clauses since these are all regulated within the Constitution.
112. When the Constitutional Amendment is adopted and passed according to the Standing Rules of the Senate, regulatory acts can be proposed if the amendment does need it and has to be passed immediately. Regulatory Act has to be adopted and passed as the same procedure as Senate Lawmaking Procedure.

113. There can be no amendment to the Constitutional Amendment and relevant Regulatory Act.

SECTION VIII

Senate Resolutions

114. The United States Senate can draft and declare Resolutions in order to recommend or express the opinion of the United States Senate on one specific topic in a single document.

115. Proposal of the Senate Resolution has to have these items as in order;

- A Title that starts with “*A Resolution to...*”,
 - List of Senators that are sponsors of the bill. The main sponsor has to be declared separately on the proposal.
 - Clauses that lists at least four problems about the topic,
 - Clauses that lists at least four resolutions about the topic,
- Clauses cannot mandate or command anything, clauses wording has to be formed as a recommendation. There cannot be an enforcement or appropriation clause since it is contradictory to the nature of Senate Resolutions.

116. Senate Resolutions are proposed, debated, adopted, amended, and voted on in the same way as Senate Lawmaking Procedures with adjustments to Senate Resolutions, but the Senate has to set the agenda to Senate Resolution Agenda.

117. Senate Resolutions do not require acceptance or adoptions from the United States Presidency or House of Representatives.

SECTION IX

Senate Voting Procedure

118. The United States Senate votes in every procedure as these three types of voting; 1) Voice Voting, 2) Standing Vote and 3) Roll-Call Vote.

119. Voice Voting procedure; President Pro Tempore shouts the Senate “*All those in favor say aye!*” and Senators who shout “*Aye!*” considered as voted in favor and then President Pro Tempore shouts to the Senate; “*all those opposed say nay!*” and Senators who shout “*Nay!*” considered as voted in opposition. President Pro Tempore announces the result of the vote based on the vocal superiority.

120. In the event of the Voice Voting, if the President Pro Tempore hesitates about/or fifteen Senators are opposed to the result, Voice Voting turns automatically to Standing Vote.

121. Voice Voting can only be applied to an Agenda Vote, but with the proposition from the President Pro Tempore or any fifteen Senators, all votes besides Final Voting can be administered by Voice Vote.

122. Standing Vote procedure; President Pro Tempore summons Sergeant At Arms and shouts the Senate “*All those in favor please rise and stand at the right wall of the Senate Floor and all those opposed please rise and stand at the left wall of the Senate Floor*” Senators have one minute in order to oblige the Standing Vote orders.

123. The Sergeant at Arms and President Pro Tempore keep the Senate in order while the Standing Vote is administered. When one minute passes, the Sergeant at Arms

does not allow any Senator to move or change position until the vote has been concluded. President Pro Tempore counts every Senator as one vote and then announces the result of the vote. Then Senators can return to their seats.

124. In the event of the Standing Vote, if the President Pro Tempore hesitates about fifteen Senators have opposed to the result, the Standing Vote turns automatically to a Roll-Call Vote.
125. Standing Vote can be applied to all voting procedures but Final Voting. With the proposition from President Pro Tempore or detection of some Senators not voting during Roll-Call Vote, all votes can be administered by Standing Vote. Even in the event of this Rule, Rule 122 can be applied for one time.
126. Roll-Call Voting procedure; President Pro Tempore shouts every name of the Senator one by one from their Senators lists. A senator whose name has been declared has to stand up and shout “Aye!” or “Nay!” or raise their or her thumb upside or downside. If a Senator shouts “Aye!” or raises their thumb upside down, considered as voting in favor and shouts “Nay!” or raises their or her thumb downside, considered as voting in opposition. In Roll-Call voting, Senators can roam around the Senate and enter dialogue with other Senators.
127. In all voting procedures, President Pro Tempore announces the result of the vote and Senators can only object to the result of the voting one time and with the final opposition, a different form of voting is applied for one time. The result of that vote announced by President Pro Tempore was considered final and cannot be overturned.

SECTION X

Discipline In the Senate

128. President Pro Tempore is responsible for disciplining the United States Senate with the help of the Sergeant At Arms. Sergeant At Arms can use forceful measures.
129. A Senator cannot interrupt another Senator’s recognition except point of personal privilege and warning from President Pro Tempore. A Senator however can yield their time to another Senator while recognized by President Pro Tempore.
130. Senators always have to be present within the session. Senators can add their name by sending a written request to the President Pro Tempore during the first five minutes of sessions. A Senator who is not listed on the quorum and did not add their name in the first five minutes, cannot vote in the respective session.
131. A Senator cannot incite violence, engage in unofficial debate, A Senator cannot leave their seat without clarification from President Pro Tempore or dictation of Standing Rules. Party Whip during the Senatorial Debate is exempt from the seat rule.
132. Senators have to follow the dress code of the Conference and guidelines of the United States Senate.
133. Any breachment of discipline rules by any Senator can be reprimanded by President Pro Tempore. Punishment decisions cannot be appealed or overturned.
134. President Pro Tempore can prohibit the right to address to the Senate, vote on the matters of the Senate or remove the Senator from Senate premises for a one Conference session. Conference Code of Conduct applies separately.

135. For complete removal of a Senator from the United States Senate requires a two-third majority vote and proposition from President Pro Tempore. Vote cannot be concluded without defense speech taken from the Senator in question.
136. Gross Breach of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires immediate suspension of the member from the United States Senate. The Vice President has to be included for the decision of Gross Breach.

SECTION XI

Legislation To or From the House

137. When the Senate proposes, debates, votes and adopts a legislation which is drafted on the Senate grounds, in order to make that proposal into a law or act of the land has to get the approval of the House as well. Hence when the Senate adopts a legislation, the Senate has to send that legislation to the House.
138. The United States Senate can agree to send one Senator to the House as main sponsor status in the Adopted Rules of the House for defending and explaining the proposal to the House. The Senate also can write a letter of consideration to explain and defend the proposal at the House.
139. When the Senate receives a legislation proposal from the House, the legislation is placed at the top of the Legislation Calendar and it is entertained when the agenda lapses according to the Standing Rules of the Senate. All related Senate procedures are applied to House legislation.
140. When the Senate amends a legislation which has been sent from the House, Senate has to send the legislation back to the House for consideration and acceptance of their amendments. This is called "*Senate Referral*" and rules for referral are set in the Adopted Rules of the House of Representatives. The Senate has to declare amendments clearly to the House.
141. On "*House Referral*" situations, in order to only debate and adopt amendments from the House, the Senate applies only Third Reading, Third Division and Final Vote but President Pro Tempore has to grant a special division after the Referral has been introduced and before the Third Reading.
142. If "*Senate Referral*" or "*House Referral*" is not agreed to; members of the Senate and House of Representatives can enter a "*Joint Conference*" for quick resolution of the legislation proposal. Joint Conference rules are determined by the President of the United States. Joint Conference is not mandatory.
143. In the event of the Senate not agreeing to the House Referral and Joint Conference proposal, the Senate sends back the legislation to the House with a letter of explanation.
144. In the event of the House not agreeing to Senate Referral and sending back the legislation approved by the Senate, the Senate has to apply House Referral procedure again. The Senate can resist the House and send the same Senate Referral proposal.

SECTION XI

First Session of the United States Senate

145. The First Session of the United States Senate has to be conducted by the Vice President of the United States on the inauguration day of the President of the United States.
146. In the First Session, the Vice President occupies the Chair of the Senate and commences the Senate session without any invitation or order of summon.
147. When the First Session is commenced, the Vice President summons the Chaplain of the Senate to minister the Senate prayer and then recites the Pledge of Allegiance together with all members of the United States Senate.
148. Then the Vice President invites all elected Senators to stand and recite the Oath of Office. The oath follows as; *“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”*
149. When all Senators are sworn into the office, the Senate informs the House of Representatives about the newly elected Senate. This information includes the number of Senators that each party has, leadership of the parties and independent Senators.
150. When the Oath of Office is ministered, the Vice President announces the notifications from the House of Representatives and the President of the United States. The President of the United States can address the Senate in person if he chooses.
151. When all notifications are announced, the Vice President appoints President Pro Tempore of the Senate and leaves the Chair of the Senate to President Pro Tempore. With President Pro Tempore sitting to the Chair of the Senate, First Session of the Senate automatically lapses.

SECTION XII

Personal Affairs of the Senators and Political Parties

152. Political Party Leaders or half of the Senators from related parties can submit a written request to the President Pro Tempore to convene their respective political caucuses at the beginning of each Conference Session. President Pro Tempore can reject the proposal or accept it. On acceptance, the Senate session freezes for twenty minutes. Leadership can request an extension for an additional twenty minutes. Leadership can request an extension for an additional twenty minutes. The Leader has to draft an information paper to the President Pro Tempore about their caucus, all participants have to sign the paper.
153. In Party Caucuses, Senators of the Party can change their leadership, decide on a matter or draft amendments or legislation to propose. All Party Caucuses are administered by the Leader as semi-moderated caucus principles under the supervision of the President Pro Tempore, their aides or Academic Assistant.
154. Independent affiliated Senators can caucus with the Political Party of their choosing with allowance of the Party Leadership.

155. Every Senator can write messages to each other or the Vice President and the President via President Pro Tempore and can raise points of information, order, inquiry and personal privilege.
156. Party Leadership of the Senate can write “*Letter of Leadership*” to their Party Leadership of House. Letters of Leadership can be used to carry information or request for a meeting. Meeting requests have to be approved by President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House respectively. Meetings cannot include party members other than leadership.

SECTION XIII

Initiation of Congressional Hearings

157. A hearing of the Senate is a formal proceeding, held in open session, convened for the purpose of receiving testimony, statements, evidence, or information from witnesses, experts, government officials, or other relevant parties concerning matters within the legislative, investigatory, oversight, advisory, or constitutional authority of the Senate. Hearings shall be non-legislative in nature and shall not, by themselves, result in the passage of a bill or resolution but may inform further legislative or oversight action. Testimony presented in such hearings will be received under oath and shall be subject to the penalties of perjury.
158. An official transcript of any hearing shall be maintained by the Clerk of the Senate and, unless otherwise ordered for national security reasons, shall be attached to the Congressional Record.
159. A hearing of the full Senate may be called at any time with the approval of the President Pro Tempore by one of the following methods, subject to the filing of a petition as required by Rule 160:
1. By the majority leader with concurrence from the minority leader,
 2. With a petition with the signatures of 30 senators duly chosen and sworn,
 3. By an order of unanimous consent.
160. No hearing shall be convened under Rule 159 absent the submission of a “Petition for Congressional Hearing” conforming to the requirements herein.
- Each petition shall bear the title:
Petition for Congressional Hearing
(by the Majority Leader with concurrence from the Minority Leader
– OR –
with the consent of 50 Senators duly chosen and sworn
– OR –
by order of unanimous consent)
for the purpose of hearing sworn testimony from
[Name(s) of witness(es)] concerning [Subject Matter]
 - Each petition should include:
 - The subject matter of the proposed hearing.

- The time for the proposed hearing (may not be anytime other than the next session following the submission of the petition).
 - A list of witnesses to be called, including:
 - Name,
 - Affiliation/Title,
 - Anticipated testimony,
 - Relevance to the subject matter.
 - The signatures of the majority leader and minority leader,
-OR-
 - The signatures of 30 senators, duly chosen and sworn,
-OR-
 - The signature of one senator, duly chosen and sworn.
161. Congressional Hearing petitions are not voted upon.
162. Any person—regardless of citizenship status, current office, or affiliation—may be called to appear before the Senate for the purposes of providing testimony, evidence, or relevant information during a Congressional Hearing.
163. Failure to appear without lawful cause after being duly summoned shall constitute contempt of Congress. In such cases, the Senate may, by majority vote:
- Refer the individual for prosecution under 2 U.S.C. §§ 192–194,
 - Issue a formal censure of the individual, which shall be entered into the Congressional Record,
 - and request the Sergeant-at-Arms detain the individual and present them before the Senate.
164. A Petition for Congressional Hearing shall be reviewed by the President Pro Tempore for procedural compliance. If the petition meets all formal requirements, it shall be considered accepted and scheduled for the next session. The President Pro Tempore shall announce acceptance immediately after reaching a decision.
165. Upon the acceptance of a petition for a Congressional Hearing, the Senate shall continue to conduct its regular business for the remainder of the current legislative session, and the procedures of the Congressional Hearing shall commence in the subsequent session.
166. At the end of a session in which a petition for a Congressional Hearing has been accepted, the President Pro Tempore should suspend the current agenda item for the duration of 1 session and set the agenda item as “Congressional Hearing Procedure”.

SECTION XIV

Congressional Hearing

167. Upon the beginning of a session under the Congressional Hearing procedure, the President Pro Tempore should take the quorum as usual. The quorum needed to start a congressional hearing is the standard quorum requirement.
168. Rules 128-136 shall continue to apply throughout the Congressional Hearing, and any person in the chamber to give testimony should also be bound by these rules.

169. The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader should sit in close proximity to the President, preferably in the seats where the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Clerk sit to conduct their duties.
170. Witnesses should not be brought to the floor without the President Pro Tempore's explicit permission.
171. President Pro Tempore moves the Senate to the Congressional Hearing after the quorum has been concluded, the petition that called the hearing has been read, and the leaders sit near them. President Pro Tempore has to express the move to Congressional Hearing with extraordinary behavior of their liking.
172. Upon the beginning of the Congressional Hearing, the Majority leader and Minority leader can respectively make a 5-minute opening speech before the President Pro Tempore allows the witnesses to approach the floor.
173. The President Pro Tempore should instruct the Secretary of the Senate to present the witnesses and invite them to the Senate floor.
174. All witnesses shall be administered an oath or affirmation:
"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you are about to give before the Senate shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"
175. Each witness may make an opening statement not to exceed 10 minutes unless extended by unanimous consent. The President Pro Tempore can reduce this duration or outright remove the opening speech rights in cases where the number of witnesses present would make it inefficient to allocate 10 minutes of speaking time per witness.
176. Each witness summoned to testify before the Senate may be accompanied by legal counsel of their choice. The legal counsel may sit next to the witness and may advise them privately. The counsel may not address the Senate and object on any grounds.
177. If there is more than one witness testifying in the session, upon the completion of these procedures, the remaining time in the session should be calculated by the Secretary of the Senate and divided by the number of witnesses.
178. The Presiding Officer shall recognize Senators in the following order:
 - One Senator designated by the Majority Leader;
 - One Senator designated by the Minority Leader;
 - Alternating thereafter, in sequence and by designation of the respective Leaders.
179. Each Senator so recognized shall be permitted to speak or question witnesses for a duration not exceeding 5 minutes unless extended by the President Pro Tempore. However, if the time ends while the witness is answering a question, the witness shall be allowed to finish their answer.
180. Senators may yield time to the next senator from their party or any named senator with an explicit declaration. Senators may yield their time to more than one senator, e.g., ask for it to be divided.
181. The President Pro Tempore may grant priority recognition to senators responding to matters of privilege upon request from such senators in writing.
182. Witnesses may give testimony through speech and media.
183. Senators may submit follow-up questions to the witness after the hearing through the Secretary of the Senate. Upon receipt of an answer from the witness, the question

and the answer from the witness shall be read at latest in the beginning of the first session after the receipt of the answer.

SECTION XV

Final Provisions

184. Standing Rules of the Senate can only be altered, amended or repealed by the discretion of the Under Secretary General via approval of the Secretary General.
185. In any event that Standing Rules contradict with the United States Constitution, Standing Rules apply. This document is the only Standing Rule or any rule or statute that the Senate committee has to abide by and follow.
186. Before setting any agenda and after the First Session, the President Pro Tempore has to grant Party Caucus to the political parties to allow them to draft legislation. The total time of this special caucus is designated as one hour but can be altered in the dire need of the Senate. The Under Secretary General can grant additional time for drafting proposals even by disregarding the procedural flow of the Senate.
187. In the cases of dire situations, the Under Secretary General can allow the President Pro Tempore to delay the Senatorial Debate or the speech of a senator for designated minutes. This delay however, does not mean for a termination of any debate, and any speech or debate should continue after the delay.

Standing Rules of the United States Senate are Drafted, Debated, Voted and Ratified by the United States Senate and therefore binds all the members of the United States Senate

16.05.2026